

## Limerick City and County LECP 2023-2028 SEA Screening Report Annex A

### Introduction

This Section reviews the High-Level Goals, Sustainable Community Development Objectives (SCDOs), Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs) and Integrated Objectives (IO) as part of the SEA Screening. These Goals and Objectives are in line with those at higher levels of the planning hierarchy – the *National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040* (NPF), the *National Development Plan to 2027* (NDP), the *Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region* (RSES). The Objectives are mapped with reference to the Plan High-Level Goals, the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Regional Strategic Objectives (RSO) and the Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) of the *RSES for the Southern Region*, and the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. A SEA Screening Review of the SEDOs, SCDOs and IOs is shown in the Tables below. Additional/amended text is in blue font.

### High Level Goals

The strategic vision for the LECP is:



***To create healthy resilient communities with good infrastructure and services and a resilient sustainable economy providing quality jobs and decent incomes for people. Households, communities and businesses are supported to adapt to the green transition and sustainable living. Equality, civic participation and social inclusion are promoted in a diverse and multi-cultural Limerick where people and places are connected to each other. Drawing on innovation and creativity, our communities find solutions to challenges and Limerick continues to build its attractiveness and reputation in the regional, national and international context.***

#### SEA Comment:

This has a positive vision for the future of Limerick City and County with regards to healthy resilient sustainable and green multi-cultural communities. Connectivity within the statutory hierarchy framework within which this LECP sits is key to its sustainable economic, community and environmental commitments. This strategic vision connects positively with the strategic vision of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2208: *Limerick – A Green City Region on the Waterfront By 2030, Limerick will become a green city region on the Shannon Estuary connected through people and places. This will be achieved through engagement, innovation, and resilient urban development and self-sustaining rural communities.* At the core of the CDP vision are cohesive and sustainable communities, where the cultural, natural and built environment is protected. This Plan, as the planning and decision-making framework, has been subject to environmental assessments, as appropriate. Thus, this LECP Strategic Vision does not have direct impacts on environmental resources (see Table 1 SEA screening in this main report for more details).

#### AA Comment:

The overarching objective of the Plan is not the nature conservation management of the sites, but to guide the sustainable economic and community development of the County. Therefore, the Plan is not considered to be directly connected with or necessary to the management of European sites.

	<p><b>HLG1: People &amp; Community- Well-being, inclusion, participation &amp; placemaking.</b> To achieve health and well-being for all, progress social inclusion by reducing poverty and exclusion, progress equality, increase civic participation including volunteering and community initiatives in our more diversified and multi-cultural society, grow civic leadership and promote placemaking to create safe and sustainable urban and rural communities in Limerick.</p>
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This HLG is consistent and complements the Strategic Objectives (SOs) of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2208, particularly SO3 and SO4:</p> <p>SO3 Ensure new and existing residential development is of the highest quality, enabling life cycle choices and physical, community, recreation and amenity infrastructure are provided in tandem, to create sustainable, healthy, inclusive and resilient communities,</p> <p>SO4 Protect the unique character of Limerick. Support and facilitate revitalisation and consolidation of the City, towns and villages, through public realm and place-making initiatives. Address vacancy and dereliction to create compact attractive, vibrant and safe environments in which to live, work, visit and invest. Ensure the highest quality of public realm and urban design principles are applied to all new developments, including the construction of landmark buildings in appropriate locations.</p> <p>HLG1 promotes and strengthens existing policies and objectives such as those contained in Chapter 4 Housing, Chapter 3 Spatial Strategy, and Chapter 10 Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure, etc.. There are numerous policies and objectives to promote, for example, employment generation and the provision of community and social services, e.g., Objective CGR O2 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm which is committed to improving public realm and support projects, which contribute positively to the revitalisation of the public realm. Thus, HLG1 does not have direct impacts on environmental resources (see Table 1 SEA screening in this main report for more details).</p> <p><b>AA comment:</b></p> <p>This HLG is strategic in nature and does not relate to the physical environment or land use and are concerned primarily with service delivery. Any projects that may be developed in order to achieve these goals will proceed within the framework of the County Development Plan. It is concluded that there is no potential for adverse effects on European sites.</p>	
	<p><b>HLG2: Environment &amp; climate action – Sustainability, adaptation &amp; transition.</b> To promote sustainable communities and economy working towards carbon neutrality. This means making adoptions to the way we live and conduct economic and commercial activities and taking measures to respond to climate change. It also means preparing for sustainable living through education and skills training and taking advantage of new opportunities for jobs, enterprise and investment in “green” sectors and gaining benefits from more efficient energy systems and energy generation from renewable sources.</p>
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This HLG is consistent and complements the Strategic Objectives (SOs) of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2208, particularly SO2 and SO6.</p> <p>SO2 Transition to an environmentally sustainable carbon neutral economy.</p>	

<p>SO6 Reduce car dependency and promote and facilitate sustainable modes of transport. Prioritise walking, cycling and public transport. Provide an appropriate level of road infrastructure, road capacity and traffic management, to support existing and future development and enhance connectivity. While, Chapter 9 Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy outlines the key Plan issues, policies and objectives, the entire Development Plan is centred around Climate Action (as it is a crossing cutting issue) as outlined in Table 9.1 Incorporation of climate consideration into each chapter/theme of the CDP.</p> <p>The CDP 2022-2028 SEA ER notes that:</p> <p><i>It is considered that the Plan adequately incorporates climate action concerns. While it might be necessary to improve cross referencing between different chapters in the Plan on the subject of climate action, the Plan does reflect the content of the Limerick Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. This was the first strategy specifically drawn up to address climate adaptation and has been referenced throughout the Plan. In addition, a specific chapter on climate action and flooding has been included. One of the important aspects of this chapter is that it stresses the importance of a just transition so that no section of the economy or population would be unduly affected by the transition to a low carbon society.</i></p> <p>SEA assessment of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 has determined that no significant adverse impacts are predicted from the proposed Plan while negative impacts will be minimised through policies and objectives for climate action, biodiversity, population, water and cultural heritage. Thus, HLG2 does not have direct impacts on environmental resources (see Table 1 SEA screening in this main report for more details).</p> <p><b>AA comment:</b></p> <p>This HLG is strategic in nature and does not relate to the physical environment or land use and are concerned primarily with service delivery. Any projects that may be developed in order to achieve these goals will proceed within the framework of the County Development Plan. It is concluded that there is no potential for adverse effects on European sites.</p>	<p><b>HLG3: Economic resilience, regeneration &amp; development.</b> To promote a strong and resilient local economy with a diversified base, create additional and sustain quality jobs, increase the numbers in work and access to jobs by those in economic exclusion and achieve compact growth and vibrant living communities in our city, towns and villages. This means bringing more investment to Limerick, generating new and building competitive enterprises, retaining and attracting talent in terms of educated people and the skills, investing in sustainable regeneration and development of the physical fabric of the city and town and village settlements in rural Limerick.</p>
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This HLG is consistent and complements the Strategic Objectives (SOs) of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2208, particularly SO1 and SO5.</p> <p>SO1 Grow Limerick's economy and create opportunity through maximising the potential for development through the promotion and enhancement of the competitive advantages of Limerick, including its strategic location, connectivity and accessibility to international markets, a skilled workforce and a high quality of life. The Limerick brand shall be used to internationalise the city. Any further brands created within and by the Local Authority, including organisations owned by the Local Authority, shall work within the framework outlined in the 'Limerick Atlantic Edge, European Embrace' brand.</p> <p>SO5 Create a competitive environment in which to do business. Promote, support and enable sustainable and economic development, enterprise and employment generation. Focus in particular on areas which are accessible by public and sustainable modes of transport. Enable settlements and rural areas to become self-sustaining through innovation and diversification of the rural economy.</p>	

Chapter 5 of the CDP sets out the policies and objectives for economic development over the Plan period. The SEA process informs decision-making during the preparation of the Plan, by improving the environmental compliance of the Plan and raising awareness of the potential environmental consequences of its implementation, so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether. This Plan, as the planning and decision-making framework, has been subject to environmental assessments, as appropriate. Thus, HLG3 does not have direct impacts on environmental resources (see Table 1 SEA screening in this main report for more details).

**AA comment:**

This HLG is strategic in nature and does not relate to the physical environment or land use and are concerned primarily with service delivery. Any projects that may be developed in order to achieve these goals will proceed within the framework of the County Development Plan. It is concluded that there is no potential for adverse effects on European sites.



**HLG4: Innovation, technology & digitalisation.** To promote innovation in our economy, society and local communities finding solutions to major challenges and enhancing our competitiveness. This includes creating opportunities for the wide application of innovation and creativity, expanding the application of technology and digitalisation to strengthen our economy and improve access to quality services for people, taking measures to make these technologies and digital services accessible to all.

**SEA Comment:**

This HLG is consistent and complements the Strategic Objectives (SOs) of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2208, particularly SO5 Create a competitive environment in which to do business. Promote, support and enable sustainable and economic development, enterprise and employment generation. Focus in particular on areas which are accessible by public and sustainable modes of transport. Enable settlements and rural areas to become self-sustaining through innovation and diversification of the rural economy.

Limerick has been to the forefront in terms of innovation, technology and digitalisation initiatives by a Local Authority, having published the first Local Authority digital strategy- Building Ireland's First Digital City – Smart Limerick Roadmap in 2017. The existing digital strategy will be reviewed in 2022 (Chapter 8 Infrastructure Objective IN O2 Digital Connectivity). Managing a successful low carbon transition means investing more in clean energy transition-related technologies, as well as moving towards more sustainable and perhaps localised modes of production and consumption. One of the key challenges for the climate-neutral transition is to reallocate resources from carbon intensive to climate-neutral developments and infrastructure. Successful economic modernisation requires stimulating local economic diversification towards clean industries through decarbonisation, innovation and digitalisation. The CDP 2022-2028 SEA ER notes that:

*This chapter (Chapter 8 Infrastructure) cross references Chapter 9 Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy. This is important as climate action has been identified as a cross cutting theme in the Draft Limerick Development Plan. A clear reference to the need for adequate ecological and appropriate assessment of infrastructure projects would be desirable, though this has been covered in Chapter 5 under Policy EH P1 (Protection of Natural Heritage and Bio-diversity) and Objective EH O1 (Designated Sites and Habitats Directive) and Objective EH O3 (Ecological Impact Assessment). Thus, HLG4 does not have direct impacts on environmental resources (see Table 1 SEA screening in this main report for more details).*

**AA comment:**

This HLG is strategic in nature and does not relate to the physical environment or land use and are concerned primarily with service delivery. Any projects that may be developed in order to achieve these goals will proceed within the framework of the County Development Plan. It is concluded that there is no potential for adverse effects on European sites.

#### Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDOs)

