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Comhairle Contae an Chláir
Clare County Council

Clare County Development Plan 2017–2023

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement





Note to Reader

On the 28th of March 2017, the Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government, Simon Coveney T.D. issued a Ministerial Direction pursuant to Section 31 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to the adopted Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The Minister directed that:-

- (i) Remove written objective TOU7 Ardclony and accompanying text, page 19, from Volume 3C: Killaloe Municipal District – Writing Statement and Maps – Interim Version

- (ii) Amend the maps for Killaloe which set out the objectives for Ardclony by changing the zoning objective for lands currently indicated as “TOU7” (tourism) to un-zoned.

The Ministerial Direction took effect from the 28th March 2017.

This document has been altered in accordance with the above Ministerial Direction and supersedes the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Volume 10a Natura Impact Report, dated 25th January 2017.

The Ministerial Direction has also necessitated the alteration of the following accompanying documents:

- **Volume 1 Written Statement and Maps**
- **Volume 3c Killaloe Municipal District Written Statement and Maps**
- **Volume 10 Strategic Environmental Assessment**
 - **Part i) Non Technical Summary**
 - **Part ii) Environmental Report**

- **Volume 10a Natura Impact Report**
- **Volume 10 Appropriate Assessment Concluding Statement**

Please note that Volumes 1, 3 and 10, as altered on the 28th March 2017, supersede Volumes 1, 3 and 10, dated 25th January 2017.

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Abbreviations

ACA	<i>Architectural Conservation Area</i>
CCDP	<i>Clare County Development Plan</i>
cSAC	<i>Candidate Special Area of Conservation</i>
CSO	<i>Central Statistics Office</i>
DoCCA	<i>Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment</i>
DoAHRGA	<i>Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs</i>
EDEN	<i>Environmental Data Exchange Network</i>
EEA	<i>European Environmental Agency</i>
EIA	<i>Environmental Impact Assessment</i>
ER	<i>Environmental Report</i>
EU	<i>European Union</i>
GHG	<i>Green House Gas Emissions</i>
GIS	<i>Geographical Information Systems</i>
GSI	<i>Geological Survey of Ireland</i>
HDA	<i>Habitats Directive Assessment</i>
IGHP	<i>Irish Geological Heritage Programme</i>
IPCC	<i>Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control</i>
LCEA	<i>Limerick Clare Energy Agency</i>
MWRA	<i>Mid West Regional Authority</i>
MWRPG's	<i>Mid West Regional Planning Guidelines</i>
NDP	<i>National Development Plan</i>
NGO	<i>Non Governmental Organisation</i>
NHA	<i>Natural Heritage Area</i>
NIAH	<i>National Inventory of Architectural Heritage</i>
NPWS	<i>National Parks and Wildlife Service</i>
NRA/NTA	<i>National Roads Authority/National Transport Authority</i>
NREAP	<i>National Renewable Energy Action Plan</i>
NEEAP	<i>National energy Efficiency Action Plan</i>
NSS	<i>National Spatial Strategy</i>
NTS	<i>Non Technical Summary</i>
OPW	<i>Office of Public Works</i>
P/P	<i>Plan/Programme</i>
PE	<i>Population Equivalent</i>
pNHA	<i>Proposed Natural Heritage Area</i>
PPP	<i>Public Private Partnership</i>
PRP	<i>Pollution Reduction Programmes</i>
RBD	<i>River Basin District</i>
RBMP	<i>River Basin Management Plans</i>
RMP	<i>Record of Monuments and Places</i>
RPGs	<i>Regional Planning Guidelines</i>
RPS	<i>Record of Protected Structures</i>
S.I. No.	<i>Statutory Instrument Number</i>
SAA	<i>Shannon Airport Authority</i>

<i>SAC</i>	<i>Special Area of Conservation</i>
<i>SDZ</i>	<i>Strategic Development Zone</i>
<i>SEA</i>	<i>Strategic Environmental Assessment</i>
<i>SEO</i>	<i>Strategic Environmental Objective</i>
<i>SFRA</i>	<i>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</i>
<i>SIRBD</i>	<i>Shannon International River Basin District</i>
<i>SO₂</i>	<i>Sulphur dioxide</i>
<i>SPA</i>	<i>Special Protection Area</i>
<i>SuDS</i>	<i>Sustainable Drainage Systems</i>
<i>WFD</i>	<i>Water Framework Directive</i>
<i>WMU</i>	<i>Water Management Units</i>
<i>WRBD</i>	<i>Western River Basin District</i>
<i>WSIP</i>	<i>The Water Services Investment Programme</i>
<i>WWTP</i>	<i>Waste Water Treatment Plant</i>

Glossary

Alternatives (Reasonable)	Alternatives should take into account the objectives and geographical scope of the Plan or project (P/P). There can be different ways of fulfilling the P/P objectives, or of dealing with environmental problems. The alternatives should be realistic, capable of implementation and should fall within the legal and geographical competence of the authority concerned.
Appropriate Assessment	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites).
Baseline environment	A description of the present state of the environment of the P/P area.
Baseline Survey	Description of the existing environment against which future changes can be measured.
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	Biodiversity is the variability among living organisms from all sources including inter alia, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems' (United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992). Flora is all of the plants found in a given area. Fauna is all of the animals found in a given area.
Biotic Index Values (Q Values)	The Biotic Index Values, or Q values, are assigned to rivers in accordance with biological monitoring of surface waters - low Q ratings, as low as Q1, are indicative of low biodiversity and polluted waters, and high Q ratings, as high as Q5, are indicative of high biodiversity and unpolluted waters. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to approximately Q4 in the national scheme of biological classification of rivers as set out by the Environmental Protection Agency.
Birds Directive	Council Directive of 2nd April 1979 on the conservation of wild birds (79/409/EEC).
Built Environment	Refers to both architectural heritage and archaeological heritage.
Cumulative Effects	Effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space
Data	Includes environmental data, proxy data, any other relevant statistical data.
Ecology	The study of relationships between living organisms and between organisms and their environment (especially animal and plant communities), their energy flows and their interactions with their surroundings.
Environmental Assessment	The preparation of an environmental report, the carrying out of consultations, the taking into account of the environmental report and the results of the consultations in decision-making and the provision of information on the decision (in accordance with Articles 4 to 9 of the SEA Directive).
Environmental	Environmental resources, issues and trends in the area affected by

Characteristics	the P/P.
Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)	An ordered exercise designed to enable the environmental impacts of a proposed development/project to be anticipated before the project is carried out.
Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	A statement of results from the ordered exercise which focuses on anticipating all environmental impacts of significance of a proposed development, prior to implementation or construction, and which specifies those measures which should be taken to eliminate or mitigate such impacts to an acceptable level.
Environmental indicator	An environmental indicator is a measure of an environmental variable over time, used to measure achievement of environmental objectives and targets.
Environmental objective	Environmental objectives are broad, overarching principles which should specify a desired direction of environmental change.
Environmental Problems	Annex I of Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive) requires that information is provided on 'any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme', thus, helping to ensure that the proposed strategic action does not make existing environmental problems worse. Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and ideal targets. If environmental problems are identified at the outset they can help focus attention on important issues and geographical areas where environmental effects of the plan or programme may be likely.
Environmental Receptors	Include biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological) and landscape as listed in the SEA Directive. This list is not exhaustive, and can include other receptors which may arise for a particular P/P.
Environmental Report (ER)	A document required by the SEA Directive as part of an environmental assessment which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing a plan or programme.
Environmental Targets	A target usually underpins an objective often having a time deadline that should be met and should be accompanied by limits or thresholds.
Environmental Vectors	Environmental vectors are environmental components, such as air, water or soil, through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so that they come into contact with human beings.
Evolution of the Baseline	A description of the future state of the baseline in the absence of a plan or programme assuming 'business as usual' or 'do nothing' scenarios, depending on which is more reasonable for the P/P being proposed.
Geographical Information System (GIS)	is a computer system that collects, stores, views and analyses geographical information and commonly creates maps as an output
Geology	Science of the earth, including the composition, structure and origin

	of its ROCKS
Habitat	Area in which an organism or group of organisms live.
Habitats Directive	Council Directive 92/43/EEC of 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.
Habitats Directive Assessment	An assessment of the effects of a plan or project on the Natura 2000 network. The Natura 2000 network comprises Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive, Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive and Ramsar sites designated under the Ramsar Convention (collectively referred to as European sites)
Hierarchy of Plans	Both higher and lower level P/P relevant to the P/P being assessed.
Indirect effect	Any aspect of a P/P that may have an impact (positive or negative) on the environment, but that is not a direct result of the proposed P/P. May also be referred to as a secondary effect
Interrelationships	Associations or linkages, related to environmental impact of the proposed P/P usually on environmental receptors.
Issues Paper	Paper produced as part of the consultation process, usually for Land Use Plans, to facilitate consultation with stakeholders on key issues.
Key environmental issues	Those significant environmental issues, which are of particular relevance and significance within a P/P area and/or the zone of influence of that P/P. These issues should be identified during SEA Scoping process.
Key environmental receptors	Aspects of the environment likely to be significantly impacted by the proposed P/P.
Material Assets	Critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment transportation etc.
Member States	Those countries that belong to the European Union.
Mitigate	To make or become less severe or harsh
Mitigation Measures	Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing a human action, be it a plan, programme or project. Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration should be given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: avoid effects; reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; repair effects after they have occurred; and compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.
Monitoring	A continuing assessment of environmental conditions at, and surrounding, the plan or programme. This determines if effects occur as predicted or if operations remain within acceptable limits, and if mitigation measures are as effective as predicted. The primary purpose of monitoring is to identify significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage.
Monitoring Programme	A detailed description of the monitoring arrangements to be put in place to carry out the monitoring of the impact of the proposed P/P on the environment including; frequency of monitoring, who has responsibility for monitoring, and responses if monitoring identifies

	significant negative impacts.
Natura 2000 Site	Designated European Site. In combination Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas will constitute Natura 2000 network of protected sites for habitats and species across the EU.
Natural Heritage	Refers to habitats and species of flora and fauna.
Non-technical summary	A summary of the findings of the ER, summarized under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive that can be readily understood by decision-makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the ER.
Plan or Programme	Including those co-financed by the European Community, as well as any modifications to them: - which are subject to preparation and/or adoption by an authority at national, regional or local level or which are prepared by an authority for adoption, through a legislative procedure by Parliament or Government, and - which are required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions. In accordance with the SEA Directive, P/P that require SEA are those that fulfil the conditions listed in Article 2(a) and Article 3 of the SEA Directive.
Post-mitigation residual impacts	Environmental effects that remain after mitigation measures have been employed.
Protected Structure	Protected Structure is the term used in the Planning Act of 2000 to define a structure included by a planning authority in its Record of Protected Structures. Such a structure shall not be altered or demolished in whole or part without obtaining planning permission or confirmation from the planning authority that the part of the structure to be altered is not protected.
Proxy data	Is a measure of activity resulting from a P/P which provides information on environmental impact without the need for a direct measure of an environmental receptor. For example, an increase in the number of vehicles (activity resulting from a P/P) can provide information on the impact on air quality and greenhouse gases without having to measure the concentration of these parameters in the receiving environmental receptor.
Public	One or more natural or legal persons and, in accordance with national legislation or practice, their associations, organisations or groups.
Recorded Monument	A monument included in the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places that is set out County by County under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland. The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months notice to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.
Scoping	The process of deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the key environmental issues, likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered, the assessment methods to be employed, and the structure and

	contents of the Environmental Report.
Screening	The determination of whether implementation of a P/P would be likely to have significant environmental effects on the environment. The process of deciding whether a P/P requires SEA.
SEA Directive	Directive 2001/42/EC 'on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment'.
SEA Statement	A statement summarising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - how environmental considerations have been integrated into the P/P - how the ER, the opinions of the public and designated authorities, and the results of transboundary consultations have been taken into account - the reasons for choosing the P/P as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives.
Secondary effect	Effects that are not a direct result of the P/P, same as indirect effect.
Sensitivity	Potential for significant change to any element in the environment that is subject to impacts.
Short-term effects	These are typical of those effects that may occur during construction stage of a development, for example, the increased traffic going to and from a site during construction, or, the noise associated with construction activities.
Significant effects	Effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.
SPA	Special Protection Area under Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), designated for bird species listed in Annex I of the Directive, in particular internationally important concentrations of migratory and wetland birds. Designation is focused on habitats of these species.
Statutory Authority	The authority by which or on whose behalf the plan or programme is prepared.
Statutory Instrument	Any order, regulation, rule, scheme or bye-law made in exercise of a power conferred by statute.
Strategic Actions	Strategic actions include: Policies, which may be considered as inspiration and guidance for action and which set the framework for plans and programmes; Plans, sets of co-ordinated and timed objectives for the implementation of the policy; and Programmes, sets of projects in a particular area.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt it. The objective of this Directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment
Strategic	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological

