

**Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination
for the
Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan 2025-2030**

This determination relates to whether the Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan 2025-2030, also referred to as “the Draft Plan” and “the Plan”, to be adopted, would or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment) and transposing Regulations¹; and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive ‘*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*’ and Schedule 1 of the Regulations are considered in an accompanying Screening for SEA Report that has been prepared to inform this determination.

As identified in the SEA Screening Report:

- The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland’s Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands.
- The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.
- In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.
- Taking into account all of the above it is demonstrated that: significant beneficial environmental effects are present already under the existing planning framework and would not result from the Plan; and potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are present already under the existing planning framework, have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments and would not result from the Plan. Consequently, it is advised that the Plan would not result in likely significant environmental effects and does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the “Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment Report”. The undersigned hereby determines that SEA is not required for the Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted.

Signatory:

Date: 5th September 2025

¹ European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011)

**SCREENING
FOR
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
REPORT**

FOR THE

**LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY
TOURISM PLAN
2025-2030**

for: Limerick City and County Council



Comhairle Cathrach
& Contae **Luimnígh**

Limerick City
& County Council

by: CAAS Ltd.



AUGUST 2025

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report for the Draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan, also referred to as "the Draft Plan" and "the Plan".

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, strategy, etc., before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or alterations to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan or programme, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform: whether the Plan would, or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations²; and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Tourism Plan and all other associated documents including the Screening for AA Report for the Draft Plan and the Limerick Development Plan.

1.2 The Draft Tourism Plan

As the competent authority, Limerick City and County Council has prepared the Draft Tourism Plan³.

Tourism across Limerick supports 6,500 jobs generating in excess of €300 million annually in visitor revenue for the local economy. Over the coming years, Limerick will be presented to a global audience as host to the Ryder Cup. It provides an international platform to show the world how the distinctive Limerick welcome is delivered. The event legacy focus is built on the foundations of community and hospitality, quality of place and the delivery of an outstanding Limerick experience. The Council intends to show the global audience what gives Limerick its competitive and creative edge.

The Limerick City and County Tourism Plan represents a whole of organisation approach for tourism that takes into account the existing planning framework for tourism. The Plan examines the opportunities to deliver, in line with the Limerick Development Plan, on the aims and ambitions of the tourism industry, grow the appeal of Limerick as an international visitor destination and meet the needs of Limerick's visitors.

The Plan comprises a series of actions under headings including:

- Limerick for tourism – collaboration
- Destination marketing
- Scale signature attractions
- Destination placemaking
- Community tourism impact
- Linking the City and County
- Event destination
- Outdoor experiences
- Unique limerick experiences
- Sustainability – Green DNA

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment.

² European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011).

³ For more detail refer to the Plan document.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as a suggestion that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan.

The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

1.3 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities⁴ were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether the Plan would, or would not, be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the Council. One response to the screening notices was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (the issues raised in which are responded to on Table 1.1 below).

Table 1.1 SEA Screening Submission and Responses

| Ref. | Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised | SEA Response |
|----------|---|---|
| A | <p>We acknowledge your notice, dated 29th July 2025, in relation to the draft Limerick City and County Tourism Plan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening.</p> <p>The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as a SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans or programmes.</p> <p>Where we provide specific comments on plans and programmes, our comments will focus on the EPA's remit and areas of expertise (in particular water, air, climate change, waste, resource efficiency, noise, radon and the inter-relationships between these and other relevant topics e.g. biodiversity), as appropriate and relevant to the particular Plan.</p> | <p>Noted. The SEA Screening process has and will continue to take the guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources' into account.</p> |
| B | <p>Proposed SEA Determination</p> <p>If a proposed determination hasn't been made, you should determine whether the implementation of the proposed Plan or Programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria to consider are set out in Annex II of Directive 2001/ 42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive) and in Schedule 1 of the European</p> | <p>Noted. Following completion of this report, Limerick City and County Council will make a determination as to whether implementing the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Following the making of the determination, a copy of the decision, including, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, will be made</p> |

⁴ The following environmental authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

| Ref. | Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised | SEA Response |
|------|---|--|
| | <p>Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I No. 435 of 2004, as amended). You should take into account the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 into account in making its determination as to whether the Plan or Programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist available on our website at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring-assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-resources-and-guidance-/.</p> <p>We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in making your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Plan or Programme. EPA SEA Screening Guidance</p> <p>Our Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening (EPA, 2021) provides specific stand-alone guidance to assist plan or programme makers and SEA practitioners. It focuses primarily on plans/programmes in the non-land use sector in Ireland and includes an elaboration of the steps needed for screening, the legislative landscape underpinning SEA screening, and step-by-step process and templates to assist in preparing the required documentation.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022) provides advice on carrying out SEA in the land-use planning sector for those plans listed in S.I. No.436 of 2004, as amended. These plans comprise regional, county and local plans, including Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County or City Development Plans, variations of Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes for Strategic Development Zones. The Guidelines replace previous guidance for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities published in 2004.</p> | <p>available for public inspection in the Council's offices and on the Council's website. A copy of the determination will also be sent to the environmental authorities consulted.</p> <p>The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended], the Ministerial SEA Guidelines and the EPA's Guidance on the SEA process have been and will be taken into account throughout the SEA Screening process.</p> |
| C | <p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>In proposing and in implementing the plan or programme, you should ensure that the plan or programme is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the plan or programme.</p> <p>In considering the plan or programme, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.</p> <p>You should also ensure that the plan or programme aligns with any key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> | <p>Limerick City and County Council will ensure that the Plan and its implementation is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure will be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>In considering the Plan, Limerick City and County Council has taken into account the need to align with national, sectoral, regional and local commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Limerick City and County Council will ensure that implementation of the Plan aligns with and is consistent with higher-level plans and programmes, including the National Planning Framework, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> |
| D | <p>Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024</p> <p>In October 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report. This report should be considered, and relevant aspects integrated as appropriate, in implementing the Plan outputs/ recommendations. It is available at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring-assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report-/.</p> | <p>The Plan preparation and associated SEA Screening process has taken this report into account.</p> |

| Ref. | Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised | SEA Response |
|----------|---|---|
| E | <p>Available Guidance & Resources</p> <p>Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEA process guidance and checklists; - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA; - Topic and sector specific SEA guidance (including SEA and Integration Guidance (EPA, 2025), Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)). <p>You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance--/EPA%20SEA%20WebGIS%20Tool</p> <p>Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA. It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.</p> <p>Catchments.ie</p> <p>Our https://www.catchments.ie/maps/ website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.</p> <p>EPA AA GeoTool</p> <p>Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to a select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool</p> | <p>Noted. These tools, applications, guidance and resources have and will be taken into account through the SEA Screening process.</p> |
| F | <p>Future amendments to the Plan</p> <p>Where changes to the plan or programme are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the plan or programme are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended) of the SEA Regulations, as appropriate.</p> | <p>Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended].</p> |
| G | <p>Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>You should ensure that the plan or programme complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the plan or programme.</p> | <p>The findings of the Screening for AA process have been taken into account by the SEA and Plan preparation process – refer to Section 2.2.</p> |
| H | <p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making your SEA determination you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; and, • Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine. | <p>The relevant environmental authorities have been consulted through the SEA Screening process.</p> |
| I | <p>SEA Determination</p> <p>As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, if appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.</p> | <p>Following completion of this report, Limerick City and County Council will make a determination as to whether implementing the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Following the making of the determination, a copy of the decision, including, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, will be made available for public inspection in the Council's offices and on the Council's website. A copy of the determination will also be sent to the environmental authorities consulted.</p> |
| J | <p>If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.</p> | <p>Noted.</p> |

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

This section examines whether or not the Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA). This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations (see Section 2.4).

2.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive⁵ and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for likely significant effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The Plan is being subject to a Screening for AA process in order to establish whether or not AA must be undertaken. The conclusion of the Screening for AA process is that the Plan is not likely to result in significant effects on any European site; consequently Stage 2 AA is demonstrated as not being required.

2.3 Screening Analysis

The analysis of the Plan is undertaken with reference to the main interactions with Strategic Environmental Objectives⁶ (SEOs). SEOs are detailed in full at Table 2.1. The range of interactions identified with symbols are detailed on Table 2.2.

Using the SEO codes (Table 2.1) and interaction symbols (Table 2.2), Table 2.3 examines whether the Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.3 is supplemented by Table 2.4 which provides details on:

- A selection of likely significant effects of implementing the Plan, in combination with the wider planning framework, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that the type of projects referred to by the Plan will be required to comply with as relevant; and
- A selection of residual non-significant adverse effects arising from the Plan, in combination with the wider planning framework.

Effects encompass the full range of effects⁷, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

The examination of the Plan takes into account relevant criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive and Schedule 1 of the Regulations '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' (see Section 2.4).

⁵ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁶ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be considered in order to help identify whether any provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

⁷ These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

| Environmental Component | SEO Code | Guiding Principle | Strategic Environmental Objectives |
|--------------------------------------|------------|--|---|
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna | BFF | No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital |
| Population and Human Health | PHH | Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being |
| Soil (and Land) | S | Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites |
| Water | W | Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and City and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals |
| Material Assets | MA | Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals - this includes transport infrastructure Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings and grids |
| Air | A | Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency Promote continuing improvement in air quality Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels |

| Environmental Component | SEO Code | Guiding Principle | Strategic Environmental Objectives |
|-------------------------|----------|---|---|
| Climatic Factors | C | Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport |
| Cultural Heritage | CH | Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development | Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage |
| Landscape | L | Protect and enhance the landscape character | To implement the Development Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention |

Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols

| Symbol | Main Interactions Identified |
|--------|--|
| + | Significant beneficial environmental effects are already present under the existing planning framework. Likely significant effects would not result from the Plan. |
| - | Potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are already present under the existing planning framework and have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments. Likely significant effects would not result from the Plan. |
| * | Please also refer to Section 2.2 |

Table 2.3 SEA Screening Analysis of Plan

| | | | | | | | SEA Codes (see Table 2.2 for main interactions) | | | | |
|-----|-----|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|
| BFF | PHH | S | W | MA | A | C | CH | L | Additional SEA Screening Comments | | |
| - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | <p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (including those identified in Table 2.4 of this Screening for SEA report).</p> <p>The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan.</p> <p>The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.</p> <p>Taking into account all of the above (refer also to Table 2.4 and Appendix 1) it is demonstrated that: significant beneficial environmental effects are present already under the existing planning framework and would not result from the Plan; and potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are present already under the existing planning framework, have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments and would not result from the Plan.</p> <p>Consequently, it is advised that the Plan would not result in likely significant environmental effects and does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.</p> | | |

Screening for SEA Report

Table 2.4. Detail of effects from the existing planning framework, if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects

| Environmental Component | Selection of Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing planning framework [Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the National Planning Framework, the Southern RSE, the Limerick Development Plan and other plans and programmes – see Appendix 1] | Mitigation Measures to be complied with as relevant, including the following: |
|-------------------------|--|---|
| All | <p>Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur</p> <p>• Various – see below</p> <p>Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated</p> <p>Various – see below</p> <p>Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects</p> <p>• Various – see below</p> | <p>Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands</p> <p>In order to achieve funding (including promotion) for land use or infrastructural development or land use activities from Fáilte Ireland, Fáilte Ireland's stakeholders shall be required to demonstrate compliance⁸ with measures relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management contained within the following Fáilte Ireland published documents, where available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site Maintenance Guidelines (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports); • Visitor Management Guidelines (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports); • Environmental Management for Local Authorities and Others (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports); • Environmental Damage Resolution (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports); • Greenway Visitor Experience & Interpretation Toolkit (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports); • Environmentally Responsible Tourism Promotion & Campaign Statement (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports); • Blueway Management & Development Guide (appended to the Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands and to the accompanying SEA Environmental Reports) and • Sustainable Recreational Trail Development & Operation. <p>Infrastructure Capacity</p> <p>• With respect to infrastructural capacity (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) the potential impact on existing infrastructure as well as the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourism-related traffic volumes along any routes resulting from the relevant initiative shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate, where relevant. This consideration and associated mitigation shall take into account the need to provide for climate resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration will also be undertaken with the relevant stakeholders, such as Local Authorities and Irish Water, to ensure that any proposed tourism developments align with the capacity of the supporting critical service infrastructure. • Fáilte Ireland will encourage site owners and operators to consider environmentally sustainable solutions and ensure compliance with the Water Framework Directive.⁹ <p>Visitor Management</p> <p>• In contributing towards outcomes under the Strategy, partners and stakeholders shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that new projects are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extensive research by Fáilte Ireland has shown improved environmental outcomes (including improved attainment of conservation objectives) in areas with visitor management strategies. Visitor management strategies may be required from partners and stakeholders who are contributing towards outcomes under the Strategy, as relevant and appropriate. • Visitor management strategies will be required for proposed plans, programmes and projects that are to receive funding as relevant and appropriate. <p>Green Infrastructure and Ecosystem Services</p> <p>• In contributing towards outcomes under the Strategies, partners and stakeholders shall contribute towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and its ecosystem services, taking into account the output of the Mapping and Assessment of Ecosystem Services project being undertaken by the NPWS. Proposals for the development of any green infrastructure should demonstrate the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the: provision of open space amenities; sustainable management of water; protection and management of biodiversity; protection of cultural heritage; and protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</p> |

⁸ Demonstration of compliance may be supported by monitoring undertaken by the beneficiary.