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<b>E1. Labour market activation</b> <i>Support unemployed people to get jobs especially long-term unemployed people, people with disabilities, people with low education and lacking skills, other groups that have very high unemployment rates and people who have been out of work for a long time or are no longer looking for work (economically inactive)</i>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Information & job search targeting long-term unemployed	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Education and training: literacy/numeracy, digital competences, lifelong learning, English language learning for migrants and skills training for work	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Engagement with employers, <a href="#">job recruitment fairs in target areas and specific groups</a> .	This action relates to engagement and support for linking to recruitment in disadvantaged areas in the city and county towns. This in and of itself does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Outreach to disadvantaged groups & support to access the wider range of services (health, education, etc.)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Additional supports to address barriers to individuals in accessing work & retention in employment	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<a href="#">Multi lingual employment opportunities / promotion</a>	Not location specific and this in and of itself does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b> E1. Labour market activation is linked to LECP HLGs 1 and 3 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 1 No poverty; 2 Zero Hunger; 3 Good health & well-being; 10 Reduce inequalities; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below). <u>RSES:</u> RSO 3 Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities; RSO 5 A Strong Economy; RSO 10 A healthy & learning region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 186 Lifelong Learning; RPO 187 Education and Training; RPO 188 Regional Skills For a; RPO 189 Further Education and Training; RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Healthy City Initiatives; RPO 159 Role of Transport in Enabling Access for All <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u>	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<p>ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 026 Tackling Unemployment; Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; ECON 027 Social Enterprise; SF 01 Social Framework Strategy</p> <p><b>E1:</b> The LDP strives to improve Limerick and its population from an economic perspective with Chapter 5 <i>A strong economy</i> the main chapter of the LDP that has policies and objectives which aim to support the growth of employment in Limerick. Other chapters, sections and their policies and objectives also contribute directly and indirectly to this SEDO through supports in education and skill training at various levels for all abilities in the areas of literacy/numeracy, digital competences, lifelong learning, english language learning for migrants and skills training for work. Information networks, job search services targeting long-term unemployed, activation programmes and promotion of multi-lingual employment opportunities will strengthen this SEDO in the long term. Outreach to disadvantaged groups and support to access the wider range of services (health, education, etc.) and additional supports to address barriers to individuals in accessing work and retention in employment will provide benefits to human health and a good standard quality of life though such increased opportunities. The leading agencies for this SEDO are DSP, Regional Employment Service, LCETB, LCDC and Local Development Companies. <b>E1</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<p><b>E2. Entrepreneurship &amp; micro- &amp; Small &amp; Medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)</b>  <i>Encourage and support entrepreneurship for people of all ages and backgrounds as a route to job creation and support the start-up and business performance of micro- and small enterprises and social enterprises</i></p>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Promotion of enterprise as a career option	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Enterprise start-up supports – training, advice, workspace, access to finance	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Enterprise education / skills programmes and initiatives in schools and colleges (UL/MIC/TUS)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Social enterprise development	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Special initiatives to encourage migrants, women, young people to set up in enterprise	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Business networks	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b>  This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u></p>	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<p>RSO 5 A strong economy; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 60 Social Enterprise; RPO 64 Facilitate new business formation, growth &amp; industrial re-organisation; RPO 65 Attracting overseas Entrepreneurs and maintaining Irish Entrepreneurs; RPO 67 Enterprise and Innovation Support</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>SCSI 010 Educational Facilities; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; ECON 026 Tackling Unemployment; ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working</p> <p><b>E2</b> focuses on the “soft” supports or services to promote entrepreneurship and support micro and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). While Chapter 5 A strong economy of the LDP focuses on enterprise and micro &amp; Small &amp; Medium-sized Enterprises (SMES), other policies and objectives of the Plan are also dedicated to directly and/or indirectly promoting enterprise and entrepreneurship to improve the long-term prosperity of Limerick. The Council, through Innovate Limerick, has taken a proactive and innovative approach to the development of enterprise and employment opportunities. This has included the development of enterprise hubs in towns and villages throughout Limerick. The promotion of enterprise as a career option, with enterprise start-up and business performance of micro- and small enterprises and social enterprises supports in the form of training, advice, workspace and access to finance will contribute to the local economy and job creation. Enterprise education/skills programmes/initiatives and social enterprise development and business networks will encourage various age/background cohorts, community and voluntary bodies to get involved. These opportunities and supports together with the special initiative’s actions area will encourage migrants, women and young people to set up in enterprise, thus contributing to the local economy and job creation. There are benefits to human health and a good standard quality of life through such increased opportunities. The leading agencies for this SEDO are Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO), LCETB, Local Development Companies, Higher Education Institutions. <b>E2</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<p><b>E3. Physical infrastructure &amp; supportive business environment for Small &amp; Medium-sized Enterprises</b></p> <p><i>Develop the physical infrastructure including workspace, ICT Hubs and technologies and build the business ecosystem (including cooperation networks) to create an excellent environment for business and innovation in Limerick</i></p>	
<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p>	
<p>Workspace/co-working space for self-employed, new enterprise start-ups and expanding small businesses</p>	<p>Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.</p>
<p>Enterprise Hubs and digital services</p>	<p>Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.</p>
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p>	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<p><u>RSES:</u>  RSO 5 A strong economy; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 60 Social Enterprise; RPO 64 Facilitate new business formation, growth &amp; industrial re-organisation; RPO 65 Attracting overseas Entrepreneurs and maintaining Irish Entrepreneurs; RPO 67 Enterprise and Innovation Support</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u>  IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; ECON 026 Tackling Unemployment; ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working</p> <p>The LDP encourages new and supports existing small businesses. Enterprise centres in Limerick support start-ups, small businesses and provide facilities for enterprises to expand as they grow. <b>E3</b> focuses on physical infrastructure and supportive business environments for small and medium-sized enterprises which corresponds with the role of Innovative Limerick, a Designated Activity Company set up by Limerick City and County Council. This will develop enterprise Hubs physical infrastructure including workspace/co-working space for self-employed, new enterprise start-ups and expanding small businesses, digital services/ICT Hubs and technologies and build the business ecosystem (including cooperation networks) to create an excellent environment for business and innovation in Limerick. Workspace/co-working space for self-employed, new enterprise start-ups and expanding small businesses. Small business workspace development can involve re-use of existing buildings and contribute to reducing commercial vacancy levels and the associated environmental implications. The leading agencies for this SEDO are Innovate Limerick, Limerick LEO, Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, Higher Education Institutions in Limerick, Local Development Companies &amp; private and voluntary/community partners. <b>E3</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<p><b>E4. Targeting sectoral challenges and diversification</b>  <i>Support businesses in target sectors to diversify their operations and address challenges especially skills shortages and recruitment difficulties, changing markets and higher costs and the impact of climate action measures that affect the viability and performance of businesses</i></p>	
<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p>	
Skills training and support to recruit workers	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Support to develop new products or services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Support to expand the customer base/develop new platforms, methods and outlets for sales	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b>  This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 4 Quality Education; 5 Gender Equality; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p>	



Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
	<p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO 5 A strong economy; RSO 10 A Healthy &amp; Learning Region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 44 Common Agricultural Policy; RPO 50: Diversification; RPO 55 Retail; RPO 58 Bio-economic and Rural Areas; RPO 63 Skills and Talent; RPO 75 Anticipating Economic and Structural Changes; RSO 187 Education and Training; RPO 188 Regional Skills Fora; RPO 189 Further Education and Training</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>ECON 016 Night Time Economy; ECON029 Office Development, ECON 014 Casual Trading; ECON 046 Festivals; ECON 013 Rural Retail; ECON 042 Limerick Food Strategy; ECON 043 Limerick Food Destination; CGR 020 Town and Village Renewal; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages</p> <p><b>E4:</b> This SEDO focuses on supporting businesses in target sectors to diversify their operations and address challenges especially skills shortages and recruitment difficulties, changing markets and higher costs and the impact of climate action measures that affect the viability and performance of businesses. Business sectors which face greater challenges and are important in terms of jobs in Limerick include retail and wholesale trade, hospitality and construction and agriculture and agri-sector. This SEDO targets sectoral challenges and diversification with emphasis on skill training and support to recruit workers. The main focus here is on the provision of the above types of training and skill development and addressing recruitment difficulties in targeted sectors to ensure that people with a diverse range of skill levels can both find and help grow employment opportunities. It will also provide supports (information/advice, capital works/equipment) for diversification and adaptation to changing conditions, to develop new products or services and to expand the customer base/develop new platforms, methods and outlets for sales.</p> <p>The LDP policies and objectives support this SEDO. Other important information includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Town Centre First policy document (2022): this is a government document which outlines the potential of changing retail models for our county towns.</li> <li>• Retail Strategy for Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick (2022-2028): developed by Limerick City and County Council the policy objectives in the Draft Retail Strategy will be delivered in accordance with the zoning framework set out in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.</li> <li>• CAP Strategic Action Plan for Ireland (2022) and its associated Environmental Reports: this supports changes in agriculture with measures including knowledge and capacity building to support new approaches, organic farming development and renewable energy on farms. Opportunities for diversification also include rural tourism and direct sales (farm shops, local markets). Diversification of farming enterprises is a priority objective under LEADER 2024-2028.</li> <li>• Building Future Skills: Government's policy document, The Demand for Skills in Ireland's Built Environment Sector to 2030 (2020): identifies the skills required by the Built Environment sector over the next decade to deliver on ambitions related to housing, infrastructural development and climate change mitigation.</li> </ul> <p>The leading agencies for this SEDO are Limerick LEO, Limerick City and County Council, LCETB, Local Development Companies, TEAGASC, Mid-West Regional Skills Forum. <b>E4</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<b>E5. Business expansion, targeting high value added sectors &amp; business networks</b> <i>Capitalise on the R&amp;D and Innovation capacity in industry and Higher Education Institutions located in Limerick, build business networks and develop the pipeline of talent so that businesses in advanced sectors expand and grow their workforce</i>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Innovation, R&D in Higher Education Research Centres and industry and technology transfer	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Education, training, upskilling in skills needed by high value-added industries in Limerick	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Business networks in high value added sectors – engineering, pharma, computer software, food, new sectors developing in Limerick (SportsTech)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b>  This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 4 Quality Education; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u> RSO 5 A strong economy; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 51 Economic Clusters and Ecosystems; RPO 52 Multinational Corporation (MNCs) and Indigenous Industry Connections; RPO 68 Regional Investment; RPO 187 Education and Training; RPO 188 Regional Skills Fora; RPO 189 Further Education and Training  <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u> CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages CGR 020 Town and Village Renewal  <b>E5</b> centres on business expansion, targeting business networks in high value added sectors – engineering, pharma, computer software, food, new sectors developing in Limerick (SportsTech). This objective focuses on the “soft” factors of business expansion and development, i.e., the services, knowledge and skills. This includes innovation, education, training, upskilling in skills needed by high value-added industries in Limerick and R&D in Higher Education Research Centres and industry and technology transfer. This will develop the pipeline of talent so that businesses in advanced sectors expand and grow their workforce. Limerick City and County Council, Innovate Limerick, Higher Education Institutions and industry partners have been working to build an innovation culture and the RD&I infrastructure and networks to support this expansion and development. The leading agencies for this SEDO are Business networks in high value-added sectors – engineering, pharma, computer software, food, new sectors developing in Limerick (SportsTech). <b>E5</b> and its action	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.	
<b>E6. Physical business infrastructure, investment (FDI) &amp; connectivity</b> <i>Identity and plan for enterprise lands, serviced sites and business accommodation in strategic locations in Limerick together with the necessary strategic infrastructure – transport networks and services, utilities, digital connectivity, housing and social infrastructure</i>	
<b>Action Areas</b>	
Modern office accommodation for commercial operations	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Transport infrastructure improvements / service improvements through Shannon Airport	See SEA Comment section below
Port of Foynes expansion/investment	See SEA Comment section below
National transport road and rail upgrades; active travel infrastructure; public transport services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts. Please see protection measures in the LDP 2022-2028 below that will apply.
Expanded housing supply – of different types / units – across private, affordable and social housing	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b>  This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u> RSO 5 A strong economy; RSO 2 Enhanced regional accessibility; RSO 6 High quality international connectivity; RPO 52 Multinational Corporation (MNCs) and Indigenous Industry Connections; RPO 140 International Connectivity; RPO 141 Regional Freight Strategy; RPO 142 Ports; RPO 143 Ports and Airports; RPO 144 Port Infrastructure; RPO 145 Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region; RPO 146 High Quality International Connectivity – Ports; RPO 147 Economic Opportunities of Ports; RPO 149 Airport Strategy for the Southern Region; RPO 150 High Quality International Connectivity – Airports; RPO 166 Investment in Strategic Inter Regional Multi-Modal Connectivity to Metropolitan Areas and Economic Corridors; RPO 168 Investment in Regional and Local Roads; RPO 170 Rail <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u> ECON 029 Office Development; ECON 028 Smart City; Objective IN01 Climate Proof infrastructure Action in Infrastructure Planning is; TR01 Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure; CGR 01 Prevention of Urban Sprawl; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; IN 02 Digital	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
	<p>Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; TR017 Limerick to Foynes Line; TR 025 Inter-city, Regional and Commuter Services; TR026 Bus Transport Infrastructure; TR018 Port and Docks TR018 Park and Ride Facilities; TR029 N/M20 Cork to Limerick; TR030 Foynes to Limerick including Adare Bypass; TR031 Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale Road Scheme; TR032 Cahir to Limerick Junction; TR033 Motorway Network Arterial Roads; TR041 Strategic Regional Roads; IN 013 Energy and Gas Networks; IN 015 Electricity Grid Development; IN 016 Gas Development; R05 Limerick- Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; TR01 Shannon Airport; TR039 National Roads; TR038 Improvement to Regional and Local Roads; ECON 011 Inter Urban Links; ECON 010 Networks; ECON 19 Employment Locations County Limerick; ECON 024 Further and Higher Education Institutions; ECON 19 Strategic Employment Locations City and Suburbs (in Limerick), Mungret and Annacotty; ECON 20 Location of Industry or Enterprise in Brownfield Sites; ECON 022 Learning Region</p> <p><b>E6</b> identifies/plans for enterprise lands/serviced sites/business accommodation in strategic locations with the necessary strategic infrastructure, i.e., transport networks and services, utilities, digital connectivity, housing and social infrastructure. Action areas will focus on modern commercial office accommodation, transport infrastructure improvements/service improvements through Shannon Airport, Port of Foynes expansion/investment, National transport road/rail upgrades; active travel infrastructure; public transport services, and expanded different types/units of housing supply across private/affordable/social housing. This SEDO focuses on the “hard” physical infrastructures to attract investment by larger-scale business operations and is complementary to SEDO E5 above. The Council, as the planning authority and with responsibility for local economic development, has a key role to play in attracting large companies to invest in Limerick and to support expansion of those already located in Limerick, working in collaboration with the IDA, utility companies (ESB, Irish Water), transport agencies and other partners (Higher Education Institutions and colleges). The leading agencies for this SEDO are Limerick City and County Council, IDA Ireland, Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce, Transport Authorities.</p> <p>Both the Transport infrastructure improvements / service improvements through Shannon Airport and Port of Foynes expansion/investment action areas have a spatial entity and thus the potential to have impacts on the receiving environment.</p> <p>Limerick is strategically positioned within close proximity to Shannon International Airport which is an important element of the transport and communications infrastructure of the region. The Shannon Estuary, its ports and future development are a significant economic driver and transport corridor in the region. With the presence of Shannon Foynes Port and Limerick’s location on the Shannon Estuary, Limerick is considered ideally placed to enhance economic growth through the sustainable use of its marine resource.</p> <p>Transport infrastructure improvements / service improvements through Shannon Airport will be subject to all environmental and planning assessments under the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. This development Plan notes that “careful consideration is required to ensure that harnessing economic growth and development opportunities within the Estuary does not place undue restriction, pressure or impact on some of the area’s most precious resources”. There are a number of Objectives supporting this including:</p> <p>Objective CAF O33 Development of Foynes Port</p>