Environmental Objective (SEO)	measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the County Development Plan can be tested. The SEOs are used as standards against which the objectives of the County Development Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if not mitigated.
Synergistic effect	Effects that, when totalled, result in a greater or lesser effect than the sum of the individual effects.
Threshold	Magnitude of a project, which if exceeded, will trigger the requirement for an Environmental Impact Assessment.
Transboundary Consultation	If a plan or programme is being prepared that is likely to have significant effects on the environment in another Member State, or where a Member State likely to be significantly affected so requests, the Member State in whose territory the plan or programme is being prepared shall, before the plan or programmes adoption or submission to the legislative procedure, forward a copy of the draft plan or programme and the relevant environmental report to the other Member State.
Zone of Influence	The area over which a plan can impact on the environment.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

This is the SEA Statement for the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CCDP) and forms the final stage of the SEA process for the development plan. The Plan was made by Clare County Council on the 19th of December 2016.

1.2 Purpose of the SEA Statement

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision making process and to document how environmental considerations, the views of statutory consultees and other submissions received during consultation and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the adopted CCDP and the arrangements in place for monitoring.

The SEA Statement is available to the public, along with the Final Environmental Report and the adopted CCDP. The Plan was also subject to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive the associated Natura Impact Report is also available to download from the Clare County Council web-site at the following location; <http://www.clarecoco.ie/planning/planning-strategy/development-plans/clare-county-development-plan-2017-2023/>

The SEA Statement includes the following information:

Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan (**Section 3.0**)

Summary of how submissions received during consultation have been taken into account in the plan (**Section 3.4**);

Reasons for choosing the recommended strategy, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered (**Section 5.0**);

Measures, that are to be undertaken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan (**Section 6.0**).



Figure 1.0 Summary of SEA Stages

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluation, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of plans or programmes before they are adopted. It also gives the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed of decisions and how they were made. An early consideration of environmental concerns in the planning process

creates an opportunity for environmental factors to be considered explicitly alongside other factors such as social, technical or economic aspects.

The preparation of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 required a full SEA as outlined in **Chapter 1** of the **SEA ER**. The SEA process can be categorised into a number of stages as summarised in **Table 1.0**.

Table 1.0 Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

Stage	Comments
Screening	A screening was undertaken to determine the need for environmental assessment of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 taking account of relevant criteria set out in schedule 2A.
Scoping	Scoping was conducted to determine the baseline environmental parameter data and issues to be considered further in the Environmental Report. Submissions received from Environmental Authorities will be incorporated into the Environmental Report.
Consultation with the Environmental Authorities	Consultation will be conducted throughout the SEA process and Plan making process.
Preparation of Environmental Report Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 including:	A multi disciplinary team is established to create policy consistent documents and to examine the effects on the environment of implementing the Plan.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental baseline data • Environmental Objectives • Development Plan Objectives and zoning assessment • Consultation with EPA, etc. • Assessment of Alternatives • Mitigation measures identified • Monitoring measures identified 	<p>Objectives and land-use zoning included in the Plan will be assessed through- out the Plan making process.</p> <p>Alternative options will be identified and assessed culminating in defining a preferred alternative for the Development Plan.</p> <p>Feedback from on-going Plan preparation process and Environmental Report preparation.</p> <p>Mitigation measures will be discussed and chosen.</p> <p>Monitoring will be incorporated with any existing methods.</p>
Non-Technical Summary	A summary of the findings of the Environmental Report, summarised under the headings listed in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive, which can be readily understood by decision-makers and by the general public. It should accurately reflect the findings of the Environmental Report.
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement (Current Stage in the process)	An outline of how environmental considerations are integrated into the Plan; how the Environmental Report, the opinions of the public and statutory authorities and the results of trans-boundary consultations are taken into account, and the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives.
Monitoring the Plan	Monitoring environmental effects over the lifetime of the Plan

1.3 Legislative Context

SEA is required under *EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment* (the SEA Directive) and transposing Irish Regulations (*the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004* (SI No. 435 of 2004)) as amended by SI 200 of 2001; and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI 436 of 2004), as amended by SI 201 of

2011. Its purpose is to enable plan-making authorities to incorporate environmental considerations into decision-making at an early stage and in an integrated way throughout the plan-making process.

1.4 Publication

To meet the requirements of Article 16(1) and Article 16(2) of S.I 435 of 2004, and Section 13(8) of S.I 30 of 2000; the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 including the SEA Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Report together with the SEA Statement are available for inspection at the venues listed below during normal opening hours. Notice of the adoption of the Plan and copies of it and the SEA Statement were issued to the environmental authorities and prescribed bodies' specified in the legislation. Notice of the adoption of the Plan was also published in the Clare Champion newspaper on Tuesday the 24th of January. In addition, the documentation is available for download on Clare County Council's website: <http://www.clarecoco.ie/planning/planning-strategy/development-plans/clare-county-development-plan-2017-2023/>

- Planning and Enterprise Development Section, Clare County Council, Áras Contae on Chláir, New Road, Ennis, County Clare
- De Valera Public Library, Harmony Row, Ennis, County Clare;
- Local Studies Centre, The Mense, Harmony Row, Ennis, County Clare;
- All Municipal District Offices in County Clare;
- All public libraries
- Clare County Council website www.clarecoco.ie

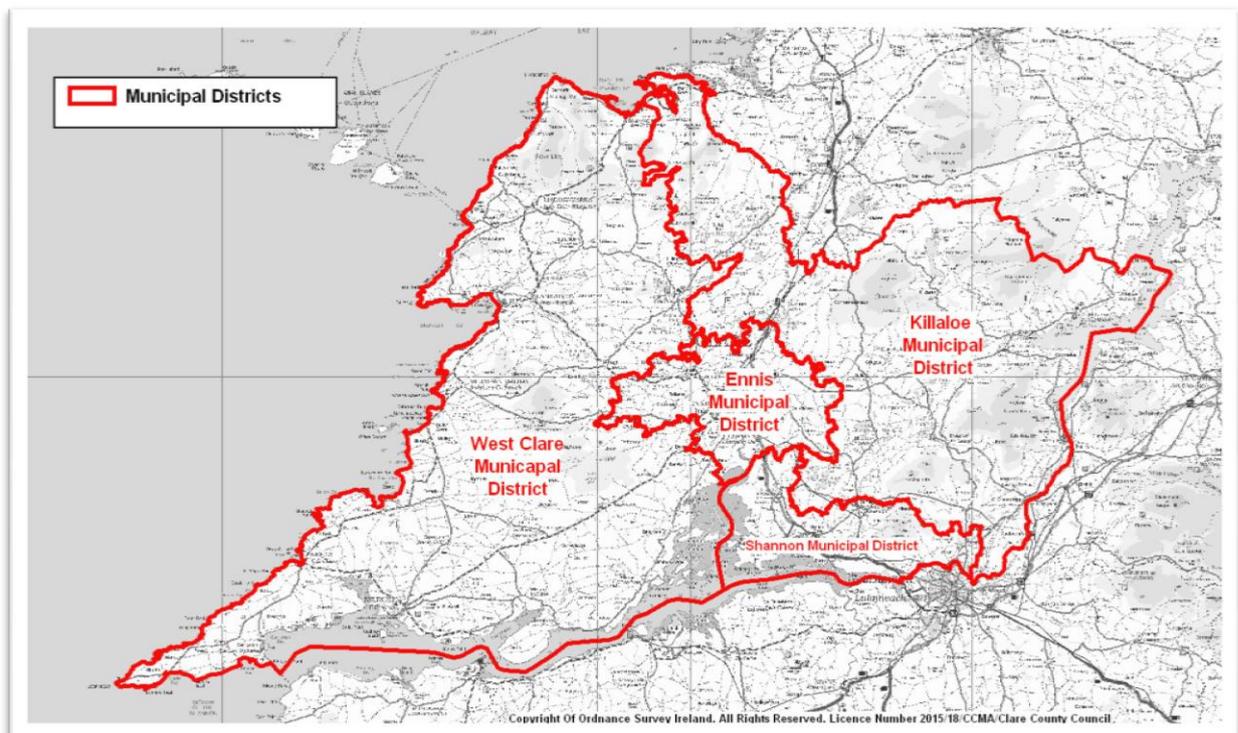


Figure 2.0 County boundary showing geographical extent of study area and Municipal Districts

1.4 Structure and Content of SEA Statement

1.4.1 Purpose and content of the SEA Statement

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process for the County Development Plan 2017-2023 in order to illustrate how decisions were taken, thereby making the process more transparent. In doing so, the SEA Statement documents how the recommendations of both the Environmental report and the Natura Impact Report, as well as the views of the statutory consultees and all other submissions received during consultation, have influenced the preparation of the final plan. The SEA Statement is available to the public, along with the Environmental Report, the Natura Impact Report and the adopted Plan (See **Section 1.3**).

In accordance with Article 9 of the SEA Directive, Article 16(1) and 16(2) of the SEA Regulations, and with section 13Q of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (SI 436 of 2004) (As amended); this SEA Statement has been prepared to outline 'Information on the Decision'. This document summarises the information required as outlined in Table 2.0.