⁹ In addition to contributing towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, implementation of the Strategy will be undertaken in compliance with the Marine Strategy Framework Directive, including on issues such as marine litter where they may arise.

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| | <p>• Where possible, extension of existing greenways and future development of new greenways and blueways should complement and integrate rather than replace existing green infrastructure. Stakeholders considering the development of greenways and blueways should have regard to the <i>Greenway - Visitor Experience & Interpretation Toolkit</i> and <i>“Connecting with nature for health and wellbeing”</i> EPA Research Report 2020.</p> <p>Environmental Damage Resolution</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action-based responses are essential at site-specific level in response to instances of environmental perturbation. Although the Strategy is not envisaged as being likely to directly result in any such instances of environmental perturbation, it forms part of a hierarchy of tourism initiatives, including lower-tier DEDPs, and the wider <i>Strategic planning framework</i>. The Environmental Damage Resolution procedure provides for a consistent approach in responding to such issues and is available for integration at DEDP and site-specific levels. • Environmental considerations will be integrated into promotional processes and environmentally responsible tourism campaigns will be required. Such campaigns will garner environmental stewardship that will help to ensure environmental protection and management. Promotional processes will be informed by environmental considerations, including available capacity, at a local level. <p>Site Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fáilte Ireland's extensive monitoring of the effects of tourism to date has shown predictors of impact occurrence to include: site type; group type; the number of activities; activity intensity; and the interaction between activity intensity and abundance. Site management must consider these factors in seeking to reduce the potential for impacts to occur and to remove impacts. <p>Environmentally Responsible Tourism Promotion & Campaign Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental considerations will be integrated into promotional processes and environmentally responsible tourism campaigns will be required. Such campaigns will garner environmental stewardship that will help to ensure environmental protection and management. Promotional processes will be informed by environmental considerations, including available capacity, at a local level. | <p>• Fáilte Ireland's extensive monitoring of the effects of tourism to date has shown predictors of impact occurrence to include: site type; group type; the number of activities; activity intensity; and the interaction between activity intensity and abundance. Site management must consider these factors in seeking to reduce the potential for impacts to occur and to remove impacts.</p> <p>Climate Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comply with the most up-to-date Climate Action Plan, National Climate Change Adaptation Framework and National Mitigation Plan, including contributing towards efforts to decarbonize the tourism sector, improve low carbon travel, such as walking and cycling, and the circular economy. • Various actions under the National Climate Action Plan are relevant to Fáilte Ireland as a Lead or Key Stakeholder <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and Landscape.</p> <p>Policy EH P1 Protection of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Protect and conserve Limerick's natural heritage and biodiversity, in particular, areas designated as part of the European Sites Natura 2000 network, such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), in accordance with relevant EU Directives and national legislation and guidelines, b) Maintain the conservation value of all Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) for the benefit of existing and future generations. <p>Policy EH P2 Sustainable Management and Conservation</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of areas of natural environmental and geological value within Limerick and to protect, enhance, create and connect, where ecologically suitable, natural heritage, green spaces and high-quality amenity areas for the benefit of biodiversity.</p> <p>Policy EH P3 Climate Action and the Natural Environment</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to take into account the contents of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity Climate Adaptation Plan and any forthcoming guidance or legislation on climate action, whether adaptation or mitigation that will emerge during the course of the Plan.</p> <p>Policy EH P4 Compliance with Limerick's Heritage Plan</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to place ecological and environmental issues at the centre of planning policies and decisions and in doing so, will adhere to the objectives set out in Limerick's Heritage Plan 2017-2030.</p> <p>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> <p>Policy EH P7 Environmental Noise</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</p> <p>Objective EH O1 Designated Sites and Habitats Directive</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that projects/plans likely to have significant effects on European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) are subject to an appropriate assessment and will not be permitted under the Plan unless they comply with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Council, will through the planning enforcement process where applicable, seek to restore the ecological functions of designated sites, where they have been damaged through inappropriate development.</p> |
| <p>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere. • Contribution towards the protection of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. • Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and | | |

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| <p>aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. | <p>Objective EH 02 Lesser Horseshoe Bat It is an objective of the Council to require all developments in areas where there may be Lesser Horseshoe Bats, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the species. The assessment shall include mitigation measures to ensure that feeding, roosting or hibernation sites for the species are maintained. The assessment shall also include measures to ensure that landscape features are retained and that the development itself will not cause a barrier or deterrent effect on the species.</p> <p>Objective EH 03 Ecological Impact Assessment It is an objective of the Council to require all developments where there are species of conservation concern, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the site and nearby designated sites, suggesting appropriate mitigation measures and establishing, in particular, the presence or absence of the following species: Otter, badger, bats, lamprey and protected plant species such as the Triangular Club Rush, Opposite Leaved Pond Weed and Flora Protection Order Species generally.</p> <p>Objective EH 04 Creation of New Habitats It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seek the creation of new habitats by encouraging wild green areas and new water features such as, pools and ponds in new developments. Encourage management plans for green areas to use the minimum of pesticides and herbicides. The creation of areas that are not subject to public access in order to promote wildlife use is strongly encouraged. <p>Objective EH 05 New Infrastructure Projects It is an objective of the Council to require new infrastructure and linear developments in particular, to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species and to demonstrate a high degree of permeability for wildlife, to allow the movement of species and to prevent the creation of barriers to wildlife and aquatic life in the wider countryside.</p> <p>Objective EH 06 Barn Owl Conservation It is an objective of the Council to require road developments to incorporate from the design stage, elements that will assist in the conservation of the Barn owl.</p> <p>Objective EH 07 All Ireland Pollinator Plan It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to actively support the aims and objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021 – 2025, by encouraging measures to protect and increase the population of bees and other pollinating insects in Limerick. Support the aims of the National Bio-Diversity Action Plan and succeeding plans, in emphasising the importance of ecological issues in planning. <p>Objective EH 08 Roosting Habitats It is an objective of the Council to require the provision of alternative roosting or settlement facilities for species, such as bird or bat boxes, swift boxes, artificial holls (for otters), or other artificially created habitats in proposed developments, where considered appropriate.</p> <p>Objective EH 09 Geological Sites It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect from inappropriate development, the County Geological Sites contained in the Limerick Geological Heritage Survey 2021. Seek the conservation and protection of features of geological interest within Limerick, particularly those that would have been recognised in the past as Areas of Scientific Interest or by the Geological Survey of Ireland as being of particular value. Undertake a survey of such sites during the lifetime of the Plan. <p>Objective EH 010 Trees and Hedgerows It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Retain and protect amenity and biodiversity value of the County and City by preserving as far as possible trees, woodlands and hedgerows, having regard to the significant role that trees and hedgerows play in local ecology, climate change and air quality and their contribution to quality place making and the associated health and wellbeing benefits. Require, in the event that mature trees or extensive mature hedgerow is proposed to be removed, that a comprehensive tree and hedgerow survey be carried out by a suitably qualified tree specialist to assess the condition, ecological and amenity value of the tree stock/ hedgerow proposed for removal and to include mitigation planting and a management scheme. The Council will seek in all cases to ensure when undertaking development, or when permitting development, that the loss of, or damage to, existing trees is minimised. Require the planting of native trees, hedgerows and vegetation and the creation of new habitats in all new developments and public realm projects. The Council will avail of tree planting schemes administered by the Forest Service, in ecologically suitable locations, where this is considered desirable. To identify and prepare TPO's where trees of exceptional amenity, cultural or environmental value are identified which warrant a high level of protection. To implement the Limerick City and County Tree Policy when completed and review as appropriate. |
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| <p>Objective EH 011 Invasive Species</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Work with and facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), by implementing biosecurity measures, selected control measures and surveys, where appropriate. Address the presence of invasive alien species on derelict sites under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act through the preparation of a management and eradication plan for these species. Require the submission of a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process, if developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are present. Employ biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of invasive alien species and disease and to insist that all such measures are employed on all development sites. <p>Objective EH 012 Blue and Green Infrastructure</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a network of blue and green infrastructure throughout Limerick. Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species. Projects which would be detrimental to existing blue and green infrastructure features will not be permitted. Ensure the integration and strengthening of green infrastructure into the preparation of Local Area Plans. Where possible remove barriers to species movement, such as the removal of in-stream barriers to fish passage for example. Seek to advance the use of an ecosystem services approach and ecosystem services valuation as a decision-making tool in plans and projects, subject to appropriate ecological assessment. <p>Objective EH 014 Nature Based Solutions</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to increase the use of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) throughout Limerick.</p> <p>Development Management Standards, including under 11.3.8 "Landscape" 11.3.9 "Trees".</p> | <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>Objective EH 020 Noise and Vibration during Construction and at Open Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the quality of the environment against the effects of noise and vibration, by implementing site appropriate mitigation measures during the construction and demolition phases of development.</p> <p>Objective EH 021 Commercial and Industrial Noise</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to prevent members of the public being significantly adversely effected by environmental noise from commercial and industrial noise activities.</p> <p>Objective EH 022 Entertainment Noise</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to manage entertainment noise from venues and music events, so as not to have an adverse effect on the public.</p> <p>Objective EH 025 Air Pollution</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to implement the provisions of national and EU Directives on air pollution and other relevant legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</p> <p>Objective EH 026 Improvement of Air Quality</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in Limerick, through the supporting of sustainable modes of transport, renewable energy, promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes and urban greening.</p> <p>Objective EH 027 Air Quality Monitoring</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to monitor and provide access to the public on the air quality in Limerick and support the EPA in the expansion and management of the national air quality monitoring network.</p> <p>Objective EH 028 Air Quality during Construction</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect environmental quality and implement site appropriate mitigation measures during construction and demolition phases of a development, with respect to air quality, including dust.</p> <p>Objective EH 029 Odour</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the public from odour nuisance issues through odour abatement solutions.</p> <p>Policy EH P7 Environmental Noise</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</p> |
| <p>Population and Human Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere. Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. Potential interactions if additional tourists are directed towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. <p>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</p> |