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<p>It is an objective of the Council to support the development of Foynes Port, as a support base for offshore wind, both during any initial exploration phase and also during the subsequent construction and operational and dismantling phases, subject to appropriate levels of environmental and ecological assessments.</p> <p>Objective ECON O57: Safeguard Strategic Development locations along the Estuary</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to safeguard the Strategic Development Locations at Foynes Port, Foynes Island and Aughinish Island for the sustainable growth and development of marine related industry and industrial development at Askeaton. All proposed developments shall be in accordance with regional and national priorities and the SEA Directive, Birds and Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive, Shellfish Waters Directive, Floods Directive and EIA Directive. Buffer zones shall be incorporated into proposals for developments where necessary to preserve potentially valuable habitats, for example, areas of estuary, shallow bays and inlets, mudflats, lagoon, salt marsh and woodland habitat, which occur at or surrounding these Strategic Development Locations. The extent of such buffer distances shall be established in consultation with relevant statutory bodies. Detailed botanical, faunal and ornithological surveys should be undertaken in relation to proposed developments at these Strategic Development Locations, to fully consider the potential effects of the development and inform how to best avoid significant ecological effects. The following Objectives support</p> <p>Objective ECON O58 Shannon Foynes Port</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Support the expansion of the Port at Foynes and promote the economic and industrial development of the Shannon Estuary as a strategic transport, energy and logistics Hub, serving Limerick and the wider region by utilising naturally occurring deep water characteristics and by identifying and safeguarding existing and future strategic transportation links, subject to fulfilling the requirements of the Habitats Directive and the conservation objectives of the Lower River Shannon SAC site.</li> <li>b) Promote and support Shannon Foynes Port Company's Masterplan Vision 2041.</li> </ul> <p>The development of strategic sites under the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan (updated in 2022) includes the Port of Foynes which is in keeping with zoning for such use in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. The Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan (updated in 2022) is a once in a generation plan, designed to guide the economic, social and physical renaissance of Limerick City Centre and the wider County. The Plan sets out a framework for the integration of economic development with spatial planning. The Interim Review and Update of the Limerick 2030 Plan has been completed as set out under Volume 6 and complements the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028.</p> <p>Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (SIFP) (2013) and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report which accompanies the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (Volume 6) is the first land and marine based framework plan to guide the future development and</p>	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<p>management of the Shannon Estuary. The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 SEA ER notes that the SIFP has been viewed as being a model of good practice in the RSES and much valuable ecological survey work has resulted from it.</p> <p><b>E6</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts with the exception of the action areas relating to Transport infrastructure improvements / service improvements through Shannon Airport, and Port of Foynes expansion/investment. As noted in the Screening Assessment the Plan will have to comply, where relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment and requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting. Actions arising from the Plan will demonstrate compliance with the environmental protection measures in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<p><b>E7. Limerick as a tourism destination- Product expansion &amp; marketing</b>  <i>Develop more things to see and do for visitors to Limerick, support a spread of sustainable tourism operations across urban and rural Limerick, and bring more visitors to Limerick all year round</i></p>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Tourism infrastructure – greenways, blueways	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Outdoor attractions and facilities	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Indoor attractions	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Rural tourist accommodation	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Link tourism to festivals and events to bring visitors to Limerick	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Tourism marketing and promotion	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 2, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u>            RSO 5 A Strong Economy; RSO 11 Inclusive International Region; RPO 53 Tourism; RPO 54 Tourism and the Environment; RPO 140 International Connectivity; RPO 194 Arts, Heritage and Culture; RPO 193 Collaborative Regional Partnerships</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p>	

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
<p>TR27 Shannon Airport; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 043 Limerick Food Destination; ECON 045 Tourism; ECON 046 Festivals; ECON 047 Shannon Tourism Masterplan; ECON 048 Greenways; ECON 049 Tourism Facilities and Environmental Sensitive Areas; ECON 050 Facilities and Amenities incidental to Tourist and Recreation Attractions and Scenic Views; ECON 051 Clustering of Tourist Facilities; ECON 052 Location of Tourism Accommodation; ECON 053 Digital Innovations to support tourism; ECON Inter Urban Links; ECON 010 Networks</p> <p><b>E7</b> will develop sustainable tourism operations across urban and rural areas and bring more visitors to Limerick all year round. Actions areas will focus on tourism infrastructure – greenways, blueways, outdoor/indoor attractions/facilities, rural tourist accommodation, link tourism to festivals and events to bring visitors to Limerick, and market/promotion tourism.</p> <p>Limerick has natural and cultural assets that offer opportunities for tourism and is linked to other objective, e.g., Objective I5 Culture, Arts, Heritage and Sport. Limerick City and County Council's Limerick Tourism Development Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2023 maps out the key areas to expand tourism in Limerick. In 2022, the Council set up Discover Limerick Designated Activity Company (DAC) as an umbrella structure for the management and marketing of specific attractions and promotion of Limerick as a tourism destination. Sustainable rural tourism operations have been supported under the LEADER programme.</p> <p>Tourism projects will be required to adhere to adequate environmental and ecological assessment to ensure that they do not cause adverse environmental and ecological effects. Larger infrastructural projects to facilitate economic development will require careful assessment of their environmental effects. Tourism can damage natural environments and care is required to ensure that this will not take place. Objectives ECON O38 and O40 are welcomed. Objective ECON O38 ensures development will not be located in sensitive areas where they are likely to have significant effects, while objective ECON O40 requires that new tourism developments to locate within existing settlements. The Plan will have to comply, where relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment and requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting. Actions arising from the Plan will demonstrate compliance with the environmental protection measures in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report. The leading agencies for this SEDO are Limerick City and County Council/Discover Limerick DAC, Fáilte Ireland, Local Development Companies.</p> <p><b>E7</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts within the capacity of the Plan All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<b>E8. Cultural &amp; creative industries</b> <i>Support creatives to earn income from their skills and talents and build up the cultural and creative industries / businesses emerging in Limerick</i>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Develop film industry sector in Limerick	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Infrastructure, creative space, venues for individual creative artists & community arts to support self-employment/business start up	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

Economic SEDOs No.	SEA Comments
Support start-up in fashion, art & design businesses	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SEDO is linked to LECP HLGs 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. This SEDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO 5 A Strong Economy; RSO 11 Inclusive International Region; RPO 191 Cultural and Creative Sectors; RPO 194 Arts, Heritage and Culture; RPO 193 Collaborative Regional Partnerships</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>CSQ 01a&amp;01b Colbert Quarter; LEDP 01 Limerick Enterprise Development Partnership; ECON 032 Cultural and Creative Industries; SCSi 031 Art and Cultural; SCSi 034 Cultural Audit; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; IN 03 ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 045 Tourism; ECON 046 Festivals; ECON016 Night-time Economy</p> <p><b>E8</b> focuses on the contribution to economic activity and jobs of cultural and creative industries with the focus on film. Other objectives under Community and Integrated objectives and their action areas support social, community and environmental benefits from culture, arts and heritage (See Objective I5 Culture, Arts, Heritage and Sport below). Action areas will develop film industry sector in Limerick; infrastructure, creative space, venues for individual creative artists &amp; community arts to support self-employment/business start-up; and support start-up in fashion, art and design businesses. Limerick City has a profile and assets to develop as a creative and cultural city and has recently had a great deal of success in developing a film industry. This is reflected in major productions shown on Netflix and Apple TV made at facilities and / or locations in Limerick. <i>Innovative Limerick</i> has led the development of Troy Studios and the Film Skills Academy in the city, the latter in cooperation with the LCETB. It works with partners in the Irish film industry including the Irish Film Board and Screen Ireland, to develop and market Limerick as a location for film-making. It also hosts international film festivals in Limerick (Richard Harris International Film Festival, Catalyst Film Festival). Other important assets that can be harnessed for cultural and creative industries include Limerick School of Art and Design, the School of Architecture and Product Design at UL, the Irish World Music Academy and Creative Writing Centre at UL which generate a body of artistic and creative talent. Under <i>Creative Ireland</i>, the <i>Creative Communities Economic Action Fund</i> supports local authorities and other partners including the Local Enterprise Offices and voluntary and community organisations to develop innovative projects that leverage the potential of creative industries to support local and regional economic development. The leading agencies for this SEDO are Innovative Limerick, Limerick LEO, Limerick City and County Council, Higher Education Institutions, LCETB. <b>E8</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	



### Sustainable Community Development Objectives (SCDOs)

Sustainable Community Development Objectives	
<b>C1 Education &amp; learning</b> <i>Make education and learning accessible to all over their life course, and to people from all backgrounds, keep young people in education to get a Leaving Cert or equivalent and support people that have low education and / or poor literacy to get back into learning</i>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Adult education and learning programmes	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
In school / out of school projects to support pupils that are at risk of under-achievement or leaving school without qualifications	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Facilities in community settings in urban and rural areas for education and learning	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Education and learning initiatives in specific areas – e.g., digital skills, climate change, English language training for migrants	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Initiatives to support progression of disadvantaged groups in their education – through school, into college, in adult learning	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<a href="#">Targeted initiatives to promote entry to apprenticeship</a>	Not location specific and this in and of itself does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b>  This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 1 No poverty; 3 Good health & well-being; 10 Reduce inequalities. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u> RSO 10 A healthy & learning region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 177 Childcare, Education and Health Services; RPO 181 Equal Access; RPO 183 Digital Strategies; RPO 186 Lifelong Learning; RPO 187 Education and Training; RPO 189 Further Education and Training; RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Healthy City Initiative <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u> IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; ECON 023 Education and Skills; SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; SCSi 011 Location of Schools; SCSi 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSi 013 Further and Higher Education Facilities; ULCC 01 UL City Campus; RA 01 Regeneration's Opportunity Areas; SF 01 Social Framework; EF 01 Economic Framework Strategy <b>C1</b> will make education and learning accessible to all over their life course, and to people from all backgrounds, keep young people in education to get a leaving cert or equivalent and support people that have low education and/or poor literacy to get back into learning. This will ensure education and learning	

for all, especially supporting people with low education or at risk of low education into learning wherever they live. Linked to this is Integrated Objective 12 disadvantaged city neighbourhoods includes responding to educational disadvantaged in that setting. C1 will be achieved through action areas in adult education and learning programmes, under-achievement/qualifications risks supports, urban/rural community setting education/learning facilities, specific education and learning initiatives and disadvantaged groups profession initiatives. Apprenticeship training in trades, skills areas and services needed in the economy, are also being promoted.

In a fast-changing society and economy, lifelong learning is increasingly important. The Adult Literacy for Life Strategy (2021) recognises the link between unmet literacy needs and social exclusion. A Lifelong Learning Strategy for Limerick has been agreed by key stakeholders including the local authority, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) and the third level education institutions in Limerick. Under the new EU Under the European Pillar of Social Rights Action Plan 2030, Member States have committed to three headline social targets. Ireland's National Further Education and Training Strategy 2020-2024 (FET) aims to transform learning in communities with the approach based around three strategic pillars: (1) building skills; (2) fostering inclusion and (3) facilitating pathways, and putting a strong focus on digital skills development. The leading agencies for this SCDO are LCETB, Limerick City and County Council/LCDC, Local Development Companies, Schools, Colleges and Higher Education Institutions. **C1** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

## **C2 Children, young people and families**

*Improve the social infrastructure, amenities, recreation space and services for families, children and young people in Limerick so they can reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life. Involve young people in community life, designing amenities and services for them and in decision-making*

### **Action Areas:**

Amenities for children and youth	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Programmes to support children most at risk – Travellers, children / young people at risk of offending, migrant children	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Programmes to support families with complex problems	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Youth work projects	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Youth in civic life and volunteering	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Keeping safe, health & well-being for children and youth	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

### **SEA Comment:**

This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 1 No poverty; 3 Good health & well-being; 4 Quality Education; 10 Reduce inequalities; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).

RSES:

RSO 10 A healthy & learning region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 177 Childcare, Education and Health Services; RPO 179 Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society; RPO 180 Volunteering and Active Citizenship; RPO 185 New School Facilities; RPO 186 Lifelong Learning; RPO 189 Further Education and Training; RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Health City Initiatives;

LDP 2022-28 including:

IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; ECON 023 Education and Skills; SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; SCSi 011 Location of Schools; SCSi 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSi 04 Community Facilities; SCSi 02 Accessibility for All; SCSi 03 Community Hubs; SCSi 14 Childcare Facilities; SCSi 015 Healthcare Facilities; SCSi 018 Active City Initiative; SCSi 019 Protection of lands zoned for Open Space and Recreation; SCSi 020 Protection of Sports Grounds/Facilities; SCSi 021 Improve Open Space Provision; SCSi 022 New City Amenity Areas; SCSi 027 Playgrounds; SCSi 031 Art and Culture; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm

**C2** will improve the social infrastructure, amenities, recreation space and services for families, children and young people in Limerick so they can reach their potential and enjoy a good quality of life. It will involve young people in community life, designing amenities and services for them and in the decision-making. Amenities for children and youth (including play, outdoor space, safe space, alcohol-free space in the evenings), programmes to support children most at risk/with complex problems, youth work projects, in civic life and volunteering, and the safety, health and well-being for children and youth are the action areas under this SCDO. The Limerick Children and Young Persons' Services Committee (CYPSC) is a local inter-agency structure, led by Tusla, to promote coordination of services so that they can achieve the national outcomes set out by government for children and youth. The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council, HSE Health Promotion, Tusla – CYPSC, Limerick Youth Services, Local Development Companies, An Garda Síochána (Garda Youth Diversion). **C2** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

**C3 Health & well-being**

*Improve health and well-being for all taking into account all of the factors that can affect people's health. Put the infrastructure, amenities and services in place so that people can have healthy lifestyles*

**Action Areas:**

Health promotion and services to support people in healthy lifestyles- nutrition, stop smoking, address drugs misuse, participation in physical activity and in community

Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

Actions to address Food Poverty	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Recreation space and amenities	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Access to health services – physical and mental health services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Community-based physical and mental health programmes and services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good health &amp; well-being; 10 Reduce inequalities; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; 1 No poverty. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO 10 A healthy &amp; learning region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 177 Childcare, Education and Health Services; RPO 179 Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society; RPO 180 Volunteering and Active Citizenship; RPO 186 Lifelong Learning; RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Health City Initiatives</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>SCSI 016 Health Care Facilities; SCSI 017 Age Friendly Strategy; SCSI 018 Active City; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; ECON 023 Education and Skills; SCSI 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSI 07 Smart Towns and Villages; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSI 010 Educational Facilities; SCSI 011 Location of Schools; SCSI 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSI 04 Community Facilities; SCSI 02 Accessibility for All; SCSI 03 Community Hubs; SCSI 14 Childcare Facilities; SCSI 019 Protection of lands zoned for Open Space and Recreation; SCSI 020 Protection of Sports Grounds/Facilities; SCSI 021 Improve Open Space Provision; SCSI 022 New City Amenity Areas; SCSI 027 Playgrounds; SCSI 031 Art and Culture; SQ 01b Colbert Quarter; RA 01 Regeneration's Opportunity Areas; SF 01 Social Framework; M01 Moyross; MK 01 St. Mary's Park and King's Island; BW 01 Ballinacurra Weston; OK 01 O'Malley Park and Keyes Park; KC 01 Kincora and Carew Park; Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm</p> <p><b>C3</b> focuses on improving health and well-being by achieving the potential to enjoy good physical and mental health and well-being through all stages of life with the necessary infrastructure, amenities and services supports. Important factors include education, employment, income, quality housing, amenities and recreation facilities, health-related behaviours including nutrition, physical activity, smoking, clear air and water quality and access to health services. Actions areas focus on health promotion and support services (e.g., nutrition, stop smoking, address drugs misuse), addressing food poverty, Recreation space and amenities, health service- access and community-based health programmes/services.</p> <p>The Healthy Ireland Programme and Sláinte Care Healthy Communities programme are national programmes implemented locally to promote health and well-being in local communities. Under Healthy Ireland, local authorities have a key role in implementation of annual programmes of health promotion, local health initiatives and small grants to community projects. Sláinte Care Healthy Communities is specifically addressed to reducing health inequalities targeting most disadvantaged urban areas including areas in Limerick City. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) supports health and well-being in disadvantaged communities and targets disadvantaged groups and the Limerick Sports Partnership specifically targets disadvantaged groups,</p>	

running programmes in communities to increase participation in physical activity. The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council/LCDC, HSE Health Promotion, Limerick Sports Partnership, Local Development Companies. **C3** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

#### **C4 Ageing well & age-friendly Limerick**

*Put in place the infrastructure and services so that people can age well in their own homes and communities for as long as possible and involve older people in community life and decision-making*

##### **Action Areas:**

Age-friendly principles applied in planning and design of neighbourhoods / housing, local facilities, amenities / recreation areas, buildings, transport	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Housing adaptations & supports for independent living	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Education, social and cultural activities	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Health and social care	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Digital inclusion initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Actions to address needs of vulnerable and isolated elderly	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

##### **SEA Comment:**

This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 1 No poverty; 3 Good health & well-being; 7 Affordable and clean energy; 10 Reduce inequalities; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).

##### RSES:

RSO 10 A healthy & learning region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 179 Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society; RPO 180 Volunteering and Active Citizenship; RPO 182 Ageing Population; RPO 183 Digital Strategies; RPO 186 Lifelong Learning; RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Healthy Cities Initiatives

##### LDP 2022-28 including:

SCSI 017 Age Friendly Strategy; SCSI 016 Health Care Facilities; SCSI 018 Active City; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; ECON 023 Education and Skills; SCSI 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSI 07 Smart Towns and Villages; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSI 010 Educational Facilities; S SCSI 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSI 04 Community Facilities; SCSI 02 Accessibility for All; SCSI 03 Community Hubs; SCSI 019 Protection of lands zoned for Open Space and Recreation; SCSI 020 Protection of Sports Grounds/Facilities; SCSI 021 Improve Open Space Provision; SCSI 022 New City Amenity Areas; SCSI 031 Art and Culture; CGR 01 Prevention of Urban Sprawl; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm

<p><b>C4</b> will put in place the infrastructure and services so that people can age well in their own homes and communities for as long as possible and involve older people in community life and decision-making. The population of Ireland is ageing. In Limerick. There is a significant increase in the proportion of oldest old – people aged 80 years+. An ageing population requires adaptations to infrastructure (housing, local facilities, amenities / recreation areas, buildings, transport), independent living (including the vulnerable and isolated elderly) supports and services (education, health, social, cultural and digital inclusion initiatives) to meet their needs. Furthermore, older people are important consumers of products and services, typically shopping locally, contributing to tourism and travel and some remain economically active well into their older years.</p> <p>Age Friendly Ireland is the organisation responsible for the national Age Friendly Programme, affiliated to the World Health Organization's [WHO] Global Network of Age Friendly Cities and Communities. Limerick City and County Council was one of the early leaders in developing an Age-friendly Limerick Strategy, which includes an inter-agency structure to oversee the Strategy and planning, the Age-friendly Alliance and an Older Person's Council, to give a voice to older residents. Older people in or at risk of social exclusion and isolated elderly are amongst the target groups of The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP). The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council, HSE, An Garda Síochána, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, Higher Education Institutions, Limerick Chamber, Local Development Companies, Local Link and other organisations. <b>C4</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<p><b>C5 Social inclusion &amp; personal empowerment</b></p> <p><i>Work to build social inclusion in society, reduce poverty and support people and households who are socially and economically disadvantaged, wherever they live, to improve their life chances and well-being</i></p>	
<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p>	
Information and advice services for individuals in or experiencing exclusion to access services they need	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Support to get into the workforce and earn income from employment	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Group-based programmes and activities to build social inclusion and get people to participate in society	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Support to groups at highest risks – e.g., Travellers, migrants, homeless people, people with mental health issues, young people not in education training or employment	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 1 No poverty; 2 Zero Hunger; 3 Good health &amp; well-being; 10 Reduce inequalities; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p>	

RSES:

RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RSO 10 A healthy & learning region; RPO 186 Lifelong Learning; RPO 187 Education and Training; RPO 189 Further Education and Training; RPO 190 Lifelong Learning and Healthy City Initiatives

LDP 2022-28 including:

Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; ECON 027 Social Enterprise; SF 01 Social Framework Strategy; SCSi 019 Protection of Lands for Open Space and Recreation; SCSi 020 Protection of Sports Grounds and Facilities; SCSi 021 Protection of Open Space; SCSi 022 New Amenity Areas; SCSi 023 Sports and Recreational Facilities Strategies; SCSi 019024 Limerick Sports Partnership Plan 2018 – 2021; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working; SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; SCSi 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSi 04 Community Facilities; SCSi 02 Accessibility for All; SCSi 03 Community Hubs; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm

**C5** aims to address social inclusion and personal empowerment for people living in or at risk of poverty to improve their life chances and well-being wherever they live.

Actions areas will provide information/advice services for individuals in or experiencing exclusion to access services they need, support workforce/employment opportunities, group-based programmes/activities to build social/society inclusion and get people to participate in society and support highest risk groups, e.g., travellers, migrants, homeless people, people with mental health issues, young people not in education training or employment.

At EU/National policy level, under the European Pillar on Social Rights Action Plan, Member States have agreed a poverty reduction target. Under national policy, the Road Map to Social Inclusion aims to reduce the consistent poverty rate to 2% or less by 2025 (currently at 4%) and for Ireland to be one of the most inclusive states in the EU. There are many policies and programmes in place to reduce poverty – income support, education, active employment measures, health interventions. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the mainstream programme delivered in local urban and rural Limerick to support inclusion: it focuses on community development and one-to-one support for people in specific target groups most at risk of exclusion, and actions to support children and families that are most at risk of exclusion. The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council/LCDC, Local Development Companies, Department of Social Protection, Limerick Education and Training Board, HSE. **C5** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

**C6 Sport, recreation & community buildings**

*Put in place sport and recreation facilities and multi-purpose community buildings in areas where such facilities are lacking and there is a community need, improve existing facilities to meet changing community needs, upgrade them to modern standards and to be more energy efficient*

**Action Areas:**

Parks, playgrounds, natural play areas

Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

Outdoor and indoor sports facilities, especially multi-use facilities	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Outdoor recreation infrastructure in rural areas, providing access to nature, rivers / waterways	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Physical improvement works to community buildings	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
New multi-purpose community centres	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SCDO is linked to LECP HLGs 1 and 2 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good health &amp; well-being; 10 Reduce inequalities; 11 Sustainable cities and communities. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO 10 A Healthy &amp; Learning Region; RPO 198 Sport and Community Organisations, RPO 199 Larger Sports Projects</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; SF 01 Social Framework Strategy; SCSi 019 Protection of Lands for Open Space and Recreation; SCSi 020 Protection of Sports Grounds and Facilities; SCSi 021 Protection of Open Space; SCSi 022 New Amenity Areas; SCSi 023 Sports and Recreational Facilities Strategies; SCSi 019024 Limerick Sports Partnership Plan 2018 – 2021; CGR 01 Prevention of Urban Sprawl; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; SCSi 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSi 04 Community Facilities; SCSi 02 Accessibility for All; SCSi 03 Community Hubs; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm; SCSi 031 Art and Culture; SCSi 016 Health Care Facilities; SCSi 018 Active City; SCSi 037 Library Service; SCSi 030 Water-based Sports; SCSi029 Trails, Hiking and Walking Routes; SCSi 028 New Amenity Walkways; SCSi 039 Community Gardens and Allotments</p> <p><b>C6</b> focuses on physical facilities for sport, recreation/amenity and multi-purpose community buildings that are more energy efficient in areas where there are needs. Such facilities are important for social connectedness, building sense of community, supporting physical activity and they are an important aspect of quality of life for local communities. The actions areas support parks, playgrounds, natural play areas, outdoor/indoor sports facilities, especially multi-use facilities, outdoor recreation infrastructure in rural areas, providing access to nature, rivers / waterways, physical improvement works to community buildings and new multi-purpose community centres.</p> <p>There are public funding streams in place such as the Sports Capital programme, the Community Centres Fund, the LEADER programme to support new and improved facilities and CLÁR in rural areas suffering depopulation. The Outdoor Recreation and Infrastructure Scheme supports walkways, cycleways and access to nature in countryside areas and into rural towns/villages. Sláintecare Healthy Communities may support development of greenspace/amenity space within city disadvantaged communities. Other development projects include URDF, RRDF and TVRS funding streams. The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council, Local Development Companies, Limerick Sports Partnership, Sports Clubs / sporting organisations (GAA, FAI, IRFU) and local community groups.</p>	



<p><b>C6</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report. It is important in the long-term that green and recreations spaces are not considered as the same space and that these spaces can co-exist with biodiversity, stepping stones and corridors given a high priority. This will have positive long-term socio-environmental impacts.</p>	
<p><b>C7 Societal / community awareness of climate action</b>  <i>Deliver awareness-raising and education for people across all age groups, backgrounds and communities on climate change and sustainability so that we have a better understanding of how we need to change our behaviour and take action to protect the environment for our own and future generations</i></p>	
<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p>	
Education and awareness programmes on climate change, the “green” transition / environmental sustainability and <a href="#">integrates nature-based solutions</a>	Not location specific and this in and of itself does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Capacity building of community and voluntary organisations in planning for sustainable living	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Climate action awareness and initiatives for businesses / commercial operations	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Local plans, initiatives and campaigns in climate action areas such as waste, circular economy, local food projects, community buildings and facilities	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Local arts & creative projects addressed to climate change	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b>  This SCDO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 2 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production; 13 Climate Action; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u>  RSO 8 Low Carbon, Climate Resilient &amp; Sustainable Society; RPO 87 Low Carbon Energy Future; RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework; RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change; RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation; RPO 107 Regional Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region 2015-2021; RPO 108 EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy  <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u>  Objective TR O7 Behavioural Change Measures; Objective TR O8 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure; Objective TR O9 Limerick Cycle Network; Objective TR O10 Limerick Regeneration Areas Sustainable Travel Infrastructure; Objective TR O11 Enhanced Public Transport; Objective TR O12 Limerick BusConnects Programme; Objective TR O15 Transport Interchange; Objective TR O16 Rail Network; Objective TR O18 Park and Ride Facilities; Objective TR O19 Park and Stride Facilities; Objective TR O20 Car Clubs/Car Sharing; Objective TR O21 Electric and Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles; Objective TR O25 Inter-city, Regional and Commuter Services; Objective TR O26 Bus Transport Infrastructure; Objective IN O1 Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning; Objective IN O12 Surface</p>	

Water and SuDS; Objective IN O13 Energy and Gas Networks; Objective IN O17 Waste Management and the Circular Economy; Objective IN O18 Waste Infrastructure; Objective CAF O1 Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance; Objective CAF O2 Partnership with Service Providers; Objective CAF O3 Sustainable Development; Objective CAF O4 Climate Proofing; Objective CAF O5 Energy Efficiency in Existing Development; Objective CAF O6 Energy Efficiency in New Developments; Objective CAF O7 Near Zero Energy Buildings; Objective CAF O8 Renewable Energy Objective; Objective CAF O9 Achieving Climate Resilience; Objective CAF O11 Nature Based Solutions; CAF O12 Urban Greening; Objective CAF O14 Energy Generation; Objective CAF O15 Local Energy Production; Objective CAF O16 Circular Economy; Objective CAF O17 Low Energy Building Materials; Objective CAF O18 Energy and Emissions Balance; Objective CAF O19 Decarbonising Zones; Objective CAF O26 Bio Energy; Objective CAF O27 Renewable Energy Production; Objective CAF O35 Community Based Energy Initiatives; Objective CAF O39 Carbon Capture; Objective CAF O38 Emerging Technologies; Objective CAF O20 Flood Risk Assessments; Objective CAF O21 Identified Flood Risk; Objective CAF O23 Flood Relief Schemes; Objective CAF O24 Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protection Schemes; Objective CAF O25 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

**C7** addresses societal/community awareness across all age groups, backgrounds and communities on climate action to change behaviour and mitigate effects of climate change. The actions areas are; climate change education/ awareness programmes on “green” transition / environmental sustainability and integrates nature-based solutions; capacity building of community/voluntary organisations in planning for sustainable living; climate action awareness and initiatives for businesses / commercial operations; local plans, initiatives and campaigns in climate action areas such as waste, circular economy, local food projects, community buildings and facilities; and local arts and creative projects addressed to climate change.