Table 2.0 Summary of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

SEA Legislative Requirement	Section of SEA Statement
How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan (Article 16(2)(b)(ii))	Section 3
How the SEA Environmental Report has been taken into account during the preparation of the plan (Article 16(2) (b)(ii)(I)).	Section 3,5 & 6
How the submissions and observations have been taken into account during preparation of the plan (Article 16(2) (b)(ii)(II)).	Section 3.4
The reasons for choosing the plan adopted in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with (Article 16(2) (b) (iii)).	Section 4
The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan (Article 16(2)(b)(iv))	Section 5

1.4.2 Structure of the SEA Statement

The SEA Statement consists of eight sections as outlined in Table 1.2

Table 3.0 Structure of SEA Statement

Section	Contents
1.0	Introduction
2.0	Implications of the SEA for the CCDP process
3.0	Summary of how Environmental Considerations and the SEA Environmental Report have been integrated into the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023
3.4	Integration of consultation responses into the final plan
4.0	Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted in light of other alternatives considered
5.0	Monitoring
6.0	Conclusions

2.0 Implications of the SEA for the CCDP process

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 was required to undergo Strategic Environmental Assessment in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011.

Article 13B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulation 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 201 of 2011, makes SEA mandatory for development plans where the population or the target population of the area of a development plan is 10,000 persons or more. The findings of the SEA were presented in the Environmental Report which was submitted to the elected Members alongside the Draft CCDP. The purpose of the report was to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding the future development of County Clare over the lifetime of the plan.

Amendments were made to the Draft CCDP at each stage of the process and these were evaluated for their environmental consequences. In turn, this evaluation was presented to the Elected Members in the form of an Addendum Report. This addendum report assessed whether the proposed amendments would require full SEA or Habitats Directive Assessment and were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs). For the proposed amendments it was determined that full SEA was not required.

On adoption of the CCDP, the addendum report was used to update the original Environmental Report into the final Environmental Report (ER) which accompanies the adopted Plan. At each stage of the process the Elected Members were required by the legislation to take into account the Environmental Report including the Addendum at each stage of the decision making process. The SEA has run in parallel with the development plan review process and has informed and influenced the preparation of the draft and final Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. This is expanded on further within the following sections.

3.0 Summary of how Environmental Considerations and the SEA Environmental Report have been integrated into the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023

3.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to present a summary of how environmental considerations and consultation have informed the plan preparation process. The involvement of external parties (both stakeholders and the general public) has been essential to the development of the Clare County Development Plan (Volume 1) 2017-2023 together with the accompanying Volumes. It has been important to both meet the statutory requirements for consultation with relevant parties and to ensure that the knowledge, experience and views of the stakeholders and the general public were taken into account throughout the process. Legislation and guidance relating to SEA recommends that the process of plan preparation, SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be integrated and prepared in an iterative process to facilitate the ongoing assessment and evaluation of environmental considerations during plan preparation.

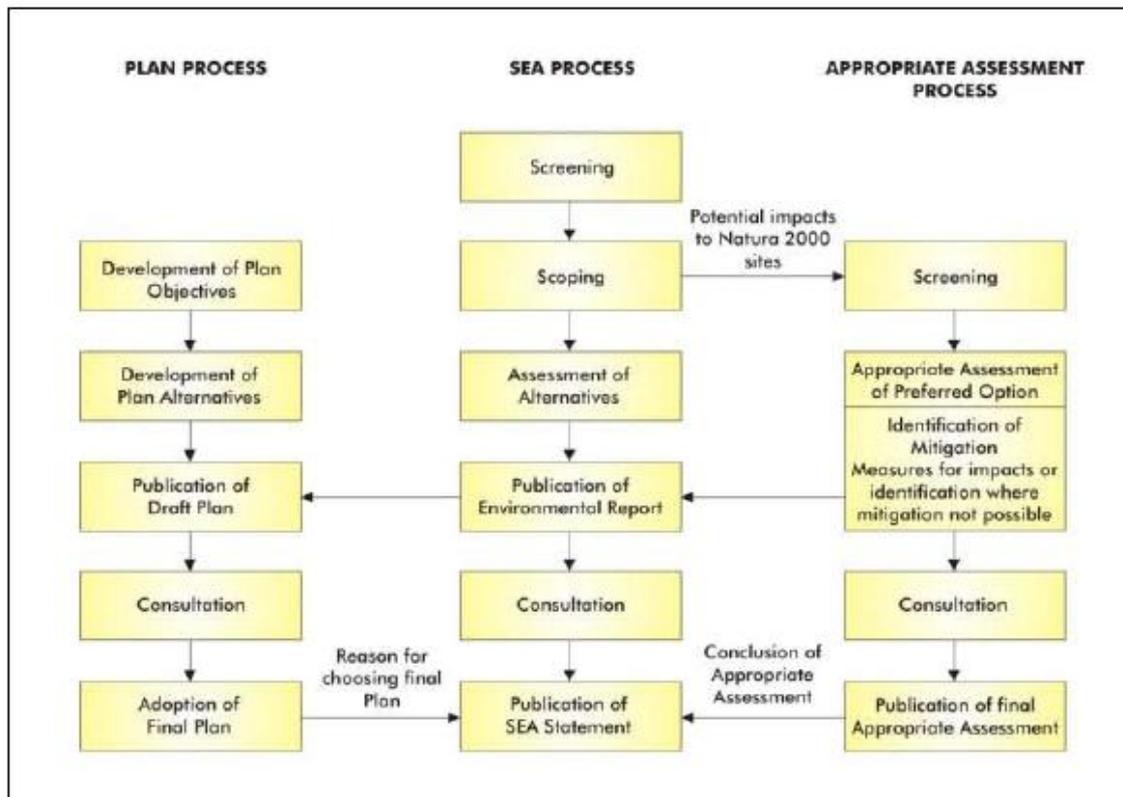


Figure 3.0 Integration of Plan, SEA and AA Processes

Table 3.1 further demonstrates how the processes have been integrated throughout the lifetime of the plan preparation. The iterative nature of the SEA process is such that the County Development Plan 2017-2023 is informed by environmental considerations throughout the preparation of the Plan and the development of the Plan objectives and land-use zonings. The Natura Impact Report is a separate document to the Environmental Report both of which accompany the County Development Plan 2017-2023.

Table 4.0 The integrated processes of preparation and consultation for the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment

Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023	Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)
Commence preparation of Draft Plan Pre-Draft Consultation Period 1st October 2015 – 25th November 2015	Commence review and preparation of SEA Scoping Process Pre-Draft Consultation Period 1st October 2015 – 25th November 2015
Commencement of public display and invitation of submissions on Draft Plan, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report 8th December 2015 Closing date for public submissions on Draft Plan 29th February 2016	
Chief Executives Report on Submissions received to Draft Plan, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report (for Elected Members) 19th May 2016	
Consideration of Chief Executive's Report by Elected Members (resolve to alter or make, amend or revoke Draft Plan, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report) 25th July 2016	
	Determination of Requirement for SEA/AA in accordance with S.12 of the Planning & Development Act (within 2 weeks of resolution) ¹
Public Display of Amendments to Draft Plan and consultation period 13th September 2016 – 12th October 2016 (inclusive)	Public Display of Amendments to Environmental Reports and consultation period 13th September 2016 – 12th October 2016 (inclusive)
Submission of Chief Executive's Report to Members on submissions on the proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan, Addendum to Environmental Assessments 8th November 2016	
Consideration of Chief Executives Report by Elected Members (resolve to make, amend or revoke Draft Plan, Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report) 19th December 2016	
The Council received a notice of intent in accordance with S.31 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000 (as amended) from Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, to issue a direction in relation to a specific element of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 23rd January 2017	
Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 comes into effect 4 weeks after adoption, accompanied by the Environmental Report and SEA Statement and the Natura Impact Report 25th January 2017	
Notice of Draft Ministerial Direction on the making of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. Public Display of Draft Ministerial Direction. 31st January – 13th February 2017 (inclusive)	
Chief Executive's Report on submissions and observations received on notice of intent to issue a Ministerial Direction in relation to the making of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023	

submitted to the Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government and to the elected Members of Clare County Council
10th March 2017
Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government, decision to issue Direction relating to the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023
28th March 2017
Notice of Ministers decision to issue a Direction issued to Elected Members and the Public
29th March 2017
Note ¹ – The Planning & Development Act 2010 allows for the Chief Executive to allocate an additional discretionary time period to allow for the carrying out of SEA/AA in respect of any proposed material alterations to the Draft Plan.

3.2 Baseline Information

Chapter 5 of the **SEA ER** describes the environmental baseline for the development plan area. The baseline information presents the environmental context within which the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will operate and the opportunities, constraints and targets placed on the Plan in this regard. The environmental data is described in line with the legislative requirements of the SEA Directive and Regulations, as amended, under the following environmental parameter headings:

- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Population, Human Health and Quality of Life
- Soil and Geology
- Air and Climate
- Water
- Material Assets
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape

Each parameter and its interrelationships with the other environmental parameters are discussed under each parameter section. SEA baseline data required for the Plan review or assessment was collated under the following headings;

- Key Legislation
- Description of the parameter in the Plan Area
- Issues and Threats in the Plan area
- Evolution of the parameter in the absence of the Plan
- Data gaps/difficulties
- Inter-relationship with Other Environmental Parameters
- SEA Recommendations

A considerable amount of data was gathered, collated and reviewed in preparing the SEA Environmental Report and Non Technical Summary associated with the Plan. However, there were a

number of areas where data did not exist, was dated, was not freely available or it was not possible to extract it to a county level. Significant gaps in the environmental parameters data are discussed under each parameter section. Maps relating to each environmental parameter are located in Chapter 5 of the Environmental Report. This was also supported by targeted fieldwork carried out by the SEA and AA Team throughout the life span of the plan preparation.

A Geographical Information System (GIS) was established to spatially analyse this data; to identify areas of particular environmental sensitivity and to help understand how potential land use policies and zonings could impact on environmental resources of the County. The AA also informed this baseline data especially in terms of European Site designations, sensitivities and potential impacts to same.

Sensitivity mapping is a means of assessing the overall vulnerability of the County using the key baseline datasets collated as part of the SEA ER. The Environmental Sensitivity Map provided spatial evidence to support the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) across a number of sectors. The mapping assisted in achieving environmental sustainability by providing a thematic map which could assist the assessment in directing development/zoning/identification of objectives and policies away from environmentally sensitive areas thereby informing on cumulative/in-combination effects and supporting the formulation of spatially-specific mitigation measures.

The map effectively reflects where the key concentrations of sensitivity are situated within the plan area. These include:

- The Northern area of the Plan (North Clare) – in and around the Burren which contains a number of NHAs, wetlands, rock at or near the surface and a heritage landscape.
- The Southern area of the Plan (along and including the Shannon Estuary)– This includes the Cloon River (FPM SAC), the Gaurus River and flood plain, River Fergus and flood plain (to the east), Ballybeg Lough, Newhall and Edenvale Estate (south-west) and the Shannon Estuary containing heritage landscapes and surface waters that are nutrient sensitive.
- The central area of the plan (including Ennis and on to North East Clare) – this includes key SPAs and NHAs which are protected for the Hen Harrier, moderate to poor river status, a high number of protected bat roosts, high to extreme groundwater vulnerability and areas of heritage landscape to the east.