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| | | <p>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> <p>Objective TR O53 Noise and Transportation</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce noise levels from traffic where they are potentially harmful, in accordance with Limerick's Noise Action Plan.</p> <p>Objective TR O54 Noise Sensitive Development</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require noise sensitive developments in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads to be designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided in accordance with Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise (2017) and based on the guidance and recommendations of the World Health Organisation.</p> <p>Objective IN O21 Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans. Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations. |
| Soil | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for coastal/riverbank erosion. Land-take arising from mobility, accommodation and hospitality and other tourism products. Adverse effects on designated geological heritage sites. <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>Objective SS O1 Compact Growth</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to strengthen the core of settlements and encourage compact growth, through the development of infill sites, brownfield lands, under-utilised land/buildings, vacant sites and derelict sites, within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements and develop outwards from the centre in a sequential manner.</p> <p>Objective SS O4 Prevention of Urban Sprawl</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to prevent linear roadside frontage development on roads leading out of towns and villages in order to retain the identity of towns/villages, to prevent sprawl and to ensure a distinction in character between built up areas and the open countryside.</p> <p>Objective EH O9 Geological Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To protect from inappropriate development, the County Geological Sites contained in the Limerick Geological Heritage Survey 2021. Seek the conservation and protection of features of geological interest within Limerick, particularly those that would have been recognised in the past as Areas of Scientific Interest or by the Geological Survey of Ireland as being of particular value. Undertake a survey of such sites during the lifetime of the Plan. <p>Objective IN O21 Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans. Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations. |
| Water | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. Contribution towards flood risk management and drainage. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects with flood events. <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>Objective EH O15 Ground Water, Surface Water Protection and River Basin Management Plans</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect ground and surface water resources and to take into account the requirement of the Water Framework Directive when dealing with planning and land use issues. Implement the provisions of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2028 and any succeeding plan. The filling of wetlands, surface water features and modifications and drainage of peatlands shall generally be prohibited. Implement the measures put forward in the Limerick Groundwater Protection Plan, in assessing planning applications and their consequences for ground The Blue Dot Catchments programme is a key action under the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2028. The aim of the programme is to protect and restore high ecological status to a network of rivers and water bodies in Limerick. In Limerick, the following rivers and water bodies are Blue Dot Catchments Bleach Lough, the Ogeen River and the Behanagh River. The Council will take a precautionary approach to development which might affect water quality in these areas in line with requirements of the Water Framework Directive. |

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| <p>Objective EH O17 Water Quality It is an objective of the Council to support commitments to achieve and maintain 'At Least Good' status, except where more stringent obligations are required. There shall be no deterioration of status for all water bodies under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and its programme of measures, the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan. Key challenges include, inter alia, the need to address significant deficits in urban waste-water treatment and water supply, addressing flooding and increased flood risks from extreme weather events and increased intense rainfall because of climate change.</p> <p>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> <p>Objective IN O10 Surface Water and SuDS It is an objective of the Council to:</p> | <p>a) Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks within application site boundaries.</p> <p>b) Work in conjunction with other public bodies towards a sustainable programme of improvement for riverbanks, back drains, etc.</p> <p>c) Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters, in accordance with the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DRPLG) and the associated River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>d) Ensure adequate storm water infrastructure to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the Plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>e) Cater for the future developments through public and private driven initiatives where discharge capacity permits.</p> <p>f) Address the issue of disposal of surface water generated by existing development in the area, through improvements to surface water infrastructure, including for example attenuation ponds, the application of sustainable urban drainage techniques, or by minimising the amount of hard surfaced areas, or providing porous surfaces as the opportunity arises.</p> <p>g) Protect the surface water resources of the Plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps and pollution control measures where deemed necessary.</p> <p>h) Require all planning applications to include surface-water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point and require all new developments to include SuDS, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 11: Development Management Standards of the Plan.</p> <p>i) Promote SuDS and grey water recycling in developments and responsible use of water by the wider community, to reduce the demand for water supply.</p> <p>j) Require SuDS schemes to be designed to incorporate the four pillars of water quality, water quantity, biodiversity and amenity to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of a given site.</p> <p>k) Allow sufficient land take for SuDS when planning the site and consider the region as a whole, in association with adjoining lands and their requirements in designing SuDS. Developers may be required to set aside lands to cater for not only their own SuDS but also regional SuDS.</p> <p>l) Promote the provision of suitable Blue/Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solutions to the surface water disposal in new development, as a means to provide urban flood resilience. This approach capitalises on the potential of urban green spaces and natural water flows, subject to the other planning considerations such as amenity, maintenance, traffic safety, proper planning and sustainable development and environmental requirements.</p> <p>m) To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>n) Encourage green roofs for the following types of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Apartment developments; -Employment developments; -Retail developments; -Leisure facilities; -Education facilities. <p>Objective CAF O11 Nature Based Solutions It is an objective of the Council to promote integration and delivery of nature based solutions and infrastructure in new developments, including surface water management, public realm and community projects as a means of managing flood risk</p> <p>Policy CAF P5 Managing Flood Risk It is a policy of the Council to protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate lands, in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development</p> |
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| | | <p>Management Standards. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed and should consider the implications of climate change.</p> <p>Objective CAF 020 Flood Risk Assessments</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require a Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (coastal/tidal, fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), where deemed necessary. The detail of these Site-specific FRAs (or commensurate assessments of flood risk for minor developments) will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed Site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations.</p> | <p>Objective CAF 021 Identified Flood Risk</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that no development shall commence on the lands identified as being at flood risk adjacent to the Raheen Business Park in the townlands of Ballycumin/ Rootaghy, zoned for High Tech/ Manufacturing, until a Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, including hydraulic model has been prepared for the lands, which demonstrates that the flood risk for the lands can be mitigated or that a less vulnerable use can be accommodated on site. Ensure that on the Enterprise and Employment lands located to the northwest of the M20/M7/N18 junction to the south of Toppin's field, that no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain occurs at this location and that only water compatible development should be permitted for the lands that are identified as being at risk of flooding. Ensure any planning application, including proposals for water compatible uses, on the lands in Flood Zones A and B adjacent to the Coonagh TUS campus, zoned for Education and Community, shall include a comprehensive Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, incorporating a drainage assessment for the lands, which demonstrates that the flood risk can be mitigated and that water compatible uses can be accommodated without adversely impacting on the flood risk of neighbouring residential properties. No works including the undertaking of ground level changes shall commence on the lands in the National Technology Park subject to flood risk, until all flood mitigation measures proposed on the site to facilitate future development of the IDA lands have been put in place. These measures shall form part of a project-specific flood risk assessment being completed as part of any planning application. Any planning application on the lands zoned Data Centre at Rosbrien shall include a comprehensive Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, which demonstrates that the flood risk can be mitigated and that access/egress, roads and water compatible uses can be accommodated without adversely impacting on the flood risk off site. | <p>Objective CAF 023 Flood Relief Schemes</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the development of Flood Relief Schemes as Identified in the CFRAM 10 Year Investment Programme and ensure development proposals do not impede or prevent the progression of these measures.</p> <p>Objective CAF 024 Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protections Schemes</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the Office of Public Works Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protections Schemes and ensure development proposals do not impede or prevent the progression of these measures.</p> <p>Objective CAF 025 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to have regard to the recommendations set out in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared to support the Plan.</p> | <p>Development Management Standards, including under 11.3.8 "Landscaping", 11.3.11 SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems).</p> <p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secure investment in the necessary infrastructure (including digital technology, ICT, telecommunications networks, water services, surface water management, waste management, energy networks), which will allow Limerick to grow and realise its full potential. Fulfil Limerick's ambition as a contemporary City and County in which to live, work, invest and visit, with supporting infrastructure, whilst complying with the relevant EU Directives and national legislation, including the protection of the environment. <p>Objective EH 012 Blue Green Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a network of Green and Blue infrastructure throughout Limerick. |
| Material Assets | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water runoff that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and | <p>Policy IN P1 Strategic Infrastructure</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Secure investment in the necessary infrastructure (including digital technology, ICT, telecommunications networks, water services, surface water management, waste management, energy networks), which will allow Limerick to grow and realise its full potential. Fulfil Limerick's ambition as a contemporary City and County in which to live, work, invest and visit, with supporting infrastructure, whilst complying with the relevant EU Directives and national legislation, including the protection of the environment. <p>Objective EH 012 Blue Green Infrastructure</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Promote a network of Green and Blue infrastructure throughout Limerick. | |