Ireland is legally bound to achieve set climate action targets – i.e., a 51% reduction in Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030, from a baseline in 2018, and net zero by 2050. Ireland has signed up to the *UN Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs)*. Under the UN SDGs, Ireland’s second implementation plan identifies as strategic priorities: expansion of public awareness of the SDGs and their relevance, stakeholder participation in implementation and follow-up and support to local communities and their organisations to make their own contribution to achieving the goals. Government has put in place a Climate Action Fund (2022) to invest in community climate action projects and education and capacity building. The programme aims to empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way. Local projects that draw on creativity and the arts to build awareness of climate change and empower citizens to make behavioural change are supported in Creative Climate Action II: Agents of Change programme (2022). This is a joint initiative of Creative Ireland and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications. Limerick has a Local Climate Action Officer. The new SICAP Programme, SICAP 2024-2028, includes Just Transition as a thematic area in community development while environmental sustainability is a cross-cutting theme in LEADER 2023-2028. The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council, Local Development Companies, Limerick Education and Training Board, Higher Education Institutions, Public Participation Network (PPN). **C7** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

#### **C8 Civic life & social capital**

*Develop volunteering by people across all age groups and social and cultural backgrounds, build up skills and capacity of voluntary and community organisations and support them to get involved in all aspects of community life*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Capacity building for local community and voluntary organisations	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Local area-based planning and community projects	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Volunteering initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts
Develop the membership base of the PPN and support its operation and mission to represent the sector	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Support existing groups to develop and become sustainable	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 5 Gender equality; 10 Reduced inequalities; 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO 7 Diversity, Language, Culture &amp; Heritage Enhancement; RSO 11 Inclusion International Region; RPO 179 Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society; RPO 180 Volunteering and Active Citizenship; RPO 181 Equal Access</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>SF O1 Social Framework Strategy; Objective SCSi O3 Community Hubs; Objective SCSi O4 Ten- Minute Neighbourhood; Objective SCSi O7 Smart Towns and Villages; Objective ECON O28 Smart City; ECON O22 Learning Region; ECON O46 Festivals; CGR O2 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm</p> <p><b>C8</b> relates to civic life and social capital by developing volunteering across all age groups and social and cultural backgrounds, building up skills and capacity of voluntary and community organisations and support them to get involved in all aspects of community life. Actions areas will provide capacity building for local community/voluntary organisations, local area-based planning/community projects, volunteering initiatives, develop the PPN membership base and support its operation/mission to represent the sector, and support existing groups to develop and become sustainable.</p> <p>There is a large number of active local community and voluntary groups across urban and rural Limerick, playing important roles in communities and adding to quality of life. They bring people together, build civic spirit and pride of place, get together to do things for themselves, provide support to vulnerable groups, promote social inclusion and represent local communities and the community voice in civic and representative structures such as Council committees. Local community and voluntary groups are organised into the <i>Public Participation Network</i> (PPN) – the representative body of the sector- with the Network Secretariat supported by a Resource Worker based within the Council.</p> <p>The Government recognises the important contribution played by the community and voluntary sector in general, as presented in the policy document, Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024. The Strategy sets out the long-term ambitions for community and local development, identifies the role of the sector in creating vibrant civic communities and</p>	

<p>democracy, and particularly their role in marginalized communities. The Road Map to Social Inclusion identifies the role of the sector in building inclusive communities and in supporting social inclusion. The role of the sector is identified in other areas of policy including creativity and the arts (Creative Ireland), social enterprise and climate action (Climate Action Fund). The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council/LCDC, Local Development Companies, PPN. <b>C8</b> and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.</p>	
<p><b>C9 Integration of migrants &amp; diverse cultural communities</b>  <i>Support people from different nationalities, cultural/ethnic backgrounds and identities to feel welcome and settle in Limerick, to access the services they need and get involved in all aspects of social, economic and community life without discrimination</i></p>	
<p><b>Action Areas:</b></p>	
Cultural, social, recreational & other initiatives to promote integration of different cultural communities (migrants, Travellers)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Inter-cultural awareness initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Anti-racism campaigns	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<a href="#">Interventions in education, health and other areas</a>	Not location specific and this in and of itself does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<a href="#">Development of representative structures, networks and capacity building</a>	Not location specific and this in and of itself does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 5 Gender equality; 10 Reduced inequalities; 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u>  RSD 7 Diversity, Language, Culture &amp; Heritage Enhancement; RSD 11 Inclusion International Region; RPO 179 Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society; RPO 180 Volunteering and Active Citizenship; RPO 181 Equal Access</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u>  SF 01 Social Framework Strategy; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; ECON 028 Smart City; SCS 07 Smart Towns and Villages; IN 03 Broadband; ECON 023 Education and Skills; Objective EF 01 Economic Framework Strategy; Objective SCS 03 Community Hubs; Objective SCS 04 Ten - Minute Neighbourhood; Objective SCS 031 Art and Culture; ECON 046 Festivals; CGR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm; Objective EF 01 Economic Framework Strategy; Objective ECON 022 Learning Region; Objective ECON 023 Education and Skills; Objective ECON 026 Tackling Unemployment; Objective SCS 05 Multi-Use of Facilities</p>	

**C9** focuses on the integration/welcome of migrants and diverse cultural communities settling in Limerick, the access of necessary services and integrating into all aspects of social, economic and community life without discrimination. Action areas will develop cultural, social, recreational & other initiatives to promote integration of different cultural communities (migrants, travellers), Inter-cultural awareness initiative, Anti-racism campaigns, interventions in education, health and other areas and development of representative structures, networks and capacity building. A migrant integration strategy, *Belonging to Limerick – Limerick City and County Integration Plan 2019-2023*, and an Integration Working Group are in place in Limerick and a Migrant Forum is being developed. The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council, Local Development Companies, HSE, LCETB and Higher Education Institutions. **C9** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

### **C10 Community safety & crime prevention**

*Work in cooperation with public agencies including An Garda Síochána community policing and voluntary and community organisations to set up local initiatives to prevent crime and create safe and civic communities in urban and rural Limerick*

#### **Action Areas:**

Inter-agency initiatives to deal with specific issues – e.g., anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, racially-motivated crime	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Local community safety and crime prevention plans	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Campaigns, awareness-raising, education – e.g., road safety, cybercrime, staying safe online	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

#### **SEA Comment**

This SCDO is linked to LECP HLG 1 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 5 Gender equality; 10 Reduced inequalities; 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This SCDO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).

#### RSES:

RSO 7 Diversity, Language, Culture & Heritage Enhancement; RSO 11 Inclusion International Region; RPO 179 Diverse and Socially Inclusive Society; RPO 180 Volunteering and Active Citizenship; RPO 181 Equal Access

#### LDP 2022-28 including:

CGR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm;\_Objective SF O1 Social Framework Strategy; Objective PF O1 Physical Framework Strategy;

**C10** Community safety and crime prevention – will work in cooperation with public agencies including An Garda Síochána and community organisations to set up local initiatives preventing crime and create safe and civic communities in urban and rural Limerick. Actions areas are Inter-agency initiatives to deal with specific issues, e.g., anti-social behaviour, domestic violence, racially-motivated crime; local community safety and crime prevention plans; and campaigns, awareness raising and education, e.g., road safety, cybercrime, staying safe online.

Sense of personal safety in day-to-day life and community safety are extremely important factors in quality of life and mental health and well-being. Safety from harm, tolerance and low crime under-pin a successful local economy where businesses can operate effectively and skilled people are attracted to live and work in Limerick.

The Joint Policing Committee of Limerick City and County Council (with representation of An Garda Síochána, elected members and officials of the Council, members of the Oireachtas and community and voluntary sector) provide a forum and a plan to address community safety and policing issues in Limerick. Other inter-agency structures include representation of An Garda Síochána/the justice system (e.g., the Limerick Children's and Young Person's Services Committee, Healthy Ireland, Ukrainian Response Forum, Integration inter-agency and community level committees in the Limerick Regeneration Programme). The leading agencies for this SCDO are Limerick City and County Council, An Garda Síochána, Local Development Companies and other voluntary bodies. **C10** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

#### Sustainable Integrated Objectives (SIO)

IOs No.	SEA Comments
<b>I1 Limerick City Centre regeneration</b>	
<i>Create a living safe multi-cultural city centre with vibrant businesses, spaces and places for people to meet and green space and recreation</i>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Delivery / completion of Opera Square including office space, new central library for Limerick and civic space	See SEA Comment section below
Progress other strategic sites – Cleaves Riverside Park, Colbert Quarter, Arthur's Quay	See SEA Comment section below
Public realm, civic and cultural space / green space / recreation	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Re-use of vacant and derelict buildings & lands	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Retail, hospitality businesses in the city centre	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Georgian Quarter Living Limerick Initiative	See SEA Comment section below
Community safety in the city centre	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b>	
This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 2, 3 & 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good health & well-being; 6 Clean water & sanitation; 7 Affordable & clean energy; 8 Decent work & economic growth; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 13 Climate action. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).	

RSES:

RSO 1 Compact growth; RSO 3 Strengthened rural economies and communities; RSO 9 Sustainable, planned & infrastructure-led development; 7 Diversity, Language, Culture and Heritage Enhancement; RPO 10: Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas; RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development; RPO 35 Support for Compact Growth; RPO 203 Revitalisation of Historic Cores; RPO 204 Public access; RPO 205 Built Heritage; RPO 206 Architectural Heritage; RPO 207 Archaeological Investigation

LDP 2022-28 including:

Objective UCA01 – UCA 05 Urban Character and Objectives: Objective CGR 010 Revitalisation; Objective LL01 Laneways; Objective CRQ01 Cleaves Riverside Quarter; Objective ULCC 01 UL City Campus; Objective AQ 01 Arthur’s Quay; Objective ES 01 Ellen Street Car Park; Objective LDA 01 Land Development Agency; Objective CSQ 01 Colbert Quarter; Objective RQ 01 Regeneration Opportunity Areas; Objective SF 01 Social Framework Strategy; Objective EF Economic Framework Strategy; Objective PF 01 Physical Framework Strategy; Objective ECON 01 City Centre; Objective ECON 014 Casual Trading ; Objective ECON 015 Active Street Frontages; Objective ECON 016 Night Time Economy; Objective ECON 017 Strategic Employment Locations – City and Suburbs; Objective ECON 020 Location of Industry or Enterprise on Brownfield Sites; Objective ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; Objective ECON 022 Learning Region; Objective ECON 023 Education and Skills; Objective ECON 024 Further and Higher Education; Objective 025 Clustering and Innovation; Objective ECON 028 Smart City; Objective ECON 029 Office Development, Objective ECON 032 Cultural and Creative Industries; Objective ECON 033 Enterprise Incubator Units; Objective ECON 045 Tourism; Objective ECON 052 Location of Tourism Accommodation; Objective IN02 Digital Connectivity; Objective IN03 Digital Innovation Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area; Objective IN04 Broadband; Objective SCSi 01 Community Facilities; Objective SCSi 02 Accessibility of All; Objective SCSi 03 Community Hub; Objective SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; Objective SCSi 05 Multi-use of Facilities; Objective SCSi 06 Strategy on Community Facilities; Objective SCSi 08 Place-making for the Community; Objective SCSi 031 Art and Culture; SCSi 034 Cultural Audit; EH013 Blue Green infrastructure Strategy; EH036 Preservation of Archaeological Heritage; Objective EH 037 Preservation of unrecorded/newly discovered Archaeological Heritage; Objective EH 038 Protection of the setting of Archaeological Monuments; Objective EH 042 Town Defences and Layout; Objective EH 043 Industrial Heritage; Objective 45 Raise Public Awareness and Encourage Active Participation; Objective 052 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH); Objective EH 053 Architectural Conservation Areas; Objective CGR 02 Place-making Universal Design and Public Realm; Objective CGR 04 Active Land Management; Objective CGR 05 Vacant Site Levy; Objective CGR 06 Derelict Sites.

**I1** focuses on the regeneration of Limerick City Centre to create a living safe multi-cultural area with vibrant businesses, spaces and places for people to meet and green space and recreation. City centre regeneration –will make the city centre more compact (with work opportunities, close to services, shopping and recreation/amenity), more liveable and more attractive. It is supported in the National Strategic Objective to promote Compact Growth under the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040, in the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Southern Region and in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. To achieve the “living city” where people predominantly live and work in the same place the following actions areas will: delivery/completion of Opera Square including office space, new central library for Limerick and civic space; progress other strategic sites – Cleaves Riverside Park, Colbert Quarter, Arthur’s Quay; provide public realm, civic and cultural space/green space/recreation; re-use of vacant and derelict buildings & lands; provide retail, hospitality businesses in

the city centre; the Georgian Quarter Living Limerick Initiative; and community safety in the city centre. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council/Limerick Twenty Thirty DAC, Land Development Agency, Limerick Chamber, An Garda Síochána, PAUL Partnership.

The Opera Square project (Objective MK01), a multi-use development of public and private office space, retail/hospitality, residential, civic space and a new central library for Limerick is a government funded public realm project. The Opera Square development represents Limerick 2030's principle response to transforming the social and economic profile of Limerick City Centre delivering significant opportunities on brownfield lands. Other large-scale strategic projects are at different stages of planning and design including Arthur's Quay (Objective AQ 01), the Cleaves Riverside Park (Objectives CRC 01) and the Colbert Quarter Development (Objective CSQ 01a&b), the latter led by the Land Development Agency and will include significant residential development on brownfield/infill sites. Initiatives are underway to rejuvenate the housing stock in Georgian Limerick also protected structures and will seek to safeguard the Georgian heritage of Limerick (Objective EH 053 Architectural Conservation Areas (f)).

The protected structure record will ensure both adequate protection for older building stock and to help with their integration into new surroundings. The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 contains protective policies and objectives predominantly in Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure, and in particular Section 6.5 Archaeology and Built Heritage. Its associated SEA ER notes that the updated RPS will ensure adequate protection and recognition is afforded to older buildings of merit in the city and will inform future development proposals and design integration into the cityscape and be subject to a series of assessments including EIA and AA as appropriate. It is important in the long-term that green and recreation spaces are not considered as the same space and that these spaces can co-exist with biodiversity, stepping stones and corridors given a high priority. This will have positive long-term socio-environmental impacts.