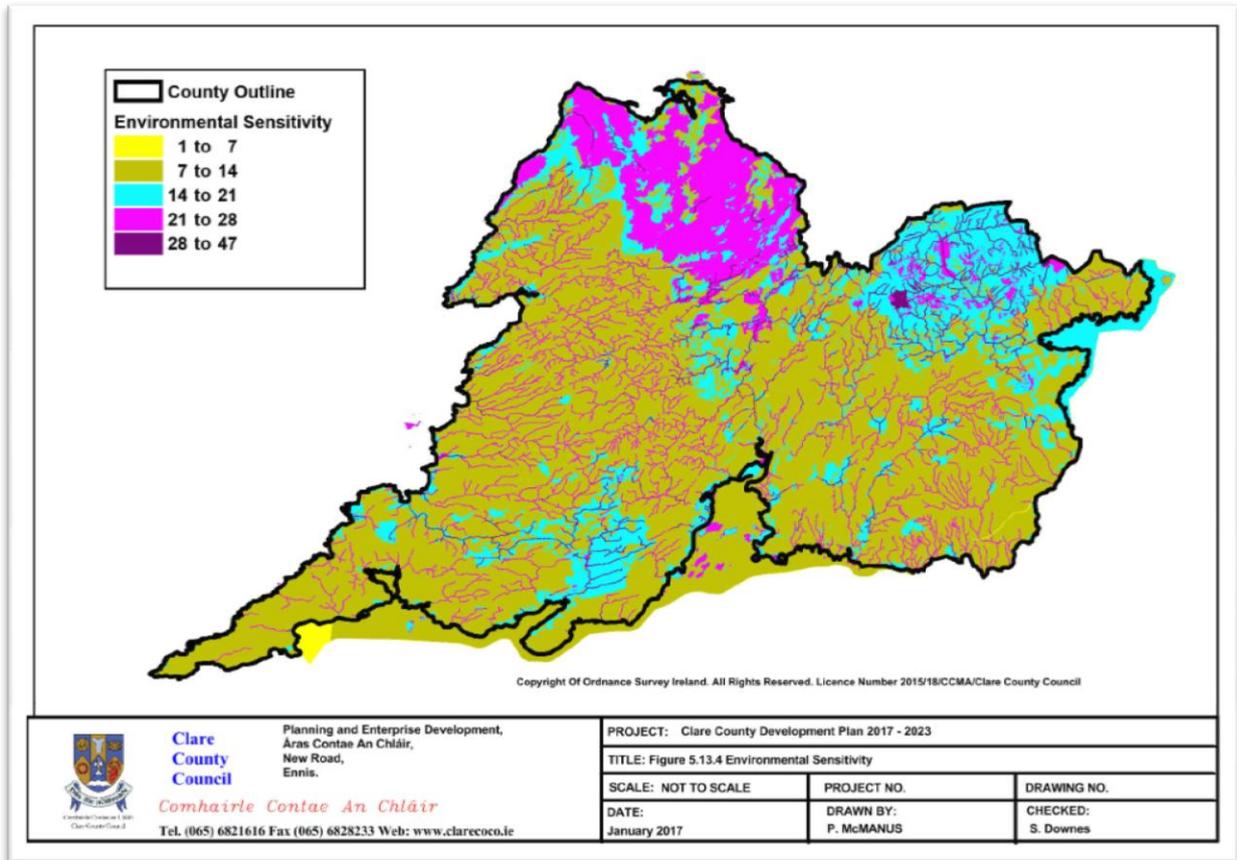


Figure 4.0 Environmental Sensitivities

The key datasets used to inform this sensitivity mapping were as follows;

- Landscape Character Areas
- Ecological Designations (SAC, SPAs, NHAs)
- Groundwater Vulnerability
- Source Protection Areas
- Flooding
- WFD River and Groundwater and TraC status
- Nature Reserves
- Wetland Habitats

Having set out the environmental baseline for the Plan area it highlighted the potential challenge for the plan makers in identifying the required amount of appropriate lands to meet future growth needs. This assisted and informed the development of alternatives as set out in **Chapter 7** and summarised in **Section 4.0** of this SEA Statement.

3.3 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Having established the environmental baseline under each of the environmental parameters, the key environmental issues were therefore identified. Taking account of these issues a series of

Strategic Environmental Objectives were compiled as a mechanism for ensuring environmental protection. The SEOs are applied as follows:

1. As measures against which the implementation of the Plan objectives and zoning objectives can be assessed for potential environmental impacts.
2. As measures for monitoring any actual environmental impacts as a consequence of implementing the Plan, by devising a series of targets and indicators for each of the SEOs.

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures against which the environmental effects of the implementation of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 can be tested. If complied with in full, SEOs would result in an environmentally neutral impact from the implementation of the Plan. The SEOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if unmitigated.

SEOs are distinct from the objectives of the Plan, although they will often overlap and are developed from International, National and Regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives. Such policies include those of various European Directives which have been transposed into Irish law, all of which are intended to be implemented at County level and integrated into any Plan for the County.

The overall aim of the SEA is to facilitate environmental protection and to allow the integration of environmental considerations into the development of the Clare CDP. To that end, the SEA process assesses the Clare CDP as it evolves in terms of its environmental impacts, positive, negative, neutral, cumulative and synergistic and also in terms of duration i.e. short, medium, long terms, temporary, permanent and secondary effects. The SEA process highlights how improvements can be integrated into the Clare CDP to increase its environmental performance and maintain environmental resources such as soils. The Strategic Environmental Objectives were therefore used to assess all the policies, objectives and landuse zonings within the CDP and were also used as the basis for the monitoring programme which is outlined in **Section 5.0** of the SEA Statement.

3.4 Integration of consultation responses into the final plan

3.4.1 Consultation on Pre-Draft Clare CDP

Clare County Council gave notice of its intention to review the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 on the 9th January 2015 in accordance with section 11 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. An Issues Booklet was prepared with submissions sought from the 9th January 2015 to the 9th of March 2015 together with the undertaking of a public consultation phase. The 'Issues Booklet' 'Have your say' was made available in all libraries and offices of Clare County Council and also on the Council website. The Issues Booklet set out what were considered the main development issues facing County Clare between 2017- 2023, while acknowledging this list was non exhaustive. The Issues booklet welcomed public debate on what the broad planning, development and environmental matters should be. Appendix A of the 'Chief Executives Report' to the Elected Members on submissions arising from the Pre-draft consultation stage (30th April 2015) lists the persons, bodies and public access points which were furnished with copies of the Issues booklet. In total, 51 formal submissions were made relating to the preparation of the Pre Draft plan, some of

which had an environmental aspect. Submissions were made from a variety of contributors including individuals, groups or companies representing particular industries, landowners and other state agencies.

As part of this process two public consultation events were held in Ennis to gather the views of local communities, organisations and other interest groups, which were advertised in the Clare Champion and the Clare People and on Clare FM radio station. In addition a number of workshops were held with the Elected Members where some of the following main issues were raised:

- Up-dating of the Wind Energy Strategy
- Motorway Service Stations
- Improvement of economic activity in Parnell Street and Cornmarket Street Ennis
- Employment in towns and villages
- ACA's
- Mineral extraction in particular along the Shannon Estuary
- Incentives for people to live in our towns and villages
- Prohibition of out of town retail centres
- Policies for retaining our 18-30 year olds
- Replacement of the Mid West Retail Strategy
- Settlement Location Policy
- Economic improvement within our small towns and villages
- Highlighting the strengths which County Clare has to offer e.g. Wild Atlantic Way, our natural Resources – Bio Energy and Biomass, West Clare Railway and potential for Greenway
- Provision of serviced sites in our town and villages
- Future of Moneypoint
- Extraction of water from Lough Derg
- Policies in relation to rural enterprise

The following table (**Table 5.0**) summarises the 51 submissions received and highlights issues of environmental relevance. Further information on these submissions may be found in the Chief Executives Report prepared by Clare County Council and issued to the elected members for their consideration on the 30th April 2015.

Table 5.0 Submissions received at Pre-Draft Stage of the review of the County Development Plan

Submissions to Pre Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 Issues Booklet 9/1/2015 to 9/3/2015			
Sub No.	Person or Organisation making Submission	Environmental Issue	To be addressed in SEA
1	NRA	Managing exchequer investment and statutory guidance, development & core strategy, development at national road junctions, national road schemes, road safety, traffic and transport assessment, service areas, signage, noise	Material Assets includes transport and will be described in Chapter 5 Baseline; transport policies and objectives will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
2	Dept of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht (DAU)	Built Heritage, Archaeological Heritage, Nature Conservation, Environmental Assessments required, Plan Content, Implications for nature conservation, data/information sources, key ecological/natural heritage features, NIR and appropriate assessment	Please see detailed response in Table 2.2
3	Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources on behalf of Geological Survey of Ireland	Geological Heritage, County Geological Sites in Clare, Promotion of Geological Heritage, Policies and Guidelines, The Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark, Glossary, Datasets	Please see detailed response in Table 2.2 The Geology and Soil section of Chapter 5 Baseline will provide information on this sector in the county. Policies and Objectives relating to same will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
4	Eugene Garrihy	Zoning of land at Russel Cultural Centre and Doolin Community Centre	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.
5	Martina O'Dea	Energy, Infrastructure & Communications, Fracking	Noted. Policies and objectives relating to Energy, Infrastructure, Communications and Fracking will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
6	Doolin Tourism	Meeting request to advise on submission they wish to submit re. traffic management plans, parking, roads, footpaths, walls, lighting, heritage, proposed public	Noted. Policies and objectives relating to traffic management plans, parking, roads, footpaths, walls, lighting, heritage, proposed public buildings will be assessed

		buildings	through the SEA and AA processes.
7	Sean McNamara & Tim Ryan	Zoning of land	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.
8	Michael O'Gorman	Vision, Energy, Infrastructure & Communications, Moneypoint, Rural Development, Housing & Population, Economy & Employment, Shannon Airport, Limerick University, Environment, Heritage & Public Realm	All policies and objectives relating to these various sectors will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
9	Dept of Education and Skills	Information to calculate educational infrastructural requirements	Noted
10	Kathleen Griffey	Zoning of land at Drumquin, Barefield	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.
11	Cunnane Stratton Reynolds on behalf of Zinc Properties	Attract inward investment to the Burlington Business & Recreation Park in Clonlara & zoning	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
12	Martin Carey	Taking housing estates in charge, wastewater treatment infrastructure, sewerage schemes	Material Assets includes water and waste water treatment infrastructure and will be described in Chapter 5 Baseline; policies and objectives relating to this form of infrastructure will also be assessed through the SEA and AA processes. In addition where such infrastructural requirements are insufficient to allow significant future development or expansion in relation to the zoning of lands this will be identified for each settlement in Vol. 3 of the CDP and documented through Annex B of this SEA ER.
13	Cllr. James Breen	Remove restriction whereby people living in towns and villages be allowed to build houses in the country	Noted
14	Cunnane Stratton Reynolds	Killaloe and Lough Derg, Wild Atlantic Way, Comparable Development Plan Policies	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.