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission developments. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings and grids. | <p>mitigation of potential conflicts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water infrastructure capacity ensures the potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter. Increased number of visitors have the potential to increase traffic levels. Contributions towards energy demand and usage. | <p>compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. <p>b) Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species. Projects which would be detrimental to existing Blue – Green Infrastructure features will not be permitted.</p> <p>c) Ensure the integration and strengthening of green infrastructure into the preparation of Local Area Plans.</p> <p>d) Where possible remove barriers to species movement, such as the removal of in-stream barriers to fish passage for example.</p> <p>e) Seek to advance the uses of an ecosystem services approach and ecosystem services valuation as a decision-making tool in plans and projects, subject to appropriate ecological assessment.</p> <p>Objective IN 05 Water Services</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Support Irish Water in the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure and services in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, until such time as the Agreement is terminated. b) Collaborate with Irish Water in the protection of water supply sources to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Article 7(2) of the WFD, Protection and restoration of drinking water at the source can have co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change. c) Liaise with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan to secure investment in the provision, extension and upgrading of the piped water distribution network and wastewater pipe network across Limerick City and County, to serve existing population and future population growth and sustain economic growth, in accordance with the requirements of the Core and Settlement Strategies. d) Collaborate with Irish Water to resolve the existing water services infrastructural constraints in Newcastle West – a key Town designated by the RES. e) Ensure that development proposals connecting to the public water and/or wastewater networks comply with Irish Water Standard Details and Codes of Practice. Where relevant ensure developments comply with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2021. f) Require future developments to connect to public water services and wastewater if available to the site. Combined water and wastewater systems will not be permitted. Consent to connect to Irish Water assets will be requested as part of the planning application process. g) Have regard to Section 28 Guidelines – Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DHPG, 2018 and any subsequent guidelines when carrying out the forward planning and development management functions of the Planning Authority. <p>Objective IN 06 Drinking Water Source Protection</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect both ground and surface water sources, to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>i. New developments which could pose an unacceptable risk to drinking water sources will not be permitted.</p> <p>ii. New development should not conflict with the protection guidelines set out in the Limerick Groundwater Protection Scheme and/ or Groundwater Source Protection Zone reports.</p> <p>Objective IN 08 Public Waste Water</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure adequate and appropriate wastewater infrastructure is available to cater for existing and proposed development, in collaboration with Irish Water, to avoid any deterioration in the quality of receiving waters and to ensure that discharge meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. b) Require all new developments to connect to public wastewater infrastructure, where available and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer. <p>These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water and evidence of this agreement will be required as part of any planning application.</p> <p>c) Require all new development to provide separate foul and surface water drainage systems, to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>d) Apply a presumption against any development that requires the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities (i.e. Developer Provided Infrastructure) other than single house systems and in very exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Objective IN 10 Surface Water and SuDS It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks within application site boundaries.</p> |
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| | | <p>b) Work in conjunction with other public bodies towards a sustainable programme of improvement for riverbanks, back drains, etc.</p> <p>c) Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters, in accordance with the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHP/LG) and the associated Programme of Measures and any subsequent River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>d) Ensure adequate storm water infrastructure to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the Plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>e) Cater for the future developments through public and private driven initiatives where discharge capacity permits.</p> <p>f) Address the issue of disposal of surface water generated by existing development in the area, through improvements to surface water infrastructure, including for example attenuation ponds, the application of sustainable urban drainage techniques, or by minimising the amount of hard surfaced areas, or providing porous surfaces as the opportunity arises.</p> <p>g) Protect the surface water resources of the Plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps and pollution control measures where deemed necessary.</p> <p>h) Require all planning applications to include surface-water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point and require all new developments to include SuDS, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 1.1: Development Management Standards of the Plan.</p> <p>i) Promote SuDS and grey water recycling in developments and responsible use of water by the wider community, to reduce the demand for water supply.</p> <p>j) Require SuDS schemes to be designed to incorporate the four pillars of water quality, water quantity, biodiversity and amenity to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of a given site.</p> <p>k) Allow sufficient land take for SuDS when planning the site and consider the region as a whole, in association with adjoining lands and their requirements in designing SuDS. Developers may be required to set aside lands to cater for not only their own SuDS but also regional SuDS.</p> <p>l) Promote the provision of suitable Blue/Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solutions to the surface water disposal in new development, as a means to provide urban flood resilience. This approach capitalises on the potential of urban green spaces and natural water flows, subject to the other planning considerations such as amenity, maintenance, traffic safety, proper planning and sustainable development and environmental requirements.</p> <p>m) To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>n) Encourage green roofs for the following types of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">-Apartment developments;-Employment developments;-Retail developments;-Leisure facilities;-Education facilities. | <p>Traffic</p> <p>Objective TR 044 Traffic Management</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require the submission of Mobility Management Plans and Traffic and Transport Assessments in accordance with the requirements of Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014), for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors and for significant developments affecting the national and non-national road network.</p> <p>Waste Management</p> <p>Objective IN 015 Waste Management and the Circular Economy</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Support innovative, smart solutions and processes, based on the principles of the circular economy to implement the Regional Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region 2015 – 2021 and any subsequent plan, including any targets contained therein.b) Collaborate with the Regional Waste Management Office and other agencies to implement the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy – Closing the Loop, 2015, its successor the Circular Economy Action Plan: A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner More Competitive Europe, 2020 and the Resource Opportunity-Waste Management Policy, DECLG, 2012 and any subsequent plans.c) Promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the areas of product design, production processes and waste management.d) Implement the provisions of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy – Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020 - 2025, DECC, 2020 in the assessment of planning applications. |
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| | | <p>e) Protect existing civic amenity sites and bring sites throughout Limerick and support the development of additional sites in accordance with the Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 and any subsequent plans.</p> <p>Objective IN O19 Construction and Demolition</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Require construction Waste Management Plans to be submitted as part of planning applications, to address waste management on site during construction and mitigation measures to address waste generation, in accordance with the principles of the circular economy and the principles of prevention, renewal and recycle. Require a Refurbishment/Demolition Asbestos Survey (RDAS) with full details of disposal of the asbestos to be submitted with any planning application. The RDAS should be carried out in accordance with Section 8 of the Health and Safety Authority, Asbestos Guidelines (Practical Guidelines on ACM Management and Abatement) by a suitable qualified professional with expertise in asbestos disposal. <p>Objective IN O21 Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans. Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations. <p>Asbestos Guidelines (Practical Guidelines on ACM Management and Abatement) by a suitable qualified professional with expertise in asbestos disposal.</p> |
| Air and Climatic Factors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere. In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: Sustainable compact growth; Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; Sectors including agriculture, residential heating, electricity, infrastructure; Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure; and Decarbonising the tourism sector, improving low carbon travel, such as walking and cycling, and the circular economy. | <p>• Potential conflict between development and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</p> <p>• Potential between emissions, including those from cars, and air quality, conflicts transport increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</p> <p>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</p> <p>• Sustainable compact growth; Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</p> <p>o Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</p> <p>o Sectors including agriculture, residential heating, electricity, infrastructure;</p> <p>o Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure; and</p> <p>o Decarbonising the tourism sector, improving low carbon travel, such as walking and cycling, and the circular economy.</p> <p>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air, aviation. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the wider planning framework, including the Climate Action Plan and measures relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</p> <p>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the wider planning framework to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</p> <p>Objective EH O25 Air Pollution</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to implement the provisions of national and EU Directives on air pollution and other relevant legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</p> <p>Objective EH O26 Improvement of Air Quality</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in Limerick, through the support of sustainable modes of transport, renewable energy, promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes and urban greening.</p> <p>Objective EH O27 Air Quality Monitoring</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to monitor and support the EPA in the expansion and management of the national air quality monitoring network.</p> <p>Objective EH O28 Air Quality during Construction</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect environmental quality and implement site appropriate mitigation measures during construction and demolition phases of a development, with respect to air quality, including dust.</p> <p>Objective EH O29 Odour</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the public from odour nuisance issues through odour abatement solutions.</p> <p>Objective EH P7 Environmental Noise</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</p> <p>Objective EH O20 Noise and Vibration during Construction and at Open Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the quality of the environmental against the effects of noise and vibration, by implementing site appropriate mitigation measures during the construction and demolition phases of development.</p> <p>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> |

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| | | <p>Objective TR 053 Noise and Transportation</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce noise levels from traffic where they are potentially harmful, in accordance with Limerick's Noise Action Plan.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 054 Noise Sensitive Development</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require noise sensitive developments in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads to be designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided in accordance with Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise (2017) and based on the guidance and recommendations of the World Health Organisation.</p> |
| | | <p>Sustainable Mobility and Transport</p> |
| | | <p>Policy TR P3 Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies</p> |
| | | <p>It is a policy of the Council to support and facilitate the integration of land use and transportation policies, to ensure the delivery of sustainable compact settlements, which are served by sustainable modes of transport.</p> |
| | | <p>Policy TR P4 Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use</p> |
| | | <p>It is a policy of the Council to seek to implement in a positive manner, in cooperation with other relevant authorities and agencies, the policies of the NPF, RSFS and the Department of Transport's Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020 (and any subsequent updates), to encourage more sustainable patterns of travel and greater use of sustainable forms of transport, including public transport, cycling and walking.</p> |
| | | <p>Policy TR P5 Sustainable Mobility and Regional Accessibility</p> |
| | | <p>It is a policy of the Council to support sustainable mobility, enhanced regional accessibility and connectivity within Limerick, in accordance with the National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.</p> |
| | | <p>Policy TR P6 Sustainable Travel and Transport</p> |
| | | <p>It is a policy of the Council to support, facilitate and co-operate with relevant agencies to secure sustainable travel within Limerick and seek to implement the 10 minute city/town concept, promote compact growth and reduce the need for long distance travel, as a means to reduce the impact of climate change.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 01 Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all future and retrofitted transport infrastructure is climate proofed, through design and construction, to function in a climate altered future and would, where possible, be multifunctional e.g. provide accessible routes for other services such as fibre optics or water, energy connections or other services and technologies that might come about during the lifetime of the infrastructure.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 03 Delivery and Servicing Strategy</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> |
| | | <p>a) Reduce the amount of 'last mile trips' being made by motorised vehicles;</p> |
| | | <p>b) Facilitate the transition to zero emissions delivery vehicles such as cargo bikes, solar powered and electric vehicles; and</p> |
| | | <p>c) Support local 'Click and Collect' facilities where appropriate to minimise trips to individual homes and workplaces.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 04 Universal Design</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all transport schemes incorporate high-quality urban realm design that is attractive, safe, comfortable and accessible for all individuals.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 05 Delivering Modal Split</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> |
| | | <p>a) Promote a modal shift away from the private car towards more sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling, carpool and public transport in conjunction with the relevant transport authorities;</p> |
| | | <p>b) Support investment in sustainable transport infrastructure that will make walking, cycling, carpool and public transport more attractive, appealing and accessible for all.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 08 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> |
| | | <p>a) Improve and provide clear, safe and direct pedestrian linkages, cycle networks, including the greenways and primary segregated cycle routes, between the employment zones, shopping areas and residential areas throughout Limerick;</p> |
| | | <p>b) Maintain and expand the pedestrian route network, infrastructure and where possible retrofit cycle and pedestrian routes into the existing urban road network, to provide for accessible safe pedestrian routes within Limerick.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 09 Limerick Cycle Network</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to implement in full, the Cycle Network, which will be set out in the final LSMATS, with priority given in the short term to delivering the primary cycle network and cycle routes serving schools.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective TR 010 Limerick Regeneration Areas Sustainable Travel Infrastructure</p> |
| | | <p>It is an objective of the Council to support LSMATS in the identification and delivery of improvements to walking/cycling infrastructure and improvements to public transport, based on those measures identified in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.</p> |