**I1** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts with the exception of the action areas relating to delivery/completion of Opera Square including office space, new central library for Limerick and civic space; progress other strategic sites – Cleaves Riverside Park, Colbert Quarter, Arthur's Quay; and Georgian Quarter Living Limerick Initiative. As noted in the Screening Assessment the Plan will have to comply, where relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment and requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting. Actions arising from the Plan will demonstrate compliance with the environmental protection measures in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

## **I2 Disadvantaged city neighbourhoods**

*Lift our disadvantaged neighbourhoods in the city out of poverty and exclusion*

### **Action Areas:**

Community development to build participation in civic and community life	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Education and learning and health and well-being initiatives (Sláintecare Healthy Communities)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.



Family support, youth development & out-of-school services for children	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Training and work initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Social enterprise	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Recreation/amenity/ public realm including greenspace/play areas/open parks	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Community centres/community hubs	
Estate management & housing maintenance including reduction of dereliction/vacancy & refurbishment	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Safe communities/Community policing	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b>  This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 2 &amp; 3 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 1 No poverty; 2 Zero Hunger; 3 Good health &amp; well-being; 7 Affordable &amp; clean energy; 8 Decent work &amp; economic growth; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 13 Climate action. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u>  RSO 1 Compact growth; RSO 9 Sustainable, planned &amp; infrastructure-led development; RSO 10 A healthy &amp; learning region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development  <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u>  Objective CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; Objective CGR 04 Active Land Use Management; Objective LDA 01 Land Development Agency; Objective CSQ 01 Colbert Quarter; Objective RQ 01 Regeneration Opportunity Areas; Objective SF 01 Social Framework Strategy; Objective EF Economic Framework Strategy; Objective Revitalisation; Objective BM 01 The Bays Moyross; Objective M01 Moyross; Objective MK01 St. Mary's Park and King's Island; Objective BW01 Ballinacurra Weston; Objective OK 01 O'Malley Park and Keys Park; Objective KC01 Kincora and Carew Park; Objective LEDP 01 Limerick Enterprise Development Park; Objective HO 01 Social Inclusion; Objective 013 Provision of Social and Affordable Housing, Objective ECON 03 District Centre; Objective ECON 05 Local Neighbourhood Centre; Objective 017 Strategic Employment Locations Limerick City and Suburbs; Objective ECON 022 Learning Region; Objective ECON 023 Education and Skills; Objective ECON 024 Further and Higher Education; Objective 026 Tackling Unemployment; Objective ECON 27 Social Enterprise; Objective ECON 028 Smart City; Objective ECON 032 Cultural and Creative Industries; Objective ECON 033 Enterprise Incubator Units; Objective ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working; Objective IN02 Digital Connectivity; Objective IN03 Digital Innovation Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area; Objective SCSi 01 Community Facilities; Objective SCSi 02 Accessibility of All; Objective SCSi 03 Community Hub; Objective SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; Objective SCSi 06 Strategy on Community Facilities; Objective SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; Objective SCSi 011 Location of Schools; Objective SCSi 013 Further and Higher Education Facilities; Objective SCSi 0 14 Childcare Facilities; Objective TR05 Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; Objective TR06 Delivering Modal Shift; Objective TR07 Behavioural Change Measures; Objective TR08 Cycling and Walking Infrastructure; Objective TR09 Limerick Cycle Network; Objective TR010 Regeneration Areas Sustainable Transport Infrastructure; Objective TR01 Enhance Public Transport; Objective TR012 Limerick</p>	

BusConnects Programme; Objective TR015 Transport Interchange; Objective TR022 Micro-Mobility; Objective TR 035 Connecting Limerick's Southside; Objective TR036 Limerick Northern Distributor Road; Objective IN02 Digital Connectivity; Objective IN03 Digital Innovation Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area; Objective IN04 Broadband; Objective IN05 Telecommunication Support

**I2** focuses on disadvantaged city neighbourhoods lifting these areas out of poverty and exclusion. The delivery of an integrated and targeted approach to address poverty and exclusion in the most disadvantaged area-based communities in Limerick city will include: community development to build participation in civic and community life; education and learning and health and well-being initiatives (Sláintecare Healthy Communities); family support, youth development & out-of-school services for children; training and work initiatives; social enterprise; recreation/amenity/ public realm including greenspace/play areas/open parks; community centres/community hubs; estate management & housing maintenance including reduction of dereliction/vacancy & refurbishment; and safe communities/Community policing. The Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan, is a regeneration programme for the most disadvantaged areas of Limerick City. The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) delivered in Limerick City by the PAUL Partnership working with a consortium of community partners in the disadvantaged areas is the mainstream programme to support inclusion and access to services for people in exclusion in disadvantaged areas. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, HSE, Tusla, LCETB, An Garda Síochána, Probation Service, PAUL Partnership, Department of Housing and Local Government, Department of Justice, community organisations in regeneration areas.

This objective and its actions areas will improve quality of life and standards for disadvantages neighbours by facilitating a good standard of quality of life for all of the population of the Limerick through ensuring a high quality residential, recreational, educational and working environment. It also provides facilities for training and employment to serve the local population and fulfil local social needs. Other objectives of the Plan are also relevant to addressing the needs of these areas as an integrated and coordination approach will deal with the multifaceted and higher level/more complex needs of these areas, e.g., I3 and I5 below will have positive long-term effects. **I2** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

### **I3 Connected city & sub-urban neighbourhoods**

*Build up residential neighbourhoods in the city and suburbs that are walkable, connected to each other with good public transport as well as amenities, services and accessible work opportunities so they can work as "10 minute" neighbourhoods*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Masterplanning for 10-minute neighbourhoods	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Neighbourhood-based community facilities & enterprise hubs	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Planning of sustainable travel – cycleways, walkways- across neighbourhoods in Limerick City and Suburbs	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Walkways and cycleways within neighbourhoods, to schools, crèches, places of work, public and community services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Expanded public transport services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

Community development – e.g., expanding residents associations and other organisations that represent the community	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1 &amp; 2 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good health &amp; well-being; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 13 Climate action. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO 1 Compact growth; RSO 3 Strengthened rural economies and communities; RSO 9 Sustainable, planned &amp; infrastructure-led development; RPO 10: Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas; RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework; RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport; RPO 152 Local Planning Objectives; RPO 176 10 minute city and town concepts</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>Objective TR05 Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy; Objective TR06 Delivering Modal Shift; Objective TR07 Behavioural Change Measures; Objective TR08 Cycling and Walking Infrastructure; Objective TR09 Limerick Cycle Network; Objective TR010 Regeneration Areas Sustainable Transport Infrastructure; Objective TR01 Enhance Public Transport; Objective TR012 Limerick BusConnects Programme; Objective TR015 Transport Interchange; Objective TR022 Micro-Mobility; Objective TR 035 Connecting Limerick’s Southside; Objective TR036 Limerick Northern Distributor Road; Objective IN02 Digital Connectivity; Objective IN03 Digital Innovation Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area; Objective IN04 Broadband; Objective IN05 Telecommunication Support; Objective TR 016 Rail Network; Objective TR018 Park and Ride Facilities; Objective TR019 Park and Stride Facilities; Objective TR 038 Improvements to Regional and Local Roads; Objective TR044 Link Roads; Objective UCA01 – UCA 05 Urban Character and Objectives: Objective CGR 010 Revitalisation; Objective LL01 Limerick Laneways; Objective IN03 Digital Innovation Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area; Objective SCS1 01 Community Facilities; Objective SCS1 02 Accessibility of All; Objective SCS1 03 Community Hub; Objective SCS1 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; Objective ECON 028 Smart City</p> <p><b>I3</b> will connect city &amp; sub-urban neighbourhoods by building up residential neighbourhoods in the city and suburbs that are walkable, connected to each other with good public transport as well as amenities, services and accessible work opportunities so they can work as “10 minute” neighbourhoods. The following action areas will: master planning for 10-minute neighbourhoods; neighbourhood-based community facilities &amp; enterprise hubs; planning of sustainable travel – cycleways, walkways- across neighbourhoods in Limerick City and Suburbs; walkways and cycleways within neighbourhoods, to schools, crèches, places of work, public and community services; expanded public transport services; and community development – e.g., expanding residents associations and other organisations that represent the community.</p> <p>Creating 10-minute neighbourhoods is one of the core objectives of the updated Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan. It is included in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, and in national and regional spatial planning frameworks – the compact growth objective under the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 and the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy for the Southern Region. There is also significant government investment (National Transport Authority) in the development of sustainable travel infrastructure and expanded public transport. Good public transport services and sustainable travel networks for walking and cycling across the city will enable population mobility and reduce reliance on the car (See Objective 18, Sustainable travel /</p>	

Active Travel). This is supported under the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (2022). The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Bus Connects Limerick/Local Link/National Transport Authority, Department of Education (Schools), HSE (Primary Care), Local community organisations. **I3** is important to promote good quality of life in residential neighbourhoods in Limerick city and suburbs, to support adaption to climate change and create sustainable communities. It will build a civic spirit, social capital and community associations that can represent the interests of the local community. **I3** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

#### **I4 Town & village renewal & connected settlements**

*Re-design towns and villages, reduce dereliction and find new uses for vacant buildings and sites in town / village centres to create living vibrant villages and towns with shops, services, quality public realm and work opportunities. Make our rural villages and towns more sustainable by connecting nearby settlements with safe walking routes, cycleways and public and / or community transport services and support holistic rural development led by local communities*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Masterplans for key towns based on the Town Centre First approach	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Re-use of vacant and derelict buildings and sites for housing, economic, tourism and community use	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Public realm plans, public realm works, civic and cultural space	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Inter-settlement sustainable travel infrastructure and public and community transport services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
SMART village plans & number of villages involved	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Local models of shared services including childcare, elderly care / facilities / sport & recreation / enterprise / economic services / tourism	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

#### **SEA Comment:**

This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 2, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good health & well-being; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 13 Climate action. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).

#### RSES:

RSO 1 Compact growth; RSO 3 Strengthened rural economies and communities; RSO 9 Sustainable, planned & infrastructure-led development; 7 Diversity, Language, Culture and Heritage Enhancement; RPO 11: Key Towns; RPO 22 Newcastle West; RPO 26 Towns and Villages; RPO 29 Rural Settlement Networks; RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework; RPO 153 Capacity of Inter-Urban Road Connections; RPO 157 Local Transport Plans ; RPO 158 Intra-regional Rural Connectivity; RPO 159 Role of Transport in Enabling Access for All; RPO 176 10 minute city and town concepts; RPO 177 Childcare, Education and Health

Services; RPO 203 Revitalisation of Historic Cores;; RPO 204 Public access; RPO 205 Built Heritage; RPO 206 Architectural Heritage; RPO 207 Archaeological Investigation

LDP 2022-28 including:

Objective TR01 Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure; TR08 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure; TR 09 Limerick Cycle Network; TR011 Enhanced Public Transport; TR015 Transport interchange; TR016 Rail Network; TR017 Limerick to Foynes Line; TR 025 inter-city, Regional and Commuter Services; TR026 Bus Transport Infrastructure; TR018 Port and Docks; TR029 N/M20 Cork to Limerick; TR030 Foynes to Limerick including Adare Bypass; TR031 Newcastle West and a21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme; TR032 Cahir to Limerick Junction; TR033 Motorway Network Arterial Roads; TR041 Strategic Regional Roads; CGR11 Key Town Newcastle West; CGR 012 Newcastle West Local Area Plan; CGR 013 Level 3 Towns; CGR 014 Scale of Development in Level 3 Towns; CGR 015 Requirements for Development within Level 4 Settlements; CGR 016 Local Area Plans in Level 4 Settlements; CGR 017 Development within Level 5 Settlements; CGR 018 Scale of Growth Level 5 Settlements; CGR 019 Development in Level 6 Settlements, CGR 01 Prevention of Urban Sprawl; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; CGR 04 Active Land Management; CGR 05 Vacant Site levy; CGR 06 Derelict Sites; CGR 010 Revitalisation; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; IN 09 Public Waste Water; IN 013 Energy and Gas Networks; IN 015 Electricity Grid Development; ECON 09 Newcastle West; ECON 011 Inter Urban Links; ECON 012 County Towns and Villages; ECON 013 Rural Retail; ECON 014 Casual Trading Areas; ECON 015 Active Street Frontages; ECON 020 Location of Industry or Enterprise in Brownfield Sites; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; ECON 026 Tackling Unemployment; ECON 029 Office Development; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; ECON 033 Enterprise Incubator Units; ECON 034 Rural Remote Working Hubs; ECON 041 Home-working/E-working; SCS1 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm; ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working

**14** is focused on the re-design of towns and villages, reduced dereliction and new uses for vacant buildings and sites in town/village centres to create living vibrant villages and towns with shops, services, quality public realm and work opportunities. It will also make rural Limerick villages and towns more sustainable by connecting nearby settlements with safe walking routes, cycleways and public and/or community transport services and support holistic rural development led by local communities. To ensure this actions areas will include: masterplans for key towns based on the Town Centre First approach; re-use of vacant and derelict buildings and sites for housing, economic, tourism and community use; public realm plans, public realm works, civic and cultural space; inter-settlement sustainable travel infrastructure and public and community transport services, SMART village plans and number of villages involved; and local models of shared services including childcare, elderly care/facilities/sport and recreation/enterprise/economic services/tourism.

The regeneration and development of our towns and villages is most important to strengthen our rural economies and create sustainable rural communities.