15	Ennis Chamber	Support Ennis as a hub town and county town, water services, broadband, electricity, management of business parks, car parking, signage, traffic management, basic infrastructure	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B. All policies and objectives in relation to material assets and infrastructure will also be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
16	Eirgrid	Relevant transmission projects in County Clare and suggested text/policy wording for the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023	Noted. Energy policies, objectives and potentially zonings will be developed for the CDP and will be assessed through the SEA and AA process. Energy usage and renewable energy is also described in Climatic Factors and Material Assets within Chapter 5 Baseline Environment of the SEA ER. It will also outline the relevant transmission lines.
17	Cunnane Stratton Reynolds on behalf of Doonbeg Golf Resort	Economic & Employment, Tourism, Energy, Infrastructure & Communities, Development Control Standards	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
18	Cunnane Stratton Reynolds on behalf of Shannon Commercial Properties	Development potential portfolio of SCP, re-development of Shannon Free Zone, car parking standards, promotion of Information Age Park Ennis, tourism energy between Shannon Airport and Bunratty, key strategy sites owned by SCP, strengthening the Shannon - Limerick Gateway, Tourism	Noted. Shannon Airport is addressed in detail within Chapter 6 and Chapter 11, Bunratty is a key settlement which is looked at in detail in Vol. 3, the Shannon/Limerick Gateway and tourism are also addressed within the written statement. All policies/objectives and relevant zonings related to these sectors will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
19	Joe & Annette Connolly	Zoning of land at Knockyclovaun, Hill Road, Killaloe	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.
20	Construction Industry Federation	Zoning of land for housing, SIIFP, port related activities, energy supply, hotel and other tourist and leisure related activities, Northern Ring Road to the north of Limerick City, UL, wind and wave power	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B. The SIFP is included as a separate volume to the CDP (Vol. 7) and forms a key component which will be assessed through the cumulative and in-combination effects of the SEA.
21	Meelick GAA	Health and Safety and Traffic issues to Meelick GAA grounds	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and

			associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
22	South Regional Assembly	Housing and Population, Economy and Employment, Retail, Infrastructure, Communications and Energy, Quality of Life and Community, Environment, Heritage and Public Realm	All policies and objectives relating to specific sectors will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
23	Clare Comhairle na nÓg	Housing & Population, Economy & Employment, Shannon & Shannon Airport, Energy, Infrastructure & Communications, Quality of Life & Community, Tourism, Town & Villages, Environment, Heritage & Public Realm	All policies and objectives relating to specific sectors will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
24	HSE Health & Wellbeing Services in the Clare and Mid-West Areas	Health & Wellbeing	Noted. CDP 5.11 Physical Recreation and Active Living promotes Active Living as a means of enhancing health, wellbeing and social inclusion;
25	An Taisce	Irish Water, The Aarhus Convention, the recession and impacts of climate change	Irish Water has been extensively consulted with in relation to the development of the CDP and associated SEA ER. Details in relation to the Through the undertaking of public consultation and the provision of all data relevant to the CDP being made available on the Clare CoCo website the CDP process is in line with the pillars of the Aarhus Convention. Climate change has been addressed in Chapter 18 of the Vol. 1 of the CDP and the corresponding policies and objectives assessed through the SEA and AA process.
26	Wind Aware Clare	Implementation of planning rules, zoning for wind energy, connections from wind energy development to national grid	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to wind energy as identified through Vol. 5 (Wind Energy Strategy) and incorporated into Chapter 8 of Vol. 1 will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
27	Crusheen Tidy Town Committee	Zoning, retail strategies, support tidy towns committees, gateway access off the M18 to Dromore Wood, the Burren & Aughty regions, lakes, biodiversity & heritage trails, provide access	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.

		roads, ESB and telecom poles, walking and cycling loops, stand alone outdoor notice boards	
28	Kilkee Tourism Ltd	Housing, Economic Development, Tourism, Traffic Management	All policies and objectives relating to specific sectors will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
29	Brookfield Renewable Energy Group	Renewable Energy,	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to renewable energy as identified through Vol. 6 (Renewable Energy Strategy) and incorporated into Vol. 1 will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
30	Padraig Howard	Housing Provision, Kilmaley Village, Barefield Village	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific settlements and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
31	West Clare Renewable Energy Ltd & Atlantic Force Renewable Ltd	Renewable Energy,	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to renewable energy as identified through Vol. 6 (Renewable Energy Strategy) and incorporated into Vol. 1 will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
32	Theresa Carter	Energy	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to energy as identified in Chapter 8 of Vol. 1 will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
33	Irish Wind Energy Association	EU commitments and DCENR's RES-E target, benefits of wind energy development to Clare Co Co, promotion of renewable energy	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to wind energy as identified through Vol. 5 (Wind Energy Strategy) and incorporated into Chapter 8 of Vol. 1 will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
34	ESB	Generation, Transmission and Distribution, ESB Telecoms & Telecommunications Infrastructure, Electricity Generation, EU policy, sustainable power generation, government electric transport system, transport related planning policy	All policies and objectives relating to specific sectors such as infrastructure will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.

35	HRA Planning on behalf of Shannon Foynes Port Company	Implementation of SIFP	The SIFP was previously adopted as Variation No. 2 to the CDP. It now forms Vol. 7 of the 2017-2023 CDP and therefore all policies and objectives will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes primarily through the in-combination and cumulative effects.
36	McGill Planning Ltd on behalf of Applegreen Service Areas Ltd	Advocate a strategic forward planning approach to the identification of suitable locations for off-line MSAs	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
37	John and Helen Browne, Doolin Cave	Sewage scheme for Doolin, footpaths and public lighting between Fisherstreet and Roadford villages, coastal path from Doolin to Ballyreen with spurs to existing roads off the R479 between Doolin and Ballinlacken, continue the existing Cliffs of Moher walk to Doolin	Noted. Irish Water has been consulted with in relation to water and waste water infrastructure requirements in County Clare as a whole. Material Assets includes water and waste water treatment infrastructure and will be described in Chapter 5 Baseline; policies and objectives relating to this form of infrastructure will also be assessed through the SEA and AA processes. In addition where such infrastructural requirements are insufficient to allow significant future development or expansion in relation to the zoning of lands this will be identified for each settlement in Vol. 3 of the CDP and documented through Annex B of this SEA ER.
38	Lisdoonvarna Fáilte Limited	Development of the Lisdoonvarna Spa Wells facility as a significant visitor interpretation site on the Wild Atlantic Way and reinventing Lisdoonvarna as a true Victorian town	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific settlements and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
39	Younger Voices, Clare Youth Service	Ensure voice of young people is included in the Plan, walking/cycling lane along the Old West Clare Railway Line, entrepreneurship and innovation	Noted. Policies and objectives in relation to recreational routes/walkways etc will be assessed in detail within the SEA ER.
40	Bridget O'Brien	Zoning of land at Ballyduff, Barefield	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.
41	John Cleary	Settlement Boundary of Ballycannon North.	Noted. Zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA process

			with a detailed analysis provided in Annex B.
42	Ogonnelloe Community	Energy, Waste, Transport, Food, Biodiversity	All policies and objectives relating to specific sectors will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
43	University of Limerick	Development and expansion of University	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific settlements and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
44	GVA on behalf of The Educena Foundation	Former institutional lands and educational facilities in Co Clare	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
45	Doolin Tourism	Sewage problems, infrastructure, traffic management plans, parking, road realignment, footpaths, public lighting, extension to the Cliffs of Moher walk.	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
46	Rethink Tourism on behalf of Fáilte Ireland	Current market performance, strategic aims of Fáilte Ireland & opportunities for Co Clare, tourism policy in the plan	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to tourism and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
47	Irish Water	Water	Significant consultation was undertaken with Irish Water in relation to the capacity of water and waste water treatment infrastructure in Clare and incorporated into the SEA assessment.
48	Michael Duffy	Water Framework Directive, discharge from Kilfenora, to pursue Irish Water regarding the construction of a single wastewater treatment plant to serve Kilfenora	Significant consultation was undertaken with Irish Water in relation to the capacity of water and waste water treatment infrastructure in Clare and incorporated into the SEA assessment. Material Assets includes water and waste water treatment infrastructure and will be described in Chapter 5 Baseline; policies and objectives relating to this form of infrastructure will also be assessed through the SEA and AA processes. In addition where such infrastructural requirements are insufficient to allow significant future development or expansion in relation to the zoning of lands

			this will be identified for each settlement in Vol. 3 of the CDP and documented through Annex B of this SEA ER.
49	Jackie Whelan	Tourism in West Clare, Wind Energy, Shannon Estuary, Renewable Energy	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to renewable energy as identified through Vol. 6 (Renewable Energy Strategy), wind energy as identified through Vol. 5 (Wind Energy Strategy) and incorporated into Vol. 1 will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
50	Patrick Blake	Tourism, Wastewater disposal and treatment	Material Assets includes water and waste water treatment infrastructure and will be described in Chapter 5 Baseline; policies and objectives relating to this form of infrastructure will also be assessed through the SEA and AA processes. In addition where such infrastructural requirements are insufficient to allow significant future development or expansion in relation to the zoning of lands this will be identified for each settlement in Vol. 3 of the CDP and documented through Annex B of this SEA ER.
51	Cllr Johnny Flynn	CEDRA, towns & villages, rural communities, social enterprise sector, road networks, creative industries, food production, rural housing associations, hub of outdoor sports & recreational activity, West Clare Greenway, rural transport, historic buildings, broadband, cultural & music	Noted. All policies and objectives relating to specific sites and associated zonings will be assessed through the SEA and AA processes.
	<u>Late Submissions</u>		
1	Peter Murphy & Associates on behalf of Alex Russell, Architect	Closing date for submissions was 9/3/15 & Submission was received 30/5/15. Returned original submission & advised Mr Murphy by letter 10/6/15 that there would be a further opportunity to make a submission at Draft Stage. (copy on file)	N/A

2	Connellan & Associates, Cahercalla Woods, Cahercalla,	Submission received 23/6/15. Connellan & Assoc were advised by letter 16/7/15 that there would be a further opportunity to make a submission at draft stage & original submission was returned. (copy on file)	N/A
3	Gerard Malone, Crossbeg, Cross, Kilkrush	Submission received 20/8/15. . Mr Malone was advised by letter 21/8/15 that there would be a further opportunity to make a submission at draft stage & original submission was returned. (copy on file)	N/A

3.4.2 Consultation on Draft Clare CDP

The SEA Scoping exercise for the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 was undertaken in February 2015 in response to observations received from environmental bodies. Scoping helps to focus the SEA on important issues such as those relating to existing and potential environmental issues and problems, therefore minimising the waste of resources on unnecessary data collection. This scoping facilitated the selection of issues relevant to the environmental components which are specified under the SEA Directive and Regulations (as amended), namely; biodiversity, flora and fauna; population, human health and quality of life; soil and geology; water; air and climatic factors; material assets; cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage; and landscape.

In accordance with legislation, separate scoping notification was issued to the prescribed environmental authorities in February 2015, as well as to adjoining local authorities. Three submissions were received on the SEA and AA specifically as part of the consultation with the environmental authorities. A summary of the scoping submissions received, and how the issues are addressed in this SEA is provided in **Table 6.0** below.