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| | <p>Objective TR O11 Enhanced Public Transport It is an objective of the Council to support and encourage public transport providers to enhance the provision of public transportation and frequency of services in Limerick, including the provision of enhanced accessibility from the City Centre to Shannon Airport.</p> | <p>Objective TR O15 Transport Interchange It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the provision of quality transport interchanges, in order to facilitate focussed access to multiple public transport modes and to maximise the movement of people via sustainable modes.</p> | <p>Objective TR O16 Rail Network</p> | <p>a) Explore a pathway to rail-based development in the review of the RSES and MASP in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and the Southern and Western Regional Assemblies;</p> <p>b) Support and facilitate new and upgrading of existing rail networks, railway stations and services across Limerick as identified in LSMTS and protect, as required, lands necessary for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations, which would improve journey times and enable an increase in the frequency of services and connections.</p> | <p>Objective TR O17 Electric Vehicles</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> | <p>a) Encourage the switch to Electric Vehicles and e-bikes through the roll-out of additional electric charging points at appropriate locations, throughout Limerick, in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders;</p> <p>b) Facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, both on street and in new developments, in accordance with the Development Management Standards set out in Chapter 11.</p> | <p>Objective TR O23 Mobility Management</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to require the submission of Mobility Management Plans, subject to the guidance provided in the Toolkit for School Travel, Safe Routes to School Programme, Workplace Travel Plans – A Guide for Implementers and Achieving Effective Workplace Travel Plans – Guidance for Local Authorities, for any development that the Council consider will have significant trip generation and attraction rates, at peak hours or throughout the day and where existing or proposed public transport may be utilised.</p> | <p>Climate Action and Transition to Low Carbon Economy</p> | <p>Policy CAF P1 Climate Action Policy</p> | <p>It is a policy of the Council to implement international and national objectives, to support Limerick's transition to a low carbon economy and support the climate action policies included in the Plan.</p> | <p>Objective CAF O1 Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to support the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and the National Climate Change Strategy, including the transition to a low carbon future, taking account of flood risk, the promotion of sustainable transport, soil conservation, the importance of green infrastructure, improved air quality, the use of renewable resources and the re-use of existing resources. Support the implementation of the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019) and any revised or forthcoming adaptation, mitigation or climate action strategies or plans at local, regional and national level in the formulation of any plans or policies.</p> | <p>Objective CAF O2 Partnership with Service Providers</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to work in partnership with existing service providers to facilitate required enhancement and upgrading of existing infrastructure and networks (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) while cognisance shall be had to support the safeguarding of strategic energy corridors from encroachment by other developments, that could compromise the delivery of energy networks.</p> | <p>Objective CAF O3 Sustainable Development</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to support sustainable travel, energy efficient projects, provision of green spaces and open space and sustainable residential development projects, as a means of addressing climate change.</p> | <p>Objective CAF O4 Climate Proofing</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure climate proofing measures are incorporated into the design, planning, layout and orientation and construction of all developments, including the use of sustainable materials, selection of suitable locations and the use of renewable energy sources.</p> | <p>Objective CAF O5 Energy Efficiency in Existing Development</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to support the retrofitting of existing buildings over their demolition and the integration of renewables into existing buildings, thereby ensuring a fabric first approach is taken.</p> | <p>Objective CAF O6 Energy Efficiency in New Developments</p> | <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all developments are designed to take account of the impacts of climate change. This will include the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, sustainable urban drainage systems and nature based solutions for water management. Energy efficiency and renewable energy measures should be incorporated, in the cases of large industrial, commercial or newly constructed public buildings. The incorporation of renewable technologies, such as solar energy in the design will be encouraged, subject to compliance with all relevant planning criteria.</p> |
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| | <p>Objective CAF 07 Near Zero Energy Buildings It is an objective of the Council to support and promote climate smart and the Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard of building, or equivalent, for all new developments.</p> <p>Objective CAF 08 Renewable Energy Objective It is an objective of the Council to promote and support development of renewable energy sources, which will achieve low carbon outputs including on-land and off-shore renewable energy production, which support tidal turbine, PV, community energy companies and battery technology, subject to adequate environmental and ecological protection.</p> <p>Objective CAF 09 Achieving Climate Resilience It is an objective of the Council to promote climate resilience in development and economic activities that are regulated by planning. It is important to ensure that any developments are climate resilient as they will need to function in a climate altered environment. This means that they will be able to withstand increased intensity of storm events and rainfall and through adequate design, location and drainage elements, would not contribute to problems elsewhere, such as increased run off.</p> <p>Objective CAF 012 Urban Greening It is an objective of the Council to support urban greening and planting initiatives across the city, towns and villages.</p> <p>Policy CAF F2 Transition to a Low Carbon Economy It is a policy of the Council to support the transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency and will future proof policies and objectives to deliver on this approach, in so far as possible.</p> <p>Policy CAF F3 Promote Awareness and Behavioural Change It is a policy of the Council to promote awareness and support behavioural change in relation to climate change and transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Policy CAF F4 Co-operation with Relevant Stakeholders It is a policy of the Council to cooperate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and other relevant stakeholders, in respect of adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and future climate change adaptation strategies.</p> <p>Objective CAF 014 Energy Generation It is an objective of the Council to support the local production of renewable energy and connection to gas network. Where electricity is being generated locally, the Council will support the provision of infrastructure for its transmission to the grid, subject to it fulfilling technical and environmental requirements.</p> <p>Objective CAF 015 Local Energy Production It is an objective of the Council to support localised renewable and carbon friendly means of heating and energy provision, including district heating systems. New technologies such as air to water and geothermal may have a role to play in this regard.</p> <p>Objective CAF 016 Circular Economy It is an objective of the Council to encourage the adoption of the circular economy through promotion of the reuse, recycling and reduction of the use of raw materials and resources.</p> <p>Objective CAF 017 Low Energy Building Materials It is an objective of the Council to encourage the use of low energy building materials and design in all developments.</p> <p>Objective TLC 018 Energy and Emissions Balance It is an objective of the Council to support the Energy and Emissions Balance Report and updates of the report as they are prepared. The Council will also support the preparation of a Local Authority Climate Action Plan as outlined in the report.</p> <p>Objective CAF 019 Decarbonising Zones It is an objective of the Council to support the identification of a Decarbonising Zone by designating a spatial area, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified, to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs, to contribute to national climate action targets and work with statutory agencies and stakeholders as appropriate.</p> <p>Policy CAF F6 Renewable Energy It is a policy of the Council to support renewable energy commitments outlined in national and regional policy, by facilitating the development and exploitation of a range of renewable energy sources at suitable locations throughout Limerick, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment landscape, biodiversity, water quality or local amenities, to ensure the long term sustainable growth of Limerick.</p> <p>Policy CAF F7 Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB) It is a policy of the Council to support the development of Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB) proposals within Limerick and the wider region, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations and to work with relevant stakeholders to realise its potential.</p> |
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| | | <p>Policy CAF P8 Community Based Renewable Energy</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to support the development of community based renewable energy projects, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations.</p> <p>Policy CAF P9 Renewable Energy Technologies</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to consider all emerging renewable energy technologies, such as hydrogen electrolysis, pumped storage and small scale anaerobic digestion and any other source of renewable energy technologies that are viable as a means of energy security, subject to the relevant level of necessary environmental and ecological assessments.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective CAF Q27 Renewable Energy Production</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources, such as from bioenergy, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and wind energy, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations.</p> <p>Objective CAF Q28 Assessment of Renewable Energy Projects</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of wind energy, in accordance with Government policy and having regard to the principles and planning guidance set out in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government publications relating to Wind Energy Development and the DCCAE Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland and any other relevant guidance, which may be issued in relation to sustainable energy provisions during the course of the Plan.</p> |
| | | <p>Objective CAF Q35 Community Based Energy Initiatives</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to support community energy-based initiatives, subject to adequate assessment, to help achieve low carbon communities.</p> <p>Objective CAF Q36 Geothermal Energy</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate geothermal energy generating developments, both standalone and in conjunction with other renewable energy projects in suitable locations.</p> <p>Objective CAF Q40 Community Renewable Energy</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to support and strengthen sustainable local/community renewable energy networks, micro renewable generation, climate smart countryside projects and connections from such initiatives to the grid. The potential for sustainable local/community energy projects and micro generation to both mitigate climate change and to provide for local fuel need is also supported.</p> |
| | | <p>Limerick Development Management Standards, including under 11.7 "Climate Action".</p> <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>Policy EH P5 Protection of the Built Environment</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to promote high standards for conserving and restoring the built environment and promote its value in improving living standards and its benefits to the economy.</p> <p>Objective EH 021 Commercial and Industrial Noise</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to prevent members of the public being significantly adversely effected by environmental noise from commercial and industrial noise activities.</p> <p>Objective EH 022 Entertainment Noise</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to manage entertainment noise from venues and music events, so as not to have an adverse effect on the public.</p> <p>Objective EH 025 Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to seek the preservation of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. This is to include all the sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The preferred option is preservation in situ, or at a minimum preservation by record.</p> <p>Objective EH 026 Preservation of unrecorded/newly discovered Archaeological Heritage</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect and preserve the preservation in situ (or at a minimum by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p> <p>Objective EH 038 Protection of the setting of Archaeological Monuments</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that no development shall have a negative impact on the character or setting of an archaeological monument.</p> <p>Objective EH 039 Proper procedures during the planning process</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure early engagement at preplanning stage in undertaken with the Local Authority Archaeologist to promote the preservation in situ of archaeological remains and settings in development. |
| Cultural Heritage | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. Potential known and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. |

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| | | <p>b) Adopt a policy of archaeological monitoring on developments where the scale and nature of such developments may, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, have a negative impact on previously unknown archaeological features/ artefacts.</p> <p>c) Require the preparation of an Archaeological Heritage Assessment in cases where it is deemed that Archaeological Heritage would be affected by a proposed development (due to their location, size or nature). The report shall be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist on the archaeological implications, if any, of the proposed development either prior to a decision on a planning application or prior to commencement of development on site.</p> <p>Objective EH 040 Archaeological Monuments in Local Authority ownership/guardianship</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to preserve and enhance as appropriate and as funding allows monuments vested in the Local Authority.</p> <p>Objective EH 042 Industrial Archaeology</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Seek the preservation of buildings and infrastructure associated with former industrial sites; Ensure detailed recording of these remains; promote knowledge and interpretation of these sites among the general public; Support the work of the Interreg Atlantic Coast Area project, (MMAH) The recovery and valorisation of Maritime Military and Industrial Heritage. <p>Objective EH 044 Raise public awareness and encourage active participation</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to generally raise public awareness of the archaeological and historic heritage and to assist and encourage active participation by the public, following consultation with National Monuments Service, in the conservation, consolidation and presentation of landmark sites, where this is appropriate and subject to available resources.</p> <p>Objective EH 045 Heritage Plan 2017-2030</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to support the archaeological objectives in the Heritage Plan.</p> <p>Objective EH 046 Increase access to Archaeological Monuments</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care.</p> <p>Objective EH 048 Work to Protected Structures</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect structures included on the RPS from any works that would negatively impact their special character and appearance. Ensure that any development proposals to Protected Structures, their curtilage and setting, shall have regard to the 'Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities' published by the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Ensure that all works are carried out under the supervision of a qualified professional with specialised conservation expertise. Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a Protected Structure and/or its setting, is sensitively sited and designed and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout and materials. Ensure that the form and structural integrity of the Protected Structure is retained in any redevelopment and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or views and vistas from within the grounds of the structure are respected. Respect the special interest of the interior, including its plan form, hierarchy of spaces, architectural detail, fixtures and fittings and materials. Support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc.) previously existed. Ensure that new and adapted uses are compatible with the character and special interest of the Protected Structure. Protect the curtilage of protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development within the curtilage and attendant grounds, that would adversely impact on the special character of the Protected Structure. Protect and retain important elements of built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, entrance gates and piers and any other associated curtilage features. Ensure historic landscapes and gardens associated with Protected Structures are protected from inappropriate development. <p>Objective EH 049 Energy Efficiency of Protected Structures</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to have regard to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government's publication on Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings (2010) and the Irish Standard IS EN 16833:2017 Conservation of Cultural Heritage – Guidelines for Improving the Energy Performance of Historic Buildings (2017) and any future advisory documents in assessing proposed works on Protected Structures.</p> <p>Objective EH 050 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to review and update the RPS on foot of any Ministerial recommendations including the NIAH and any future updates. The Ministerial Recommendations, made under Section 53 of the Planning Act, will be taken into account when the Planning Authority is considering proposals for development that would affect the historic or architectural interest of these structures.</p> <p>Objective EH 051 Architectural Conservation Areas</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the character and special interest of an area, which has been designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) as set out in Volume 3. |
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| | <p>b) Ensure that all development proposals within an ACA be appropriate to the character of the area having regard to the Character briefs for each area.</p> <p>c) Ensure that any new development or alteration of a building within an ACA or immediately adjoining an ACA, is appropriate in terms of the proposed design, including scale, height, mass, density, building lines and materials.</p> <p>d) Seek a high quality, sensitive design for any new development(s) that are complementary and/or sympathetic to their context and scale, whilst simultaneously encouraging contemporary design which is in harmony with the area. Direction can also be taken from using traditional forms that are then expressed in a contemporary manner, rather than a replica of a historic building style.</p> <p>e) Seek the retention of all features that contribute to the character of an ACA, including boundary walls, railings, soft landscaping, traditional paving and street furniture.</p> <p>f) Seek to safeguard the Georgian heritage of Limerick.</p> <p>Objective EH 052 Shopfronts within an ACA</p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure that all original and traditional shopfronts, which contribute positively to the appearance and character of a streetscape, within an ACA are retained and restored.</p> <p>b) Ensure that new shopfronts are well designed, through the sympathetic use of scale, proportion and materials.</p> |
| <p>Landscape</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the plan area. | <p>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</p> <p>• Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the wider planning frameworks landscape protection measures.</p> <p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028</p> <p>Policy EH P8 Landscape Character Areas</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to promote the distinctiveness and where necessary safeguard the sensitivity of Limerick's landscape types, through the landscape characterisation process in accordance with the 'Draft Guidelines for Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (2000) as issued by the Department of Environment and Local Government, in accordance with the European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) and with 'A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland – 2015- 2025'. The Council shall implement any relevant recommendations contained in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Landscape Strategy for Ireland, 2015 – 2025.</p> <p>LCA 07 Southern Uplands</p> <p>a) Where housing is permitted, encourage appropriate scale and high-quality design for this landscape area, combined with sensitive site location and landscaping. Respect traditional scale particularly on elevated or locally prominent sites.</p> <p>b) Strongly encourage use of landscaping plans, taking into account existing topography and landforms, in efforts to blend developments into the surrounding landscape. Retention of existing landscape features and their integration and use in helping development to blend into the landscape, is of great importance in any upland area.</p> <p>c) Not permit further forestry developments that are subject to planning permissions over 280m above sea level.</p> <p>d) Encourage development within existing settlements.</p> <p>e) This area is open to consideration for wind energy development.</p> <p>f) Where wind farms are permitted, a random spacing with random layout shall be considered in proposed wind farm developments, to limit the visual and landscape impact.</p> <p>LCA 010 Western Uplands (Western Hills/Barnagh Gap/Sugar Hill)</p> <p>a) Where housing is permitted, encourage appropriate scale and high-quality design for this landscape area, combined with sensitive site location and landscaping. Respect traditional scale particularly on elevated or locally prominent sites.</p> <p>b) Discourage the selection of locally prominent sites.</p> <p>c) Encourage the use of local landform and landscape features, combined with sensitive landscaping in order to screen development.</p> <p>d) Ensure that forestry that is subject to planning permission, is confined to below 280m above sea level to protect intact remnants of peatland habitat.</p> <p>e) This area is open to consideration for wind energy development.</p> <p>f) Where wind farm development is permitted, a random spacing layout shall be considered to limit the visual and landscape impact.</p> |

2.4 Criteria under Annex II of the SEA Directive¹⁰

PART 1

1. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

The Limerick City and County Tourism Plan represents a whole of organisation approach for tourism that takes into account the existing planning framework for tourism. The Plan examines the opportunities to deliver, in line with the Limerick Development Plan, on the aims and ambitions of the tourism industry, grow the appeal of Limerick as an international visitor destination and meet the needs of Limerick's visitors.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (including those identified in Table 2.4 of this Screening for SEA report).