Creating living, socially and economically sustainable rural towns and villages is a key objective of Our Rural Future and of the National Policy Framework Ireland 2040, the Regional Economic and Spatial Plan for the Southern Region and the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. Regeneration and development of towns and villages out from the core is the objectives of government's Town Centre First Policy. This approach is based on having a "Town Centre First" Plan developed with multi-stakeholder involvement including local businesses and the community. Funding streams are in place to support this agenda including the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) for transformative projects of scale, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, investment in enterprise hubs/digital hubs under Connected Communities and measures to renew vacant buildings and sites for residential/and new housing

development under government's Housing for All Action Plan. For example, Enterprise Hubs, run by voluntary/community organisations or private operators, have been developed in a number of towns and are under the umbrella of the Engine Network of Hubs, coordinated by Innovate Limerick.

In relation to rural villages, the SMART Villages concept is a key approach to be delivered as part of the new LEADER programme, working with a community-led local development approach. With a large number of smaller settlements in Limerick, the future sustainability of villages, offering local services, economic and social opportunities lies in cross-village/cross-settlement links, shared resources/shared services and cooperation, supported by public and community transport and sustainable travel connections as there is an over-reliance on cars as the main mode of everyday transport which is unsustainable with current climate action challenges (See Objective 18, Sustainable travel / Active Travel below). Adopting a place-based approach to rural development to meet specific needs, empowering rural communities to design and deliver actions and involving young people in decision-making are all identified in *Our Rural Future*. The LEADER programme is a key funding stream focused on building community capacity and supporting community-led local development. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Limerick LEO/Innovate Limerick, Local Development Companies, LCETB, HSE, Local Link, community and voluntary groups.

Consider biodiversity stepping stone and corridors (regardless of how small in size/area) in tandem with considering connectability as this will add value to this objective and others. It is also very important that while creating vibrant, sustainable and connected settlements that they are not overly maintained, e.g., removal of bank vegetation suitable for wildlife habitats and town/village uniqueness and individuality is not lost or overly replicated.

**I4** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

## **I5 Culture, arts, heritage & sport**

*Preserve and build pride in our culture, heritage, history and sport in Limerick, support people and communities to get more involved in them and promote them as a way to improve our social, community and economic well-being*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Community arts projects especially focused on social inclusion (disadvantaged groups, people with disabilities, other group)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Creative projects to build awareness of, and promote climate action	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Festivals and cultural events drawing on history, literature, creative arts	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Marketing and promotion of culture, arts & sport	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Cultural venues, infrastructure and space	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Arts and sport as a therapeutic intervention	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b>	

This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good health & well-being; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10 Reduce inequalities; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).

RSES:

RSO 7 Diversity, Language, Culture & Heritage Enhancement; RSO 10 A Healthy & Learning Region; RSO 11 Inclusive international region; RPO 192 Cultural Policies and Objectives; RPO 193 Collaborative Regional Partnerships; RPO 194 Arts, Heritage and Culture; RPO 198 Sport and Community Organisations, RPO 199 Larger Sports Projects

LDP 2022-28 including:

Objective HO11 Social Inclusion; SF 01 Social Framework Strategy; SCSi 019 Protection of Lands for Open Space and Recreation; SCSi 020 Protection of Sports Grounds and Facilities; SCSi 021 Protection of Open Space; SCSi 022 New Amenity Areas; SCSi 023 Sports and Recreational Facilities Strategies; SCSi 019024 Limerick Sports Partnership Plan 2018 – 2021; CGR 01 Prevention of Urban Sprawl; CGR 02 Town and Village Renewal; CGR 03 Urban Lands and Compact Growth; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; SCSi 04 Ten-Minute Neighbourhood; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 010 Educational Facilities; SCSi 012 Multi-use of School Facilities; SCSi 04 Community Facilities; SCSi 02 Accessibility for All; SCSi 03 Community Hubs; TR 04 Universal Design; GCR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm; SCSi 031 Art and Culture; SCSi 018 Active City; SCSi 037 Library Service; SCSi 036 Limerick Museum; SCSi 035 Limerick Museum Service; Limerick City Gallery of Art Strategy; SCSi 030 Water-based Sports; SCSi 029 Trails, Hiking and Walking Routes; SCSi 028 New Amenity Walkways; SCSi 039 Community Gardens and Allotments; ECON Festivals

**I5** is based on culture, arts, heritage and sport and will preserve/build pride in Limerick's culture, heritage, history and sport, support people and communities to get more involved in them and promote them as a way to improve our social, community and economic well-being. Action areas will develop: community arts projects especially focused on social inclusion (disadvantaged groups, people with disabilities, other group); creative projects to build awareness of and promote climate action; festivals and cultural events drawing on history, literature, creative arts; marketing and promotion of culture, arts and sport; cultural venues, infrastructure and space; and arts and sport as a therapeutic intervention.

Culture, arts, heritage and sport are part of our identity bring enjoyment and enriching the lives of individuals and communities. Sport and the arts, culture and heritage can promote social inclusion, build community pride and community spirit and provide therapeutic interventions to promote positive mental health and social inclusion. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, GAA/IRFU/FAI, Limerick Sports Partnership, Higher Education Institutions, LCETB, Limerick Youth Services, PAUL Partnership and other voluntary and community organisations. **I5** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts and will have positive effects on Limerick's culture, heritage, history and sporting activities by encouraging involvement thus leading to increased awareness, county pride and identity, with long-term protection. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

**I6 Internationalisation, branding & promotion**

<i>Build up the international profile of Limerick, expand our role in global development issues and humanitarian aid and promote Limerick as an attractive and welcoming place for people to live, to work, to visit, to study and for cultural activities</i>	
<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Development aid and humanitarian interventions	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Engagement in EU Cooperation Networks and exchanges (public bodies, community and voluntary bodies, young people)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
International trade missions, events and international digital trade platforms	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Engage with the Limerick Global Diaspora	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 2 and 3 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 4 Quality Education; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 16 Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u> RSO 5 A Strong Economy; RSO 11 Inclusive International Region; RPO 73 International Branding of the Region and Reputation</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u> ECON 045 Tourism; ECON 046 Festivals; CGR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm; ECON 016 Night-time Economy; ECON 022 Learning Region; CSI 031 Art and Cultural; IN 02 Digital Connectivity; ECON 028 Smart City; SCSi 07 Smart Towns and Villages; IN 03 Broadband IN 05 Telecommunication Support; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation;</p> <p><b>I6</b> will build up the international profile of Limerick, expand Limerick's role in global development issues and humanitarian aid and promote the county as an attractive and welcoming place for people to live, to work, to visit, to study and for cultural activities. Action areas will development aid and humanitarian interventions; engagement in EU Cooperation Networks and exchanges (public bodies, community and voluntary bodies, young people) and International trade missions, events and international digital trade platforms; and engage with the Limerick Global Diaspora.</p> <p>Internationalisation of Limerick is consistent with objectives for the Mid-West Region to promote balanced regional development, attracting a greater share of Foreign Direct Investment to regions outside of Dublin. The Council and other public sector partners (Fáilte Ireland, the IDA, Limerick's third level educational institutions) engage in promoting Limerick as a great place to live, to work, to invest in, to visit and to come to study. Limerick City and County Council's brand – <i>Atlantic Edge European Embrace</i> –reflects its ambition to advance internationalisation; Limerick is being promoted as a <i>Gateway City</i> to the <i>Wild Atlantic Way</i> bringing more visitors to the county and sub-region; the Council is engaged with mobilising the <i>Global Limerick Diaspora</i>; the Council and other public and voluntary and community organisations are involved in <i>EU Cooperation Networks</i> (Interreg, Urbact, Horizon Europe) and international partnerships in different thematic areas (energy, climate action, migration). Programmes such as ERASMUS / ERASMUS+ provide opportunities for young people to study and</p>	



train in other EU countries, broadened their horizons, knowledge and skills base. Limerick is also playing its role in global development issues – e.g., FairTrade – and in responding to Ireland’s international commitment to host and support re-settlement of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers- Ukrainian, Afghan and other nationalities arriving in Ireland under international and temporary protection. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Higher Education Institutions in Limerick, Local Development Companies, Limerick Youth Services. **16** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. It will build a positive image as a place to live in and/or visit. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

### **I7 Technology and SMART strategies**

*Find new solutions to challenges we face and use technology and digital / online services to improve social, community and economic well-being, taking measures to make access to technology and digital services inclusive*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
SMART City and Digital City and SMART Villages concept	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
E-hubs, enterprise hubs, health and service hubs in urban and rural communities	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Libraries as information centres for businesses, community, schools, health services	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Skills and capacity development programmes for people in all age groups for the digital age.	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
e-health initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

### **SEA Comment:**

This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 4 Quality Education; 8 Decent Work and Economic Growth; 9 Industry Innovation and Infrastructure; 16 Peace Justice and Strong Institutions; 17 Partnership for the Goals. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).

#### RSES:

RSO 2 Enhanced Regional Accessibility; RSO 5 A Strong Economy; RSO 6 High Quality International Connectivity; RPO 133 Smart Cities; RPO 134 Smart Cities and Smart Region; RPO 135 High Quality High Capacity International Digital Transmission; RPO 136 National Broadband Plan; RPO 137 Mobile Infrastructure; RPO 138 Digital Strategies

#### LDP 2022-28 including:

IN 02 Digital Connectivity; ECON 028 Smart City; SCS 07 Smart Towns and Villages; IN 03 Broadband; IN 05 Telecommunication Support; ECON 021 Knowledge Economy; ECON 023 Education and Skills; ECON 025 Clustering and Innovation; TR01 Shannon Airport: ECON 041 Home Working/E-Working; Objective SF 01

Social Framework Strategy; Objective EF O1 Economic Framework Strategy; Objective ECON O33 Enterprise Incubator Units; Objective ECON O34 Rural Remote Working Hubs; Objective SCSi O3 Community Hubs; Objective SCSi O4 Ten- Minute Neighbourhood; Objective SCSi O31 Art and Culture

**I7** will improve social, community and economic well-being through technology and digital/online services and take measures to make access to technology and digital services inclusive. New technologies especially the expansion of digital technologies will create new opportunities, improve access to services, better utilise scarce resources and support innovation. This will be achieved through the following action areas: SMART City and Digital City and SMART Villages concept; E-hubs, enterprise hubs, health and service hubs in urban and rural communities; libraries as information centres for businesses, community, schools, health services; skills and capacity development programmes for people in all age groups for the digital age; and e-health initiatives.

The “SMART” concept centres on strategies that solve problems with technology especially digital tools. However, it goes beyond technology to include local knowledge, resources and working collaboratively to improve economic, social or environmental conditions. SMART strategies in the local setting can also focus on eliminating waste, shortening local supply lines, expanding local food markets, reducing energy use and expanding energy generation from renewable sources. Applications can also draw on citizen science to report on issues such as biodiversity, invasive species, needs for repair of infrastructure, impact of severe weather events locally, etc.

Under Ireland’s *National Resilience Plan*, prepared as part of the economic recovery package for the EU post-Covid, one priority is addressed to “*accelerating and expanding digital reforms and transformation*”. The new *European Regional Development Fund* and Operational Programmes under the Irish Regional Assemblies include as a priority SMART Cities, SMART Regions supporting innovation, digitalization and economic transformation. The forthcoming LEADER programme will also support development of the SMART Villages concept and plans.

The experience of the pandemic (Covid-19) accelerated a shift to digital services. There has been significant investment by government in improving the digital. In Limerick City and County Council, application of digital technologies to Council functions and services is the role of the Digital Services Team. In 2022, Limerick’s local authority Broadband Officer was appointed to support the roll out of the National Broadband Plan (NBP) across the county, acting as a single point of contact for the successful NBP contractors and telecoms companies. They are also tasked with developing and implementing a digital strategy to encourage take-up of high-speed connectivity across all groups in the population.

The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Higher Education Institutions, LCETB, HSE, Local Development Companies. **I7** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. It will put Limerick in the forefront as a leader in technology and digital/online services. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

#### **I8 Active travel/sustainable travel**

*Deliver active travel / sustainable travel initiatives in the city, suburbs and towns and villages (cycleways, walkways, paths) and improve public and community transport services so that we can reduce our reliance on the car and promote the living city, living towns and living villages initiatives*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Redesign of roads to create segregated cycle lanes, improve footpaths, pedestrian routes / crossings, catering for needs of vulnerable road users	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Footpaths / cycleways / greenways for access to schools, shops, play and amenity areas	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Network of connected routes for active travel users – cycle networks, greenways – that offer alternative to the car	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Planning / feasibility for connecting rail links across the metropolitan area	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Promotion of walking and cycling, promote behavioural change and campaigns in schools, colleges, large employers	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Expansion of public and community transport services (routes & services)	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Electric Vehicle Charging points in sites across the city and county	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>SEA Comment:</b>  This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1 and 2 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 13 Climate Action. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).  <u>RSES:</u> RSO 7 Low Carbon, Climate Resilient & Sustainable Society; 4 Sustainable Mobility; RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector; RPO 92 Electric Vehicle Infrastructure; RPO 139 Low Carbon International Connectivity; RPO 160 Smart and Sustainable Mobility; RPO 162 Multi-Modal Travel Integration; RPO 164 Metropolitan Area Transport Strategies; RPO 171 Bus; RPO 172 Rural Transport; RPO 174 Walking and Cycling; RPO 201 National Trails, Walking Routes, Greenway and Blueway Corridors  <u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u> CGR 02 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm; TR 06 Delivering Modal Split; Objective TR 07 Behavioural Change Measures; Objective TR 08 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure; Objective TR 09 Limerick Cycle Network; Objective TR 010 Limerick Regeneration Areas Sustainable Travel Infrastructure; Objective TR 011 Enhanced Public Transport; Objective TR 012 Limerick BusConnects Programme; Objective TR 015 Transport Interchange; Objective TR 016 Rail Network; Objective TR 018 Park and Ride Facilities; Objective TR 019 Park and Stride Facilities; Objective TR 020 Car Clubs/Car Sharing; Objective TR 021 Electric and Compressed Natural Gas Vehicles; Objective TR 025 Inter-city, Regional and Commuter Services; Objective TR 026 Bus Transport Infrastructure <b>18</b> will deliver active travel/sustainable travel initiatives in the city/suburbs/towns/villages (cycleways, walkways, paths) and improve public/community transport services so that as to reduce reliance on cars and promote the living city/towns/villages initiatives. To fulfil this objective actions areas will redesign: roads to create segregated cycle lanes, improve footpaths, pedestrian routes/crossings, catering for needs of vulnerable road users;	

footpaths/cycleways/greenways for access to schools, shops, play and amenity areas; network of connected routes for active travel users, e.g. cycle networks, greenways that offer alternative to the car; planning/feasibility for connecting rail links across the metropolitan area; promote walking/cycling, promote behavioural change and campaigns in schools, colleges, large employers; expand public/community transport services (routes & services); and Electric Vehicle Charging points in sites across the city and county.