Table 6.0 Key Environmental Issues raised in relation to the SEA and appropriate assessment at Scoping Stage

No	Submission	Environmental Issue	To be addressed in SEA
1	<p><i>Cian O'Mahony SEA Section, EPA, Inniscarra, County Cork</i></p>	<p>Two submissions were received from the EPA, the first related to the scoping issues paper and the second in relation to consultation on the Scoping Report.</p> <p><u><i>Issues raised in the response to consultation on the Scoping Issues Paper;</i></u></p> <p><i>Water Framework Directive</i> The Plan should protect and where possible, improve surface water, groundwater and coastal/estuarine resources and their associated habitats and species, including fisheries.</p> <p><i>Adequate and Appropriate Critical Infrastructure</i> The Plan should include commitments to provide adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure to meet the demands of potential population growth and increased demands on existing services, in collaboration with Irish Water.</p> <p><i>Shellfish</i> The Plan should protect designated Shellfish Growing Areas present within/adjacent to the Plan area including Ballyvaughan/Poul-na-clough Bay; West Shannon, Rinevella; West Shannon, Carrigaholt; West Shannon, Poul-nasherry Bay and West Shannon, Ballylongford.</p> <p><i>Freshwater Pearl Mussels</i> The River Cloon Catchment, within the Plan area supports freshwater pearl mussel which are a designated species. The Plan should promote the favourable conservation for the freshwater pearl mussels.</p> <p><i>Flood Risk Assessment and Management</i> The Plan should promote the integration of the relevant recommendations of the Shannon CFRAM and the Western CFRAM studies. The need for flood risk assessment to be taken into consideration for both existing and proposed new zoning/rezoning which may occur within the Plan area should also be considered.</p>	<p>Key issues identified in the submission will be described in Chapter 5 Environment baseline and assessed through policies, objectives and zonings as appropriate in the SEA ER.</p> <p>In addition the key elements listed in the EPA submission e.g. Freshwater Pearl Mussel will also be addressed in the relevant sections of the County Development Plan Written Statement and relevant objectives and policies established for their protection where necessary.</p> <p>A full Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been undertaken by JBA Consultants for the County Development Plan and the results integrated into the final zonings</p>

		<p><i>Biodiversity</i></p> <p>The Plan should commit to protecting designated National, European and International sites (including candidate/proposed sites) such as the River Shannon and River Fergus SPA, the Lower River Shannon SAC and the East Burren Complex SAC. Protection of areas of undesignated ecological importance including riparian zones / ecological corridors, stands of trees should also be included as a specific commitment. The provision of appropriate buffer zones between designated / undesignated sites and areas zoned for development should be considered and land use zoning should be supported / informed by available habitat info and maps.</p> <p><i>Other Plans</i></p> <p>The Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary 2013-2020 and associated SEA and AA should be taken into account when preparing the plan and undertaking SEA.</p> <p>In addition to comments on the Scoping Issues Paper, an SEA Information Pack was provided consisting of an SEA Guidance Document, Environmental Integration Checklist and an SEA Pack.</p> <p><u><i>Issues raised in the response to consultation on the SEA Scoping Report in addition to those raised in the response to the issues paper;</i></u></p> <p>Recent SEA Related Guidance</p> <p>The Agency has recently published guidance on ‘<i>Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland</i>’ which is also available to download.</p> <p>SEA WebGIS Search and Reporting Tool</p> <p>The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has launched a new application for the purposes of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) for public authorities. This is a GIS based web application that will allow users to explore, interrogate and produce</p>	<p>within each settlement ensuring only suitable or compatible uses are identified.</p> <p>Within Chapter 14 of the Written Statement protection objectives and policies have been incorporated to provide sufficient protection to these designated National, European and International Sites.</p> <p>The SIFP forms a separate volume of the County Development Plan (Volume 7) and has been fully incorporated into the assessment.</p> <p>The SEA Guidance document and integration checklist in particular will help inform the CDP; both documents will be used throughout the SEA process.</p> <p>Climate Change and moving towards a low carbon county has been addressed in Chapter 18 of the Written Statement including the provision of objectives and policies.</p>
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		<p>an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in specific geographic areas. These reports are indicative and will provide an overview of key aspects of the environment within a specific plan area. This may be used to inform the SEA screening and scoping stages for Plans and Programmes with particular reference in the first instance to the land use sector, though it is also applicable to other sector plans. It may be accessed via www.edenireland.ie</p>	
2	<p>Yvonne Nolan Development Applications Unit Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (not the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs)</p>	<p>Two submissions were received from the Development Applications Unit of the Department of Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the consultation on the SEA Scoping (06/03/2015, 20/03/2015 (which included a copy of the DAU submission to Variation No. 2 of the CDP)) in addition a further submission was received in response to the NIR Scoping Report on the 23/07/2015 which was taken into consideration in the NIR)</p> <p>Underwater Archaeological Heritage County Clare is rich in both terrestrial and underwater archaeological heritage and there should be clear reference made to, consideration of and allowance for these aspects of Clare’s cultural heritage, particularly when the zoning of land, land use in general or specific programmes of works such as flood relief schemes are being considered.</p> <p>Any areas proposed or targeted for development should be subject to the proper appropriate assessment for cultural heritage, whether at SEA/EIS or Planning stage and this shall include a detailed desktop study looking at all the relevant sources both for terrestrial and underwater heritage and also incorporate field survey, intertidal/riverine/lake survey and underwater/diver survey where appropriate. A suitably qualified archaeologist(s) shall be engaged to carry out the surveys and it shall be noted that foreshore survey or any survey carried out for underwater archaeological purposes requires licensing by this Department.</p>	<p>Features of Cultural heritage played a key role in the assessment of zoning within each of the settlements as outlined in Appendix A of the SEA ER.</p> <p>Key protective policies and objectives were included within Chapter 15 of Volume 1 of the Written Statement.</p> <p>In addition in relation to foreshore issues and issues of importance within the Shannon and Fergus Estuaries in terms of</p>

		<p>Any AA shall include detailed impact statements that look at all proposed developments with regard to known or potential impacts, including visual impacts, on recorded or previously unrecorded/potential archaeology, both terrestrial and underwater. This would include any Strategic Development Locations, Infrastructural programmes of works, large scale developments, leisure projects, etc.</p> <p>Built Heritage Further to the meeting held with Clare County Council on 12th December 2014, it was agreed that consideration needed to be given to re-structuring the development plan chapter on built heritage. The Department would propose a further meeting with council officials to progress this matter.</p> <p>The Department's previous recommendations, as appended below and as issued in July 2014 for <i>Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 to incorporate the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) for the Shannon Estuary 2013-2020</i> shall be considered, where relevant and applied to any new proposed Clare Development Plan going forward.</p> <p><i>Please note the following contains a synopsis of the key points raised in the submission which are particularly relevant to the SEA, other points raised were addressed through the NIR and the Plan itself.</i></p> <p>Nature Conservation Relevant legislation and guidance should be followed in relation to these assessments. In this regard, Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended, sets out the terminology, stages and tests of the appropriate assessment process. It should be noted that, following screening, the assessment process is an 'appropriate assessment', and the report or statement of the likely significant effects (in the case of a plan) is an NIR2. The references to Stage I and Stage II assessments should be omitted in favour of the relevant terminology from this legislation.</p> <p>While existing guidance on appropriate assessment should be followed in general terms, there should be due regard to changes in the interpretation and application of directives and legislation arising from case law of the Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU), and of the Irish courts, particularly in</p>	<p>archaeology and cultural heritage additional protection and conservation measures were included within Chapters 11, 12 & 14.</p> <p>In response to this recommendation greater emphasis was placed on vernacular heritage and a restructuring of the information in relation to industrial heritage.</p> <p>The terminology used within the SEA, AA and all volumes of the CDP were amended to reflect Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act.</p> <p>This was noted and adhered to throughout the development of the CDP.</p>
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		<p>the case of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Plan content <i>Environment, heritage & public realm</i></p> <p>As outlined below, the plan area contains and extends close to a large number of nature conservation sites, including legally protected European sites and NHAs, as well as a national park and wildfowl sanctuaries. Site protection derives primarily from planning legislation and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, in the case of European sites, and from planning legislation and the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, in the case of NHAs.</p> <p>The plan area also supports other sites, habitats and species that form ecological corridors, networks and stepping stones. Of the species occurring in the plan area, some are strictly legally protected as Annex IV species under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011, while other species are protected under the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000.</p> <p>The Department recommends that the natural heritage section of the plan should include clear and specific reference to European sites, NHAs, other statutory and non-statutory ecological sites, protected species, and ecological corridors and stepping stones in separate sections or sub-sections. Information should be presented to reflect the hierarchy of international to national and local significance of features. The legal obligations with respect to their conservation, protection and, in some cases, restoration, should also be reflected in the text of the plan. In addition, nature conservation sites should be given their formal site names and site codes, where applicable, and should be mapped in the plan.</p> <p>A clear distinction needs to be made in the plan between nature conservation sites, which are legally protected, and facilities and areas for recreation and amenity, whether active or passive, and including greenways, walkways, parks and other green areas. This distinction should also be clear in relation to green infrastructure, and in relation to areas for climate change adaptation or flood risk management. While such integrated uses may be compatible with the conservation of sites, and with the conservation objectives of European sites in particular, this may not always be the case. All such proposals will require assessment at plan level. If uses or zonings of European sites are not clearly constrained by detailed</p>	<p>This was achieved through the inclusion of section 14.3.6 <i>Other Sites for Environmental and Ecological Protection</i> within volume 1 of the written statement together with objectives 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7 & 14.8. Nature conservation sites were given their former site names and were mapped in Volumes 2 & 10.</p> <p>This distinction has been clearly made through the zoning maps for each settlement contained in volume 3 together with the surrounding text and the text of the written statement.</p> <p>All zonings relating to walkways, cycleways</p>
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	<p>and specific plan-level mitigation, it would be difficult to exclude the possibility that adverse effects could result. An example of this would be the indication of a cycleway or greenway route in or adjacent to a European site (whether in a map or in text); such a proposal could result in the loss, fragmentation or deterioration of natural habitats or the habitats of species within the site, or could lead to new or additional human use and associated disturbance which could cause displacement and a reduction in the area of habitat and resources available to a species, or a barrier to its movement.</p> <p><i>Nature conservation objectives</i></p> <p>Section 10(c) and 10(ca) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended, together with the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001-2012, stipulate that a plan must contain, among other things, objectives for the conservation and protection of the environment including, in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Natural heritage; 2. Conservation and protection of European sites and NHAs; 3. Encouragement of the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. <i>Note that Article 10 of the Habitats Directive defines the features as those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods) are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</i> <p>Scope of SEA</p> <p>The Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna section of the SEA should be undertaken by or in conjunction with a suitably qualified ecologist(s), and other specialists as necessary, and in conjunction with the NIR to ensure full integration of biodiversity issues and concerns, particularly in relation to nature conservation sites, protected species, and ecological corridors and stepping stones – see above. The EPA’s <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i> best practice guidance is of particular relevance in this regard.</p>	<p>or greenways have been assessed in detail and the zonings altered and removed in accordance with the findings of the SEA and AA.</p> <p><i>Please see Table 1 of the NIR for further details in relation to the incorporation of comments received from the DAHG.</i></p> <p>Specific nature conservation objectives have been included within Chapter 14 of the written statement through objectives 14.2 & 14.3</p> <p>This section of the SEA was undertaken in consultation with the ecologists Scott Cawley whom were responsible for undertaking the AA of the CDP. The EPA’s <i>Integrated</i></p>
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		<p>The Environmental Report is required to contain information on the environmental characteristics of the areas likely to be affected significantly by the plan. For biodiversity, flora and fauna, the scope of the SEA should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All nature conservation sites; • Other ecological sites, including local biodiversity areas; • Natural and semi-natural habitats, and the habitats of protected species, including information on habitats in the plan area derived from surveys (including NPWS-held datasets on habitats/habitat complexes and conservation objective supporting data, and the Council’s habitat surveys and inventories within the plan area), and habitat indicator mapping (available from Teagasc/EPA); • Species of wild flora and fauna, including rare and protected species and their habitats (including data on rare and protected species from NPWS, the National Biodiversity Data Centre, BirdWatch Ireland, etc.); • All ‘<i>Margaritifera</i> Sensitive Areas’ – see above; • All watercourses, surface water bodies and associated wetlands, including floodplains and flood risk areas; • Other sites of high biodiversity value or ecological importance; • Ecological networks and corridors, and stepping stones; • Ecological mitigation/compensation measures or sites arising from existing projects, e.g. habitat recreation areas or underpasses from road projects. <p>In general, no areas should be identified or targeted for development (e.g. through land use zoning, re-zoning or other strategies) without basic information on the ecological sensitivities of the lands in question, including a habitat map, i.e. the precautionary principle should apply and no areas should be committed to development in the absence of basic information on ecological constraints.</p>	<p><i>Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i> best practice guidance was also utilized together with other relevant guidance.</p> <p>Best available information and data held by Clare County Council and/or obtained through the data collection exercise was utilized to inform the SEA assessment of the land use zonings and based on the precautionary principle proposed recommended alterations and/or</p>
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		<p>The Environmental Report is required to contain environmental protection objectives. For biodiversity, flora and fauna, these should integrate with the objectives and obligations of other directives such as the Habitats Directive, the Birds Directive, the Water Framework Directive and the Floods Directive, and with the Wildlife Acts, 1976-2000, the National Biodiversity Plan and the aims and objectives of the city's own Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>Strategic environmental objectives should be included for all nature conservation sites (not just European sites), protected species, and ecological corridors and stepping stones as outlined above.</p>	<p>exclusions to zonings in order to avoid significant negative effects.</p> <p>Additional environmental protection objectives were included in Chapter 14</p>
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In accordance with the requirements of Section 11 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) the Chief Executive prepared a report on the outcome of the statutory consultation process which included his opinion on the issues raised in the submissions received and his recommendations on the policies to be included in the development plan. The Chief Executive's Report was submitted to the Elected Members on 30th April 2015 for their consideration. This report listed the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations and summarised the issues raised in both the submissions and during the consultation process. The Chief Executive's Report also set out his recommendations on the policies to be included in the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