The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Taking the above and the other SEA screening assessment considerations provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan would set a framework for projects and other activities, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

2. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy*

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental

¹⁰ Schedule 1 of the Regulations

protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (including those identified in Table 2.4 of this Screening for SEA report).

The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Taking the above and the other SEA screening assessment considerations provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan would influence other plans, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (including those identified in Table 2.4 of this Screening for SEA report).

The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Taking the above and the other SEA screening assessment considerations provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the degree to which the Plan would be relevant for the integration of environmental

considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

4. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan*

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the existing planning framework contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse. As identified in the Plan, in order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. This includes provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Limerick Development Plan (including those identified in Table 2.4 of this Screening for SEA report).

Taking the above and the other SEA screening assessment considerations provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Plan, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

5. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection)*

The Limerick City and County Tourism Plan represents a whole of organisation approach for tourism that takes into account the existing planning framework for tourism. The Plan examines the opportunities to deliver, in line with the Limerick Development Plan, on the aims and ambitions of the tourism industry, grow the appeal of Limerick as an international visitor destination and meet the needs of Limerick's visitors.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands (including those identified in Table 2.4 of this Screening for SEA report).

The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Taking the above and the other SEA screening assessment considerations provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the relevance of the Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

c) intensive land-use.

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status

The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

Section 3 Conclusion

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan or programme, or strategy, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of this report is to inform: whether the Draft Tourism Plan would, or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations¹¹; and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

This Screening for SEA Report has examined the Draft Plan, including against relevant criteria set out in Annex II '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended]. Taking into account this examination, the findings of which are provided in this report, it is advised that the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, including the First Revision of the National Planning Framework, the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy and associated Limerick-Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan and the Limerick Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Implementation of the Plan will comply with measures from the Development Plan and from Fáilte Ireland's Regional Development Strategies for the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands.

The Plan compiles measures that are already integrated into the existing decision-making and consent-granting framework and have already been subject to environmental assessment. Detail or measures that go beyond existing measures should be regarded either as context-setting text or as suggestions that may or may not be considered for integration into the relevant level of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – namely the Development Plan. The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and does not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework.

Taking into account all of the above (refer also to Table 2.4 and Appendix I) it is demonstrated that: significant beneficial environmental effects are present already under the existing planning framework and would not result from the Plan; and potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are present already under the existing planning framework, have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments and would not result from the Plan. Consequently, it is advised that the Plan would not result in likely significant environmental effects and does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

This Screening for SEA Report is referred to the Council for a Screening for SEA Determination.

¹¹ European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004) amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 200 of 2011)

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

This appendix is not intended to be a full and comprehensive review of EU Directives, the transposing regulations or the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. The information is not exhaustive and it is recommended to consult the Directive, Regulation, Plan or Programme to become familiar with the full details of each.

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Additional Information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|---|--|---|
| European Level | | | |
| SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out and environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| ETA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess, in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings; fauna and flora; soil; water; air; climate and the landscape; material assets and the cultural heritage; the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Birds Directive (2009/147/EC) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex I. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSs) (2008/105/EC) <p>It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.</p> | Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred. Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions. Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes. Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding. Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive's implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes. Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate. Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate. The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received. | Relevance to the Plan <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
|--|--|---|--|
| EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU) | <p>It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)'s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil); best available techniques; flexibility; inspections; public participation. <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions:</p> <p>With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry; Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste; Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste; Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds; Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive); Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive); Directive 2010/18/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive). | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|--|--|--|
| EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC | <p>The Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</p> | <p>This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/413 - amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652 | <p>The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.</p> | <p>The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COP)) | <p>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</p> <p>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Additional information/low-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|--|---|--|
| Alternative Fuel Infrastructure (AFIR) - (Regulation (EU) 2023/1804 on the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure, and repealing Directive 2014/94/EU) | <p>The regulation sets mandatory national targets for European Union Member States to deploy publicly accessible alternative fuels infrastructure (in particular for electricity and hydrogen) for road vehicles, vessels moored at the quayside and stationary aircraft, with a specific focus on the trans-European networks. The regulation also includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> common rules for user information, data provision and payment requirements; a mandate for the Commission to adopt delegated acts to ensure interoperability of infrastructure by mandating technical specifications on the basis of European standards; and planning and reporting requirements for Member States. | <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric cars and vans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States must ensure that publicly accessible recharging stations are set up in proportion to the number of registered vehicles, as follows: for each registered electric vehicle, a total power output of at least 1.3 kilowatts (kW); for each registered plug-in hybrid vehicle, a total power output of at least 0.80 kW. <p>Member States must also ensure the deployment of publicly accessible recharging stations along the trans-European transport network ('TEN-T' road network).</p> <p>Recharging infrastructure for electric heavy-duty vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States must ensure a minimum coverage of recharging points for heavy-duty electric vehicles. <p>Hydrogen infrastructure for road vehicles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 December 2030, Member States must ensure that publicly accessible hydrogen refuelling stations with a total capacity of at least 1 tonne per day are deployed at least every 200 km along the TEN-T core network. At least one refuelling station must be deployed in each urban node. <p>Liquefied methane for road transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Until 31 December 2024, Member States must ensure that an appropriate number of publicly accessible refuelling points for liquefied methane are set up, at least along the TEN-T core network, where there is demand, unless the costs are disproportionate to the benefits, including environmental benefits. <p>Electricity supply in maritime ports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 December 2029, there must be sufficient shoreside electricity for ships moored at the quayside at TEN-T core and TEN-T comprehensive maritime ports to serve at least 90% of all container and passenger vessels above 5,000 gross tonnage. <p>Electricity for stationary aircraft:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By 31 December 2024, all airports of the TEN-T core and comprehensive network must provide electricity to stationary aircraft used for commercial air transport operations at aircraft contact stands, and by 31 December 2029 at all remote stands. <p>Railway infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Member States must assess the development of alternative fuel technologies and propulsion systems (including hydrogen and battery power) for rail infrastructure that cannot be fully electrified for technical or cost-efficiency reasons. <p>Payment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Users of electric and hydrogen vehicles must be able to pay easily at recharging and hydrogen refuelling points (with payment cards and without subscriptions). Prices, including all of their components and specific to the recharging session, must be communicated clearly to end users before the start of a recharging session. <p>Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures</p> <p>EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs</p> <p>The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services</p> <p>Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy</p> <p>Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering</p> <p>National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits</p> <p>Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it</p> <p>Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU Energy Efficiency (2012/27/EU) | <p>Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020.</p> <p>Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. • Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU) | <p>This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas: Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|--|--|---|---|
| EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023) | The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement. | The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019) | The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved. | The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and trust and cooperation between EU countries. • A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers. • Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth. • Climate action - decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy. • Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2024/EC recast; Ambient Air Quality and Clean Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC | The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021-2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy. | Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law. <p>Air quality is assessed using common methods and criteria across the EU, and the revised directive brings further improvements to air quality monitoring and modelling. The revised directive will also ensure early action, with air quality roadmaps that need to be prepared ahead of 2030 if there is a risk that the new standards will not be attained by that date. The air quality standards will be reviewed regularly in line with latest scientific evidence to assess whether they continue to be appropriate.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package | This new directive simplifies EU rules on ambient air quality by merging the two existing EU directives into one. Its goal is to bring quality standards in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations. <p>The new directive introduces stricter limits on key air pollutants, aligning EU standards more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.</p> | The revised directive prioritises the health of EU citizens: It sets new air quality standards for pollutants to be reached by 2030 which are more closely aligned with the WHO air quality guidelines. Those pollutants include, among others, particulate matter PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all known to cause respiratory problems. Member states may request that the 2030 deadline be postponed if specific conditions are met. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants | Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU. | The Directive covers 5 air pollutants: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sulphur dioxide; • nitrogen oxides; • non-methane volatile organic compounds; • ammonia; and • fine particulate matter. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | | The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards. | |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
|---|---|---|--|
| UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979) | <p>The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.</p> | | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended | <p>Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</p> | <p>The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid prevent or reduce 'harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193) | <p>Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.</p> | <p>This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen oxides (NOx) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast) | <p>The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.</p> | <p>The revised Directive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020; • more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport; • puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty. It aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency; • it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners; • introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres; • expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold; • mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability; • establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Energy Performance of Buildings Directive (EU)2024/1275 | | <p>The revised Energy Performance of Buildings Directive helps increase the rate of renovation in the EU, particularly for the worst-performing buildings in each country. It also supports better air quality, the digitalisation of energy systems for buildings and the roll-out of infrastructure for sustainable mobility. Recognising the differences across EU countries in factors such as the existing building stock, geography and climate, the directive allows governments to decide on the renovation measures best-suited to their specific national context.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose, objective | Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) | The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Floods Directive (2007/60/EC) | Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning processes. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) | Directive | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. <p>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive o Sampling Drinking Water Directive o Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive o Shellfish Directive o Freshwater Fish Directive o Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive o Dangerous Substances Directive | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater, prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Drinking Water Directive | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and to improve access to water intended for human consumption. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive - Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast) | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the environment and human health from adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency in the sector. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741) | The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU | The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Sewage Sludge Directive (Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture) | The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I, and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional information / lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Bathing Waters Directive (Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC) | <p>With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.</p> <p>The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive | <p>The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.</p> <p>The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC) | <p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p> | <p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisers and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962) as amended | <p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food; safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living; help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources; maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU; keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agriculture, food industries and associated sectors. | <p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended | <p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market, while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p> | <p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle.</p> <p>The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

| Screening for SEA Report | |
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| Legislation, Plan, etc. UN Sustainable Development Goals | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership. |
| European Commission's "Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change" (2021) | The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050. |
| European Environment Climate Risk Assessment (2024) | This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe. |
| UN Kyoto Protocol (2 nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement) | The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps "to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels". |
| European Green Deal (2019) and "Fit for 55" legislation (2021) | The European Green Deal provides roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The "Fit for 55" legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal. |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| UN Sustainable Development Goals | Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Commission's "Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change" (2021) | The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Environment Climate Risk Assessment (2024) | This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| UN Kyoto Protocol (2 nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement) | The UN Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or compliment the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Green Deal (2019) and "Fit for 55" legislation (2021) | The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition. The 'Fit for 55' package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the REPowerEU plan to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe's energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020 | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
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| | As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation; • Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs; • Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and • Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes. | |
| | Europe 2020: European 2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that the economic revival of the European Union following the economic and financial crisis is supported by a series of reforms in order to build solid foundations for growth and job creation by 2020. While addressing the structural weaknesses of the EU's economy and economic and social issues, the strategy also takes account of the longer-term challenges of globalisation, pressure on resources and ageing. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | Europe 2020: European 2020 Strategy | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that the economic revival of the European Union following the economic and financial crisis is supported by a series of reforms in order to build solid foundations for growth and job creation by 2020. While addressing the structural weaknesses of the EU's economy and economic and social issues, the strategy also takes account of the longer-term challenges of globalisation, pressure on resources and ageing. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020) | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013) | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas; • Supporting EU-level GI projects; • Improving access to finance for GI projects; • Improving information and promoting innovation. | |