There is significant public investment by government in sustainable travel, funded by the *National Transport Authority*, with a key role played by local authorities, in planning, design and delivery, with community and other stakeholder engagement. There is also significant additional investment in public and community transport in both rural and urban areas. In addition to infrastructure and services, much work needs to be done to promote walking and cycling as an alternative to the car and to achieve the behavioural change in society and communities to buy-in to this agenda. Other objectives (I2, I3, I4 and I5) need to be under-pinned by active/sustainable travel (cycleways, pathways, safe crossings) and better public transport services and inter-settlement connectivity also need to be supported by improved transport connections. Improved connectivity can support shared resources and shared services across settlements, improved access and efficiency in delivery of services and contribute to improved quality of life (See Objective I7, Technology and SMART Strategies. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Bus Connects (National Transport Authority), Local Link, Local Development Companies, Community groups and Residents Associations. Overall, it will have significant positive effects on people's quality of life and the environment, e.g., water quality, air quality, habitats, and climate resilience. It will also support the promotion of sustainable transport patterns and modes by facilitating sustainable travel by encouraging active travel and travel by public transport in preference to the private car. The positive effects associated with the encouragement of public transport options and promotion of walking and cycling, particularly for daily, short trips in particular will have important long-term effects on Limerick, its population and visitors. **I8** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

## **I9 Mitigation / climate action and natural resources**

*Deliver actions and local initiatives that protect bio-diversity and our natural environment and resources – habitats, landscapes, rivers and lakes, air quality*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Habitat protection and creation of new habitats, landscapes, hedgerows, bio-diversity of plant and animal life	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Greening urban areas, towns and villages	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Control of invasive species	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Monitoring and protection of river basins/river catchments in cooperation with landowners & water quality management	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Air quality and noise monitoring	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Dark Sky and similar initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

Sustainable Water Management Systems (SuDS), local initiatives in water storage, rainwater harvesting, ponds and wetlands development	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Environmentally-friendly farming practices	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<p><b>SEA Comment:</b></p> <p>This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1 and 2 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 13 Climate Action; 15 Life on Land; 14 Life Below Water. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below).</p> <p><u>RSES:</u></p> <p>RSO, Low Carbon, Climate Resilient &amp; Sustainable Society; RPO 111 Water Resources; RPO 112 Water Quality; RPO 113 Floods Directive through to RPO119 Flood Relief Schemes; RPO 121 Effective Collaborative to Implement River Basis Management Plans and Water Framework Directive; RPO 123 River Basin Management Plan and Spatial Planning; RPO 124 Green Infrastructure; RPO 125 Biodiversity; RPO 127 Invasive Species; RPO 128 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020; RPO 129 Landscape; RPO 130 Air Quality; RPO 131 Noise; RPO 132 “Dark Sky” Parks and Reserves; RPO 201 National Trails, Walking Routes, Greenway and Blueway Corridors; RPO 200 Green Infrastructure and Recreation; RPO202 Natural heritage, Biodiversity and Built Heritage Assets</p> <p><u>LDP 2022-28 including:</u></p> <p>Objective CAF O1 Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance; Objective CAF O2 Partnership with Service Providers; Objective CAF O3 Sustainable Development; Objective CAF O4 Climate Proofing; Objective CAF O5 Energy Efficiency in Existing Development; Objective CAF O6 Energy Efficiency in New Developments; Objective CAF O7 Near Zero Energy Buildings; Objective CAF O8 Renewable Energy Objective; Objective CAF O9 Achieving Climate Resilience; Objective CAF O11 Nature Based Solutions; CAF O12 Urban Greening; Objective CAF O14 Energy Generation; Objective CAF O15 Local Energy Production; Objective CAF O16 Circular Economy; Objective CAF O17 Low Energy Building Materials; Objective CAF O18 Energy and Emissions Balance; Objective CAF O19 Decarbonising Zones; Objective CAF O26 Bio Energy; Objective CAF O27 Renewable Energy Production; Objective CAF O35 Community Based Energy Initiatives; Objective CAF O39 Carbon Capture; Objective CAF O38 Emerging Technologies</p> <p><b>I9</b> deals with mitigation/climate action and natural resources the delivery actions and local initiatives that protect bio-diversity and our natural environment and resources, e.g., habitats, landscapes, rivers and lakes, air quality. The action areas will protection/creation habitats/landscapes/hedgerows/bio-diversity of plant and animal life; greening urban areas, towns and villages; control of invasive species; monitor/protect river basins/catchments in cooperation with landowners and water quality management; air quality and noise monitoring; Dark Sky and similar initiatives; Sustainable Water Management Systems (SuDS), local initiatives in water storage, rainwater harvesting, ponds and wetlands development; and environmentally-friendly farming practices.</p> <p>There is greater understanding in society on the urgency for action to mitigate effects of climate change and to adapt to the changes in our climate that have occurred and are continuing to cause significant loss of biodiversity amongst other issues.</p> <p>These issues are reflected in key government framework policies including the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040 (e.g., in National Strategic Objectives to promote transition to a low carbon climate resilient society and sustainable management of water, waste and other environmental resources). At EU level, the European Green Deal (EGD) for the European Union (EU) is a statement of the European Commission’s commitment to tackling climate and environmental-</p>	

related challenges. EGD priorities include: “Fresh air, clean water, healthy soil and bio-diversity”. The new CAP Strategic Plan for Ireland (2022) includes incentives and programmes to work with nature, adjustment to more environmentally-friendly farming practices, renewable energy on farms and participation by farms (individually and in cooperation projects) in measures to improve bio-diversity, climate, air and water quality outcomes. Sustainable Development, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation is a specific theme in the LEADER Programme 2024-2028. It includes an objective to protect natural resources and enhance bio-diversity.

The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Office of Public Works, Environmental Protection Agency/Water Bodies/River Catchments, Local Development Companies, Teagasc, IFA/ICMSA, community and voluntary groups including European Innovation Partnerships. This objective is relevant also to public agencies, community organisations, sectoral associations, education and research institutions, business and commercial interests. Groups like Tidy Towns, community tourism organisations, schools, local businesses and farmers / groups of farmers who play an important role in protecting, preserving and enhancing the natural environment and biodiversity.

This objective and its action areas will have positive long-term effects on all aspects of the environment. It is important that this objective integrates nature-based solutions and Green Infrastructure to make an essential contribution to environmental quality, ecological biodiversity and climate resilience measures to climate-proof critical infrastructure amongst others. Particularly in the areas of urban greening, and nature-based solutions which offer co- and multiple-benefits in responding to climate change whilst enhancing the overall environmental quality of Limerick, its landscape character and visual amenity. It must also support biodiversity for its intrinsic value within the natural environment and its importance in climate change adaptation. Consider biodiversity stepping stone and corridors (regardless of how small in size/area) in tandem with considering connectability as this will add value to this objective and others. **I9** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts. All action areas are required to adhere to the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.

#### **I10 Green energy /energy systems**

*Accelerate the shift to “green” energy, make our buildings more energy efficient, harness our natural resources to generate energy and expand economic opportunities and improve quality of life as part of the transition*

<b>Action Areas:</b>	
Progress from work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce	See SEA Comment section below
Renovations / retrofitting of buildings to improve energy efficiency	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Public lighting, recreation spaces and amenities to shift to renewable energy sources	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Enterprise and job creation in the green energy sector	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Community energy initiatives	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
Local initiatives to address energy poverty	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.

**SEA Comment:**

The LDP 2022-2028 and its associated SEA ER address renewable energy and the transition to a low carbon economy under numerous plan policies and objectives. The issues of climate mitigation and renewable energy has also been addressed. Other areas of importance that are addressed include green energy, energy security, audits, renovations/retrofits, energy poverty and enterprise creation.

This IO is linked to LECP HLGs 1, 2, 3 and 4 and is consistent with UN SD Goals: 3 Good Health and Well-being; 7 Affordable and clean energy; 11 Sustainable cities and communities; 12 Responsible Consumption and Production; 13 Climate Action. This IO is not location specific and is consistent with a number of RSES and LDP 2022-2028 objectives (see the main objectives listed below). Chapter 6 of the LDP outlines policies and objectives relating to the environment, heritage, landscape and green infrastructure which the Council must have regard to, which the SEA ER recognises the need for adequate ecological assessment of development proposals for renewable energy.

**RSES:**

RSO, Low Carbon, Climate Resilient & Sustainable Society; RPO 95 Sustainable Renewable Energy Generation; RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy; RPO 99 Renewable Wind Energy; RPO 44 Common Agricultural Policy; RPO 105 Clean Electric Heat Technologies and District Heating; RPO 106 Future Proofing and Retrofitting; RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan

**LDP 2022-28 including:**

Objective CAF O1 Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance; Objective CAF O2 Partnership with Service Providers; Objective CAF O3 Sustainable Development; Objective CAF O4 Climate Proofing; Objective CAF O5 Energy Efficiency in Existing Development; Objective CAF O6 Energy Efficiency in New Developments; Objective CAF O7 Near Zero Energy Buildings; Objective CAF O8 Renewable Energy Objective; Objective CAF O9 Achieving Climate Resilience; Objective CAF O11 Nature Based Solutions; CAF O12 Urban Greening; Objective CAF O14 Energy Generation; Objective CAF O15 Local Energy Production; Objective CAF O16 Circular Economy; Objective CAF O17 Low Energy Building Materials; Objective CAF O18 Energy and Emissions Balance; Objective CAF O19 Decarbonising Zones; Objective CAF O26 Bio Energy; Objective CAF O27 Renewable Energy Production; Objective CAF O35 Community Based Energy Initiatives; Objective CAF O39 Carbon Capture; Objective CAF O38 Emerging Technologies.

**I10** focuses on Green energy/energy systems to accelerate the shift to “green” energy, make our buildings more energy efficient, harness our natural resources to generate energy and expand economic opportunities and improve quality of life as part of the transition. Improving energy efficiency of our buildings and outdoor facilities and shift to renewable energy sources are a key component of climate action measures needed to meet Ireland’s targets for Greenhouse Gas Emissions by 2030. This applies to all categories of buildings/facilities- commercial, public, domestic, community, sports complexes, civic outdoor space, street lighting. This shift to “green” energy creates new opportunities – for economic development, education and skills, job creation as well as improvements to health and quality of life from warmer, better quality and energy efficient buildings. Action areas will: progress from work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce; renovations / retrofitting of buildings to improve energy efficiency; public lighting, recreation spaces and amenities to shift to renewable energy sources; enterprise and job creation in the green energy sector; community energy initiatives; and local initiatives to address energy poverty

The transition to a low carbon and climate resilient economy is reflected across international policy frameworks especially in the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the EU policy and financial framework 2022-2027. Creating “a greener, low-carbon transitioning towards a net zero carbon

economy and resilient Europe” is one of the key EU policy priorities. Priority actions under the European Green Deal include: Renovated, energy efficient buildings, cleaner energy and cutting-edge clean technological innovation and future-proof jobs and skills training for the transition. The leading agencies for this SIO are Limerick City and County Council, Shannon Foynes Port Company, Higher Education Institutions, Limerick Chamber, Local Development Companies, Limerick LEO.

The Progress from work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce action area while it does not reference a particular spatial element it refers to an area that has the potential to have impacts on the receiving environment. The Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce was established in 2022 under the Programme for Government. The objective is to capitalise on the opportunity for Ireland’s economic competitiveness/consolidate economic progress and secure our economic future centred on renewable energy and enabling infrastructure in the wider Shannon Estuary. The work of the Taskforce recommends using the natural resource of the Shannon Estuary region for the development of one of the world’s largest renewable energy hubs. The potential of the Shannon Estuary is given recognition in the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary (SIFP) (2013) and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report. This Plan and reports which accompanies the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 (in Volume 6) is a land and marine based framework plan to guide the future development and management of the Shannon Estuary. The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 SEA ER notes that the SIFP has been viewed as being a model of good practice in the RSES and much valuable ecological survey work has resulted from it.

Chapter 5 A Strong Economy- Section 4: Marine Economy (The Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 contains the policies and objectives relating to Marine Spatial Planning, the Shannon Estuary and Off Shore Renewable Energy, e.g.

Objective ECON O55 Marine Economy It is an objective of the Council to:

- a) Encourage, facilitate and promote the Shannon Estuary’s economic growth potential and promote marine related industrial development, while ensuring that the environment and natural resources of the area are protected, managed and enhanced.
- b) Facilitate and encourage the environmentally sustainable development of maritime industries at appropriate locations within the Shannon Estuary.

The Development Plan notes that careful consideration is required to ensure that harnessing economic growth and development opportunities within the Estuary does not place undue restriction, pressure or impact on some of the area’s most precious resources. The Development Plan also contains protective policies and objectives predominantly in Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure that will afford protection to the Shannon Estuary and its environs.

**110** and its action areas are not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts with the exception of the action area relating to Progress from work of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce. As noted in the Screening Assessment the Plan will have to comply, where relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment, Ecological Impact Assessment and requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent granting. Actions arising from the Plan will demonstrate compliance with the environmental protection measures in the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied, and its associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report.