After considering the Chief Executive's Report, the Elected Members issued directions to the Chief Executive with regard to the preparation of the development plan. This process continued until the 9th July 2015 pursuant to Section 11(4)(e) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended).

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 was prepared having regard to the directions of the Elected Members. Pursuant to the requirements of Section 12(2) of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) the draft development plan, together with the Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Report, was made

Notice was given on the 8th of December 2015 pursuant to Part II, Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) that Clare Council Council had prepared a Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 for the functional area of the Council. The Draft Plan consisted of 10 volumes which were placed on public display from the 8th of December 2015 to the 29th of February 2016.

Pursuant to Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) the planning authority also undertook the preparation of a Natura Impact Report. In conjunction and pursuant to Article 13E of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations S.I.436) 2004-

2011 the planning authority also prepared an SEA Environmental Report of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan.

A copy of Clare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 with associated Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report were available for inspection from **8th December, 2015 to 29th February, 2016** (excluding bank holidays) at the following locations:

- Áras Contae an Chláir, New Road, Ennis;
- De Valera Library, Ennis and Local Study Centre, Harmony Row, Ennis;
- All public libraries;
- All Municipal District Offices.

It was also available to download through the following link;

- [Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023](#)

Public consultation events took place throughout the County at the following venues, dates and times.

- Community Centre, Kilrush
Tuesday 19th January 2016
Time: 4 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
- Resource Centre, Miltown Malbay
Wednesday 20th January 2016
Time: 4 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
- Library, Scarrif
Tuesday 26th January 2016
Time: 4 - 8.00 p.m.
- Hylands Hotel, Ballyvaughan
Wednesday 27th January 2016
Time: 4 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
- Library, Sixmilebridge
Thursday 28th January 2016
Time: 4 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.
- Clare County Council HQ, Ennis
Monday 1st February 2016
Time: 4 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Following this period of public consultation a Chief Executives Report (19th May 2016) was prepared summarising this step in the process. This Chief Executive's Report was divided into 2 separate parts:

Part I – related to submissions or observations received on the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023, the associated SEA Environmental Report, Natura Impact Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Part II –related to submissions received in relation to the proposed Record of Protected Structures

Part I of the overall Chief Executive’s Report comprised a summary of each of the 887 submissions received (inclusive of 31 in relation to the Record of Protected Structures and 375 in relation to Public Rights of Way). The report provides a response in relation to the issues raised, taking account of any directions from the Elected Members arising from the Chief Executive’s Report to the Members at ‘pre-draft’ public consultation stage, the proper planning and sustainable development of the area, the statutory obligations of any planning authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. Under Section 12(5) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), following receipt of this report, the Members are required to consider the Draft Development Plan, Environmental Reports, and the Chief Executives Report. After consideration of all the documents, the Members, by resolution, materially amended the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 by resolution at the 25th of July 2016 Council Meeting, in accordance with the provisions of Section 12(6) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). These proposed amendments were required to have regard to and be informed by the SEA and appropriate assessment processes. These proposed amendments, including the “Addendum to the Environmental Assessments and Report (Volume 10 (a) Natura Impact Report & 10 (b) Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report)” went on public display from the 13th of September to the 12th of October 2016. The process commenced with a notice in the local newspapers and the subsequent commencement of 4 weeks public consultation having regard to the provisions of Section 12(7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the Planning and Development SEA Regulations together with the Habitats Directive.

A Chief Executives Report on submissions received in relation to the proposed amendments together with the associated Addendum to the Environmental Assessment was submitted to the Elected Members on the 8th on November 2016 for their consideration. On the 19th of December 2016 following a series of workshops and meetings the Elected Members resolved to adopt the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023. The Plan will therefore come into effect on the 25th of January 2017, 4 weeks after its adoption.

3.5 Integration of SEA into the plan

The SEA process involves a number of very defined stages of assessment as dictated by the SEA Directive and as already discussed in **Section 1.0** of the SEA Statement. **Table 7.0** below outlines the stages of the SEA and how they informed the plan preparation.

Table 7.0 Stages of SEA and how they informed the plan preparation

SEA Stage	Comment
Screening	Screening of the plan was not required as SEA is mandatory for all County Development Plans
Scoping	Scoping report prepared in response to submissions received on pre draft plan; scoping meetings were held with the relevant statutory

SEA Stage	Comment
	authorities together with the forward planning team. Internal consultations were also undertaken with the roads and water services section of both Clare County Council and Irish Water.
SEA Environmental Report	Accompanied the draft plan and provided evidence based for environmental assessment of draft policies, objectives and zonings in the Clare CDP. Prepared in tandem with the AA to ensure full integration of AA considerations.
Amendments to the Clare CDP	All submissions made on the draft plan and subsequent amendments to same were reviewed and assessed for SEA and AA impacts. SEA and AA informed the Manager’s Report and Recommendations.
Making of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and final SEA ER and NIR	Review of final amendments for impacts on the environmental. Review of final amendments for impacts on the environmental. Finalising SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report (NIR) Preparation of SEA Statement (this document)
Monitoring of Clare CDP 2017-2023	SEA Monitoring provides for monitoring of significant effects on the environment over the plan lifetime.

3.6 Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the CCDP 2017-2023

3.6.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section of the Environmental report is to predict and evaluate as far as possible the environmental effects of this plan for County Clare. This section of the SEA Statement is a summary of the detailed assessment of the objectives, land-use zonings and volumes contained within the Clare County Development Plan, which have identified where, if any, effects on the environment may occur. These may be positive or negative effects, direct, indirect, synergistic, cumulative and/or in-combination effects.

Three elements of assessment were undertaken which included:

1. An assessment of the objectives of the Plan (See **Appendix A of the SEA ER**);
2. An assessment of the land-use zonings and site specific development objectives (See **Appendix B of the SEA ER**);
3. An assessment of cumulative and in-combination effects (See **Appendix C Tables 8.2 – 8.5 of the SEA ER**).

The assessment process has been undertaken using matrix assessments which reflect ratings in relation to potential significant effects on the environment as a result of implementation. The matrix assessment ratings used are as follows:

(+)	reflects a potential positive effect
(-)	reflects a potential negative effect
(+/-)	reflects that positive and negative effects are likely or that in the absence of further detail the effect is unclear
(0)	reflects a neutral or uncertain effect

Where there is a combination of these symbols (0/+ or 0/-) this indicates that any effect maybe neutral or positive, or neutral or negative depending on how the objective is delivered.

Where negative effects are identified mitigation measures are recommended to either include new objectives, or to amend or include additional text within the Plan objectives and/or zoning objectives.

3.6.2 Assessment of Plan Objectives

By assessing the Plan objectives in Volume 1 of the Clare County Development Plan against the environmental objectives it identified where there were any incompatibilities and/or conflicts between them and where environmental considerations needed to be strengthened. Where considered necessary the assessment resulted in recommended mitigation for some objectives. The assessment matrix of all of the objectives together with the recommended mitigation is included in **Appendix A** of the **SEA ER**.

Each Chapter of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 list the objectives relating to the particular topic of that Chapter as outlined below;

Chapter 1	Introduction and Vision	Chapter 12	Marine and Coastal Zone Management
Chapter 2	Core Strategy	Chapter 13	Landscape
Chapter 3	Settlement Strategy	Chapter 14	Biodiversity, Natural Heritage and Green Infrastructure
Chapter 4	Housing	Chapter 15	Architectural, Archaeological and Cultural Heritage
Chapter 5	Community Development and Social Infrastructure	Chapter 16	Towns and Villages
Chapter 6	Economic Development and Enterprise	Chapter 17	Design and the Built Environment
Chapter 7	Retail	Chapter 18	Climate Change, Flooding and Low Carbon Strategy
Chapter 8	Physical Infrastructure	Chapter 19	Land Use and Zoning
Chapter 9	Tourism	Chapter 20	Implementation and Monitoring
Chapter 10	Rural Development & Natural Resources		
Chapter 11	Shannon Estuary		

As outlined in **Appendix A** of the SEA Environmental Report, fifty five objectives contained recommendations arising from the one or other of the SEA stages.

The changes are documented as follows in **Appendix A** of the SEA Environmental Report and are not repeated here:

Green Text = Pre Draft AA Recommendation

Red Text = Pre Draft SEA Recommendation

Purple Text = Added at Draft Stage

Blue Text = Pre Draft Decision

Each Chapter’s objectives were evaluated against the criteria in **Table 8.0**. The criterion considers whether or not the objectives were likely to improve conflict or have a neutral interaction with the provisions of the Plan.

Table 8.0 Criteria for Appraising the Effect of the Plan Objectives on the SEOs

Parameter	Compatibility Criteria			
Biodiversity	+	Reflects a potential positive effect	-	Reflects a potential negative effect
Population (incl. Human Health and Quality of Life)				
Soil & Geology	0	Reflects a neutral or uncertain effect	+/-	Reflects that positive and negative effects are likely or that in the absence of further detail the effects is unclear
Water				
Air Quality and Climatic Factors				
Material Assets				
Waste				
Water Supply				
Waste Supply				
Renewable Energy				
Cultural Heritage				
Landscape				

In total 55 recommendations were made in relation to the County Development Plan objectives. Of this, 39 of these recommendations were taken on board within the Plan. In addition following recommendation a further 2 new objectives were added based on the findings of the SEA. The following section (**Table 9.0**) contains a record of the 16 recommendations which were not incorporated into the final plan.