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Screening for SEA Report | Additional information/low-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992) | <p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p> | | | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles') | <p>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values; • (II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; • (III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and • (IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995) | <p>The main purpose of this Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. • The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005) | <p>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</p> <p>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. • Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. • Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. • Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. • Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000) | <p>The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.</p> | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. • Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020) | <p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital • to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy • to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals): • Better implementation of legislation. • Better information by improving the knowledge base. • More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. • Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. • Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme: • To make the Union's cities more sustainable. • To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979) | The convention has three main aims: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species <ul style="list-style-type: none"> including endangered and vulnerable migratory species | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control. Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Bali Road Map (2007) | The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision. | The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Cancun Agreements (2010) | Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010, which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreement's main objectives cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building | Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Doha Climate Gateway (2012) | Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among the many decisions taken, governments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020. Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action. Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt. Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions. Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001) | The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional information (lower-level objectives, etc.) | Relevance to the Plan | |
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| Ramsar Convention (1971) | The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world". | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | |
| OSPAR Convention (1992) | The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution, by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas | <p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy Europacification Strategy Hazardous Substances Strategy Offshore Industry Strategy Radioactive Substances Strategy Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme <p>These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | |
| National Level | The National Planning Framework (first revision 2025) and associated National Development Plan Review (2025) | <p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of the year 2040. The new 2025 Framework is revised and updated to take account of changes that have occurred since it was published in 2018 and to build on the framework that is in place. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for the people, and to protect and enhance the environment.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan form a single vision for Ireland under Project Ireland 2040. The implementation of the National Planning Framework will continue to be fully supported by the Government's investment strategy for public capital investment and investment by the State sector in general, with the National Development Plan detailing key projects.</p> | <p>The ambition is to create a single vision, a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compact Growth 2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility 3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities 4. High-Quality International Connectivity 5. Sustainable Mobility 6. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills 7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage 8. Transition to a Carbon-Neutral and Climate-Resilient Society 9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources 10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) | An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000; to amend certain other enactments; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | |
| Planning and Development Act 2024 | An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 and amend certain other enactments; for purposes unrelated to the foregoing, to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith. | <p>Key reforms included in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes, to give confidence and certainty to applicants; A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Colimisún Pleanála; Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency; Improvements to the planning judicial review processes; Cleaner, more consistent policies and guidance; Longer term, more strategic, ten-year plans for Local Authorities; More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities; Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage; Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and; Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 | The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the Directive except land-use planning, and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive to amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning, and programmes, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended | These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 298 of 2009) | The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels, poplars and willows. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 44/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended | To amend the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and International guidelines on appropriate threshold values. Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrates and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003) | Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014) | | | |
| European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009) | | | |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990 | The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Prosecute for water pollution offences. o Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry etc., made to waters. o Issue notices ('section 12 notices') to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. o Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; o Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. o Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007) Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013) Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013) Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017) Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 39 of 2022) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides the water services infrastructure. • Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. • Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. • Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key strategic objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring Uisce Éireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. • Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. • Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards • Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 | <p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out our strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann's investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p> | <p>The Water Services Strategic Plan sets out our strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann's investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027 | <p>The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2030. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 - 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.</p> | <p>The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthen the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for targeting the right measures in the right place and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024) | <p>The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.</p> | <p>The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 | | | |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Additional information /lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021) | <p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW) • Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW) • Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE) • Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM) | <p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions • Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry • Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources • Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events • Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water • Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030 | <p>The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by the European Commission in 2022.</p> | <p>The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.</p> <p>The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; • To secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities; • To progressively reduce areas in the clearing of licence applications. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (49/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006) Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011 | <p>The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.</p> <p>The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.</p> | <p>Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XIV, Planning and Development Act 2000.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024) | <p>The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040.</p> <p>The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.</p> | <p>The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set a clear direction for managing our seas • clarify objectives and priorities • direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. Seafood Development Programme 2021- 2027 | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities" | Additional information / lower-level objectives, etc. The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the IMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme. | Relevance to the Plan Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
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| Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012 | Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors; • Increase the contribution to the national GDP; • Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework; • Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems; • Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem; • Implement and comply with environmental legislation; • Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity; • Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; • Engagement and participation by all. | <p>CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Event Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.</p> |
| Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme | The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive. | <p>The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).</p> | <p>The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.</p> |
| National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network | This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. | |
| National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025) | This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. • To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. • To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. • To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. • To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. • To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. | |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective. | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022) | <p>The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.</p> | <p>Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dungsteeds, farmyard manure piles, slurry pits or sludge tanks arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle.</p> <p>Part 3 concerns nutrient management.</p> <p>Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied.</p> <p>Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters.</p> <p>Part 6 is functions of the public authorities; certificates, exemptions, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplaned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. <p>Provides protection for certain species; their habitats and important ecosystems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give statutory protection to NHA-s Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014) | <p>These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplaned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023 | <p>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</p> <p>The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> | <p>This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 | <p>Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.</p> | <p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 | <p>The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment.</p> <p>The main objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly; Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and Collecting evidence to track change and measure success. | <p>This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended) | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy. | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,• The policy of the Government on climate change,• Climate justice,• Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and• The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. | Relevance to the Plan Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
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| National Climate Action Plans | <p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan.</p> | <p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.</p> <p>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</p> <p>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans | <p>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur.</p> | <p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Action Policy Framework• Decarbonising Electricity Generation• Decarbonising the Built Environment• Decarbonising Transport• An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017 | <p>The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.</p> | <p>To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project. The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines' publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans | <p>The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments,</p> | | |

Screening for SEA Report

| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective | Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022) | It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safe and green mobility; People focussed mobility; and Better integrated mobility. | The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022–2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and Dart+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated Implementation plan | It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery. | The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An implementation plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development of the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025 | The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy, 2023 – 2025 sets out a pathway to incentivise the supply of renewable transport fuel through annual increases in the renewable transport fuel obligation rate to 2030. | The policy will underpin the shift to the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) biofuel targets of at least 120 (biodiesel equivalent) in diesel and E10 (Ethanol) in petrol by 2030 (with an interim B12/E10 by 2025 target). | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Energy Security Framework (2022) | National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine. | The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (published in 2024) | National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2019/1996 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years; this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Decarbonisation - Energy Efficiency - Internal Energy Market - Research, Innovation and Competitiveness | It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024 | <p>It is the second National Implementation Plan for the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.</p> <p>Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs</p> <p>Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals</p> <p>Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms</p> | <p>The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes.</p> <p>Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development</p> <p>Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs</p> <p>Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals</p> <p>Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms</p> <p>Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms</p> | <p>The PLUTO seeks to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 | <p>The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.</p> | <p>The PLUTO establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p> | <p>The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p> | <p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. | <p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. | <p>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | <p>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | |
| Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport | <p>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</p> | <p>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</p> | <p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. | <p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. | <p>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | <p>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. | <p>The Energy Security Package includes a range of measures to implement this approach in the short and medium term by prioritising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduced and Responsive Demand • A Renewables-Led System • More Resilient Systems • Robust Risk Governance | |
| Energy Security in Ireland to 2030 ("Energy Security Package") | <p>It outlines a new strategy to ensure energy security in Ireland for this decade, while ensuring a sustainable transition to a carbon neutral energy system by 2050.</p> | <p>€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider state sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> | |

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| Our Sustainable Future: A Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012 | A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges. It aims at improving synergies and identifying and tackling policy gaps, policy conflicts and trade-offs as part of a coherent, joined-up approach to policy making on sustainable development. Ireland's Framework for Sustainable Development timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change. | The objectives of the Framework are to: • Identify and prioritise policy areas and mechanisms where a sustainable development approach will add value and enable progress towards the strategy aims. • Highlight and promote existing sustainable practices that, with the correct support, can underpin sustainable development more generally. • Strengthen policy integration, coherence and co-ordination and bring a long term perspective to decision making. • Set out governance mechanisms which ensure effective participation within government and across all stakeholders. Set out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan. • Set out how progress is to be measured and reported on through the use of Indicators. • Incorporate adequate and effective monitoring, learning and improvement into the Framework process. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 | Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. | Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing in close proximity to places of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020 | The Draft Bioenergy Plan vision: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner. | Three high-level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016 | Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources. | Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017-2030 | This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework. | Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV Forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010 | Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland. Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed. | Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020. Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| National Cycle Network Plan Report 2023 (Transport Infrastructure Ireland on behalf of the Department of Transport) | <p>The planned National Cycle Network, presented below, links cities and towns of over 5,000 people with a safe, connected and inviting cycle network. One of the most ambitious and wide-reaching infrastructure plans in the history of the State, the proposed cycle network of approximately 3,500km will connect more than 200 settlements and 2.8m people.</p> <p>The National Cycle Network will link to destinations such as transport hubs, centres of education, centres of employment, leisure, and tourist destinations with the intention of facilitating greater cycling and walking amongst students, leisure users, tourists, and commuters alike.</p> <p>The NCN Plan complements other networks and establishes a core spine of infrastructure to encourage further development of cycling projects in the future, thereby optimising the potential for people to cycle as part of their daily activities, such as travel to work or education.</p> | <p>As well as contributing to Ireland's commitments to sustainability and decarbonisation, successful implementation of the NCN Plan will provide many benefits for cyclists and communities across Ireland, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring delivery of a high-quality cycle network which will promote safety, comfort and increased participation in cycling. Improving sustainable connectivity nationally and providing links with other networks such as CycleConnects, EuroVelo and Northern Ireland networks. Supporting both urban and rural economies through increased leisure and tourism cycling. Improving public health through well documented benefits of active travel. Guiding how local authorities prioritise exchequer-funded investments in cycle infrastructure. Making use of existing infrastructure wherever possible including greenways, road infrastructure, and declassified roads where safe and inviting cycle experiences can be provided. aligns with the NTA's CycleConnects programme of urban and county-level cycle networks, as well as other cycle routes and networks in various stages of development, including the EuroVelo routes, national and regional greenways, and the Strategic Plan for Greenways in Northern Ireland. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure in Ireland 2017 to 2030 | <p>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</p> <p>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</p> | <p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007) | <p>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply | <p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010) | <p>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC, National Renewable Energy Action Plan.</p> | <p>The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020) | <p>Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.</p> | <p>It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.</p> | |

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| National Broadband Plan (2012) | <p>The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.</p> | <p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. • Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. • The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. • A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Shaping Our Electricity Future (EirGrid) | <p>1.1 The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1 is to outline how we can make the grid ready so that 80% of Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity can come from renewable sources, like the wind and sun, by 2030. These targets, and new limits to carbon emissions, are the product of updates to climate change policy across the Island in 2012.</p> | <p>Key goals include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the delivery of renewable electricity. • Find problems, gaps, opportunities, potential collaborations, or areas of duplication in the deployment of renewable electricity projects. • Help to find and resolve potential regulatory, administrative and/or legal barriers to the faster deployment of renewable electricity projects. • Increase alignment across the energy sector to support the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects. • Recommend appropriate investment conditions for electricity projects. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018) | <p>The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all greenways users.</p> <p>It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; • Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; • Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and • Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and • Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector | <p>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.</p> | <p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; • Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; • The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; • Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; • Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; • Ensuring fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and • Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997) | <p>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</p> | <p>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |

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| National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation) | <p>The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.</p> <p><i>Landscape Strategy Vision: "Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i></p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; • Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape; • Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; • Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended) | <p>To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European Communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.</p> | <p>The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027 | <p>The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this Plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.</p> | <p>The Plan's objectives are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste; 2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts; 3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste. 4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities; 5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy. | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024) | <p>The Regional Waste Management Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.</p> | <p>The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines | <p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarees and residential density.</p> | <p>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</p> | <p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p> |
| Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 | <p>The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.</p> | <p>It is based around four key goals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life • to reduce health inequalities • to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing • to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland | |

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| S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018 | The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture. | The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (sulphur dioxide (SO ₂), nitrogen oxides (NO _x), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH ₃), and fine particulate matter (PM _{2.5}), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Clean Air Strategy 2023 | The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Agri-Food Strategy 2030 | The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and food processing and the equine sector). | <p>The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level "Missions" for the sector to work toward:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Agricultural Schemes, including: Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP) | Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximize conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended) | The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and priorities improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside; Support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc., and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 | The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas. | A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Food Wise 2025 (DAFM) | <p>Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.</p> | <p>Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Policy Framework 2025-2030 | <p>Aims to embed sustainability across the tourism sector, encompassing environmental, economic, and social considerations. It builds on the previous framework by incorporating measures related to climate change and sustainability, and it supports the sector's growth while balancing economic development with environmental and social impacts. The framework includes 61 policy proposals and sets high-level targets for 2030, with shorter-term Action Plans containing more specific metrics.</p> | <p>The policy framework contains several important references relevant to the EV strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mapping of EV charging infrastructure to tourism hotspots. Accelerating rollout of charging points for EVs at or adjacent to key sites including visitor attractions, ports, airports, accommodation and on greenways. Transition to an EV car rental fleet and promoting EV coach tourism. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 | <p>The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.</p> | <p>The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Policy Context Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination Enhancing the Visitor Experience Research in the Irish Tourism Sector Supporting Local Communities in Tourism Wider Government Policy International Context Co-ordination Structures | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025 | <p>Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.</p> <p>The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country, is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.</p> | <p>The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; 250,000 people employed in tourism; and 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020 | <p>The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.</p> <p>The overarching aim of the Plan is to: "Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations".</p> | <p>Four objectives of the Plan include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice. Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement. Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset. Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023 | <p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p> | <p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation Development & Governance Sustainable Funding Model Asset Portfolio Management Participation and Reputation Sustainable Development Climate Action, Environment and Heritage | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016) | <p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanisms for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience; • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. | <p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs; • To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and • To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 | <p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.</p> | <p>This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1996, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national in-traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DfLGH, 2024) | <p>The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.</p> | <p>The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012) | <p>The Guidelines have five key policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that retail development is plan-led; • Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development; • Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations; • Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and • Delivering quality urban design outcomes. | <p>The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011) | <p>Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.</p> | <p>Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027 | <p>The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.</p> | <p>This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSfWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose/ objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Derelict Sites Act (1990) | An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961. | <p>Under the Act, local authorities can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served Make compulsory land purchases Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost All local authorities must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain derelict sites register Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site, | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended) | An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters. | <p>This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to Keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland | The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to purchase or rent at an affordable price built to a high standard and in the right place offering a high quality of life | <p>The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> supporting home ownership and increasing affordability eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion increasing new housing supply addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Town Centre First Policy (2022) | The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and cultural. | <p>The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| IDA's Adapt Intelligently: A Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Innovation 2025-29 and associated developments | IDA Ireland's strategy 2025-29 is an ambitious and positive approach to a fast-changing world. Drawing on the opportunities for growth arising from the structural forces that are reshaping the global economy, it sets an ambition: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> For Ireland to be a leading location for smart, sustainable manufacturing and intelligent, digitalised services To increase the number of companies undertaking cutting-edge research and innovation and the scope, scale and ambition of their Research, Development and Innovation activity To retain and enhance Ireland's position in key strategic value chains To grow the level of investment in sustainable business practices and processes and in developing new sustainability and energy-efficient technologies For Ireland to be a leading location for the world-class talent and skills needed to realise future growth opportunities. | <p>In pursuit of the strategic objectives and targets, IDA Ireland will win 1,000 investments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secure €7bn in new Research, Development and Innovation investment Deliver 550 regional investments Reduce IDA Ireland client carbon emissions by 35% Create 75,000 jobs Upskill 40,000 people. <p>This in turn will support IDA Ireland client spend in Ireland of €250bn over the lifetime of the strategy on wages, Irish goods and services, and capital investment, providing further opportunity and economic impact across local supply chains.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| EV Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 | The Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 sets out the ambition and strategy for the delivery of a national EV charging network, and the practical steps that will be taken to deliver this network across the country. | <p>The Strategy provides for a pool of high-powered chargers every 60 km on our motorway network as well as home and apartment charging, destination charging and residential neighbourhood charging (including new mobility hubs). The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland.</p> <p>An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development of the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional information/ lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| Regional/ County/Local Level | | | |
| Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 | The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Southern Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework. | The Southern Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities, Carlow County Council, Waterford City and County Council, Wexford County Council, Kilkenny County Council, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Kerry County Council, Clare County Council, Limerick City and County Council and Tipperary County Council. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024 | The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan include focusing on Improving public and sustainable transport. | The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rail; • Integrated Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Transport Plans (LTPs) | Local Transport Plans (LTPs) are strategic documents that outline how a specific area will manage and improve its transportation system. They are developed by local authorities, often in collaboration with the National Transport Authority (NTA). | LTPs aim to address local transport needs, enhance accessibility, and promote sustainable travel modes like walking, cycling, and public transport. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024-2030 | The plan provides a pathway for the accelerated delivery of regional and local networks of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood areas, in line with both national and European ambitions for cleaner transportation. The plan ensures a cohesive and standardised approach. It will be led by local authorities, working together to develop regional and local strategies to promote a unified and efficient rollout of charging infrastructure and to facilitate the equitable transition to EVs. | The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan provides a way forward for equitably delivering charging infrastructure at a national and local level to support the shift to zero emission vehicles for all users. The plan lays out a pathway, adhering to the fundamental principles below set out in the Infrastructure Strategy, to sustainably deliver charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood locations. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Emerging Draft Local Neighbourhood and Destination Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy | The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan published for consultation by ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) in 2024 sets out minimum charging capacity requirements for local authorities per geographical area. | By developing a comprehensive network of strategically located charging stations, the strategies are intended to support the growing number of EVs on Irish roads, ensuring that all areas are adequately served and help meet the climate action targets. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs | Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e., sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. Groundwater Protection Schemes | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater. | Additional information / lower-level objectives, etc. A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development. | Relevance to the Plan Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | |
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| Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including Limerick LECP 2023-2028 | The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities." | The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | |
| Land Use Plans including those in force in County Limerick (including the overarching Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028, as varied), and those in force in other adjoining planning authorities (including development plans for Local Authorities in: Cork; Tipperary; Clare; and Kerry; and local plans for settlements) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline planning objectives for land use development. • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. • | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhances amenities and environment. • Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aim to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | |
| Limerick Landscape Assessment and Landscape Assessments in adjoining local authorities | Character dimension of the landscape. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Landscape Character Assessments characterise the geographical dimension of the landscape. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. • Guide strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Limerick Heritage Plan 2017-2030 | The purpose of the plan is to: "Ensure that the Local Authority and the wider community focus on the need to ensure that Limerick's heritage continues to be unique and diverse, while being accessible to all. Heritage should remain a strong contributory factor to Limerick being a special place to live, work, locate to and a worthwhile location to invest in." To achieve this purpose, the aims of the Plan are: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To raise the awareness of, appreciation for and enjoyment of Limerick City and County's heritage. • To acquire knowledge through survey and research on heritage in Limerick City and County and to make it available to the wider public in a user-friendly manner. • To promote best practice and encourage heritage conservation and management. | The Heritage Plan highlights Limerick's rich heritage and seeks to provide for practical action in its long term care, while also encouraging a better understanding, enjoyment, and management of the City and County's heritage in partnership with all the stakeholders. The Heritage Plan offers a partnership process within which communities and individuals can engage with the Council to assist in the delivery of the heritage objectives. | |
| Limerick City Council Biodiversity Action Plan (and the upcoming Biodiversity Action Plan) | The aim: "To maintain, protect and enhance the biodiversity of Limerick City for future generations and to educate and promote the importance of Limerick City's biodiversity for all." | The Plan sets out aims and objectives to protect and enhance biodiversity across Limerick. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. | |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective | Additional Information [lower-level objectives, etc. | Relevance to the Plan |
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| County Limerick Noise Action Plan 2024-2028 | The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive ("END") (2002/49/EC) which was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The Regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years. | The actions detailed in the Plan have been drawn up to assess noise exposure in priority areas as indicated by strategic noise mapping located on the identified routes within the respective functional areas of the Council. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Limerick City and County Council's Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 | Vision: "Limerick City and County Council will lead the transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society. This will be achieved through engagement, innovation and a just transition." Mission: "We will strive to achieve this by focusing on the key sustainability pillars of energy, transport, waste, behavioural change, land use, ecosystems and the built and natural environments. We will achieve this by supporting innovation and co-creation with all stakeholders in a collaborative environment across the county." | The Climate Action Plan sets out a framework to promote, develop and implement climate actions through process improvements, community engagement, progressive development and iterative learning processes, which will be refined throughout the lifetime of the plan. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Local Authority Renewable Energy Strategy | The Strategy sets out the framework for the delivery of sustainable and renewable energies throughout the County. | The LARES outlines the potential for a range of renewable energy resources and developments and acknowledges the significant contribution that they can make to the county in terms of energy security, reduced reliance on traditional fossil fuels, enabling future energy exports, meeting assigned national targets and the transition to a low carbon economy. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, as varied, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Town Centre First Plans | Town Centre First aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. | <p>Town Centre First (TCF) lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan, which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges.</p> <p>The TCF approach is centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaboration and communication – a collaborative process involving all relevant local stakeholders, represented by a collaborative Town Team, with good communication in respect of issues raised and the agreed direction. • Understanding the place – analysis and appraisal underpinned by a 'town audit' data gathering -process. • Defining the place – shaping the plan around high-level objectives that are subsequently expressed through a series of actions. <p>Enabling the place – identifying a clear path to delivery of the Plan, cognisant that this will require actions of varying scale to be delivered by different partners.</p> | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, as varied, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Limerick 2030 (Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick) | The Limerick 2030 Plan is an economic and spatial framework for the redevelopment and growth of Limerick City Centre that was published in 2013. The review and update analyses the progress of the plan over the first seven years and updates the plan with new targets and recommendations to take the city and county to 2030. | This updated plan builds on the original Limerick 2030 objectives and project ambitions. The focus of this document is to complement the original plan's emphasis on transformational sites and projects, as well as capturing emerging projects and opportunity areas. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, as varied, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Retail Strategy for Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick 2022 – 2028 | The overriding aim of the strategy is to create the appropriate conditions necessary to foster a healthy and vibrant retail environment in Limerick City Centre and throughout the Metropolitan Area and County Limerick to help improve the retail environment, enhance the vitality of urban areas and effectively manage and support positive change. | <p>The key outputs are covered under number of headings including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National, Regional and Local Policy Context • Current Retail Trends • Shopper and Household Retail Surveys • Town Centre Health Checks • Projected Retail Floorspace Requirements • Retail Planning Policies and Criteria for Assessment | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, as varied, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

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| Legislation, Plan, etc. Limerick Tourism Development Strategy Action Plan 2019 – 2023 | Summary of high-level aim / purpose / objective The Limerick Tourism Development Strategy aims to revitalise the tourism sector in Limerick, capture key opportunities to grow the sector and highlight priority action areas to unlock the significant benefits that a thriving tourism industry can bring. It aligns with the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick which has earmarked tourism as one of the key sectors for future growth and addresses the need for a joined up tourism strategy for Limerick and a more coordinated approach to the development of the sector. | Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc. Through a series of clear, coordinated actions across four thematic areas - waterways, activities, heritage, arts and culture, the strategy is designed to maximise Limerick's to stimulate strong growth in the sector, create jobs, and play a substantial role in achieving the aim of the 'Limerick 2030'. | Relevance to the Plan Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc, individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan, as varied, needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
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| Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to the "Wild Atlantic Way" and "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" | Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment. | Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already, while some are not currently in existence. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc, individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |
| Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes | These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes, | The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism. | Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc, individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management. |