Table 9.0 SEA Recommendations not incorporated into CCDP

Chapter 2 Overall Core Strategy	Commentary/ Recommendation	Inserted into the County Development Plan
<p>CDP 3.1 Ennis</p> <p>It is an objective of the Development Plan:</p> <p>a) To ensure that Ennis, as the county town and as a designated “Hub” in the NSS, is a driver of county and regional prosperity by harnessing its strategic location and access on the Atlantic Corridor; it’s strong urban structure; existing retail, service and accommodation base and other competitive advantages.</p> <p>b) To achieve a vibrant and culturally-rich Ennis area with a revitalised town centre and strong economic growth balanced with enhanced social inclusion, sustainable neighbourhoods and a high level of environmental quality to ensure an excellent quality of life for all;</p> <p>c) To prepare a local area plan for the Ennis Town and Environs area during the lifetime of this development plan.</p>	<p>Suggest wording addition</p> <p>c) To prepare a local area plan for the Ennis and Environs area during the lifetime of this development plan incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>
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<p>CDP 3.2 Shannon</p> <p>It is an objective of the Development Plan:</p> <p>a) To ensure that Shannon, as a linked gateway with Limerick in the NSS, is a driver of county and regional prosperity by harnessing its strategic location and access on the Atlantic Corridor, in addition to it's employment base, international airport and other competitive advantages;</p> <p>b) To prepare a new Local Area Plan for Shannon Town and its Environs during the lifetime of this development plan.</p>	<p>Suggest wording addition</p> <p>b) To prepare a new Local Area Plan for Shannon Town and its Environs during the lifetime of this development plan incorporating a Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>
<p>CDP 3.11 New Single Houses in the Countryside within the 'Areas of Special Control'</p> <p>It is an objective of the Development Plan:</p> <p>Within the parts of the countryside within the 'Areas of Special Control' i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas Under Strong Urban Pressure (See chapter 17) • Heritage Landscapes (See Chapter 13) • Sites accessed from Scenic Routes (See Chapter 13 and Appendix 5) <p>To permit a new single house for the permanent occupation of an applicant who falls within either of the Categories A or B or C below and meets the necessary criteria.</p> <p>b) To ensure compliance with all relevant legislation as outlined in Objective CDP2.1 and regard to the County Clare House Design Guide in particular with</p>	<p>Suggested additional wording</p> <p>To permit a new single house for the permanent occupation of an applicant who falls within either of the Categories A or B or C below and meets the necessary criteria in compliance with CDP Objectives 14.2, 14.3 & 14.4.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>

<p>respect to siting and boundary treatment.</p> <p><i>Note: Where the proposed site is accessed from a National route or certain Regional routes, the proposal must in addition to compliance with this objective, also be subject to compliance with objectives CDP8.3 and 8.4 as set out in Chapter 8.</i></p> <p>All development proposals must be in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive</p>		
<p>CDP 3.12 New single Houses in the Countryside outside the ‘Areas of Special Control’</p> <p>It is an objective of the Development Plan: Within the parts of the countryside outside of the ‘Areas of Special Control’ i.e.:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outside of the Areas under Strong Urban Pressure • Outside of Heritage Landscapes • Not accessed from a Scenic Route <p>To permit an application for a single house by persons who seek a dwelling as their principle private residence and will therefore contribute to the social and economic well being of the area.</p> <p><i>Note: Where the proposed site is accessed from a National route or certain Regional routes the proposal must in addition to compliance with this objective, also be subject to objectives CDP 8.3 and CDP 8.4 as set out in Chapter 8.</i></p> <p><i>All development proposals must be in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive</i></p>	<p>Suggested additional wording</p> <p>To permit an application for a single house by persons who seek a dwelling as their principle private residence and will therefore contribute to the social and economic well being of the area and meets the necessary criteria in compliance with CDP Objective 14.2, 14.3 & 14.4.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>
<p>CDP4.3 Living in our Towns and Villages</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan:</p>	<p>Suggested additional wording</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>

<p>a) To encourage the reuse of upper floors above commercial premises for residential accommodation;</p> <p>b) To promote the retention of town centre residential units and to discourage their subdivision into smaller units or conversion into non-residential uses;</p> <p>c) To encourage the development of new residential accommodation in or adjoining town centres and to ensure that such developments provide a range of accommodation types and tenures and a high level of residential amenity;</p> <p>d) To support the procurement of vacant town centre residential property by Clare County Council to ensure its continued use for residential purposes into the future.</p>	<p>a) To encourage the reuse of upper floors above commercial premises for residential accommodation where the commercial use is compatible with residential living.</p>	
<p>CDP5.12 Off-Road Walking and Cycling</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan:</p> <p>a) To support the maintenance of existing off-road walking and cycling trails and support the development of new trails in County Clare;</p> <p>b) To support and facilitate the development of the West Clare Railway Greenway and necessary supporting infrastructure;</p> <p>c) To promote the development of regional-scale off-road cycling trails and associated facilities in the Cratloe Woods area;</p> <p>d) To ensure any proposed development for off-road walking and cycling takes into consideration the safe and adequate provision of access, set-down and parking areas;</p> <p>e) To complete heritage audits and improve heritage</p>	<p>Suggested additional text</p> <p>g) To ensure the development of any off-road walking and cycling routes do not negatively impact on any European or Nationally protected sites through the undertaking of a Strategic Environmental Assessment and a Appropriate Assessment if deemed necessary.</p> <p>h) To ensure all cycle routes adhere to the principles contained within the national policy document <i>Smarter Travel A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020</i>, and the <i>National Cycle Policy Framework</i> document or any updated/amended guidance document.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>

<p>interpretation along walking and cycling routes in the county;</p> <p>f) To encourage and support the development of ancillary businesses such as bike hire and repair, outdoor clothing sales, drying rooms for walkers, surfers etc. and businesses offering walking and cycling tours subject to normal planning considerations;</p> <p>g) To ensure that the development of any off-road walking and cycling routes do not negatively impact on any European or Nationally protected sites</p> <p>h) To ensure all cycle routes adhere to the principles contained within the national policy document 'Smarter Travel A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020', and 'The National Cycle Policy Framework' or any updated/amended guidance document.</p>		
<p>CDP5.17 Primary and Secondary Education</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan:</p> <p>(a) To facilitate the provision of schools by zoning suitable lands in settlement plans and local area plans capable of meeting the demands of the projected populations;</p> <p>b) To ensure that land developed for educational purposes is located as close as possible to the area experiencing population growth that it is intended to serve;</p> <p>c) To assess and ensure the adequacy of school capacity when dealing with planning applications for large residential developments;</p> <p>d) To require the provision of cycle lanes, pedestrian</p>	<p>Suggested additional text</p> <p>c) To require the provision of cycle lanes, pedestrian foot paths and crossings are located in conjunction with primary and secondary facilities</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>

<p>footpaths and crossings serving primary and secondary school facilities.</p>		
<p>CDP6.9 Shannon Estuary</p> <p>It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>To proactively implement the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary including the mitigation measures identified in Volume 2 Appendices of the plan.</p>	<p>Suggested wording</p> <p>To proactively implement the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary including the mitigation measures identified in Volume 2 Appendices of the Plan.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>
<p>CDP6.15 Re-Use of Brownfield Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan:</p> <p>To favourably consider the redevelopment of brownfield sites and disused agricultural or commercial buildings in urban and rural areas for industrial enterprise or cultural development subject to normal planning considerations, ensuring that all such developments will not adversely affect protected species.</p>	<p>Suggested wording</p> <p>To favourably consider the redevelopment of brownfield sites and disused agricultural or commercial buildings in urban and rural areas for industrial and enterprise development subject to normal planning considerations, ensuring that all such developments will not adversely affect protected habitats and species.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>
<p>CDP7.3 Ennis Town Centre and Retail Offer</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan:</p> <p>a) To prepare a detailed town centre development and improvement strategy for Ennis including town centre public realm enhancements, as part of a detailed Local Area Plan for the town;</p> <p>b) To support the improvement of the suitability of Ennis town centre retail accommodation for modern retailers, whilst preserving the town's attractive historic character;</p>	<p>Suggested additional criteria</p> <p>f) To promote the sustainable reuse vacant retail spaces in the town prior to the development of new sites.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>

<p>c) To facilitate the need for additional non-bulky comparison goods floorspace within the town centre, ensuring it is integrated into the existing shopping facilities;</p> <p>d) To harness the retail development potential of any appropriate opportunity/brownfield sites within or adjacent to the town centre;</p> <p>e) To maintain and expand the attractive network of independent fashion boutiques and other speciality shops in the town centre, which combined with the character of the town and its public spaces, creates a niche shopping experience for residents and tourists.</p>		
<p>CDP7.4 Neighbourhood Centres in Ennis</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan: To support the development of neighbourhood centres in the areas identified in Section 7.4.1 of this Plan, to provide a mix of uses and services suited to the scale of the local neighbourhood.</p>	<p>Suggested wording</p> <p>Existing, old or disused centres should be prioritised for re-development opportunities prior to the development of new neighbourhood centres.</p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>
<p>CDP 8.3 Service and Rest Areas</p> <p>To collaborate with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to secure the development of an on-line Type 1 Service Area on the M18 between Junction 7 and Junction 12 during the lifetime of this development plan, having regard to the <i>NRA Service Area Policy 2014</i> and <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012</i>.</p>	<p>Suggested additional wording</p> <p>It is an objective of Clare County Council: To collaborate with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to identify a suitable site and secure the development of an on-line Type 1 Service Area on the M18 during the lifetime of this development plan, having regard to the <i>NRA Service Area Policy 2014</i> and <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads – Guidelines for Planning</i></p>	<p>Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft</p>

	<i>Authorities 2012 and in full compliance with the requirements of the SEA and Habitats Directives.</i>	
<p>CDP 10.3 Agri-Food Sector</p> <p>It is an objective of the development plan:</p> <p>a) To facilitate proposals for agricultural and horticultural development;</p> <p>b) To encourage the linking of agricultural production with added value enterprise and the diversification of rural enterprises;</p> <p>c) To support the development of rural/farmers markets and the development of food-based tourism activities;</p> <p>d) To support the on-going growth and development of the artisan food sector in the county.</p>	<p>Suggested wording addition</p> <p>a) To facilitate proposals for agricultural and horticultural development in compliance with relevant environmental legislation.</p>	Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft
<p>CDP 16.7 Lands identified for Regeneration</p> <p>It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To identify areas for development and renewal that are in need of regeneration, in order to prevent:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land; • Urban blight and decay; • Anti-social behaviour; or • A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. <p>b) To implement, where appropriate, the provisions of</p>	<p>Suggested additional wording</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land; • The encroachment from invasive alien species in particular Japanese knotweed which can lead to structural damage • Urban blight and decay; • Anti-social behaviour; or • A shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. 	Recommendation was not incorporated into Pre-Draft

the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015		
<p>CDP 16.8 Derelict Sites</p> <p>It is an objective of Clare County Council:</p> <p>a) To make use of the Derelict Sites Act 1990 where appropriate to require owners of derelict property to carry out suitable improvements, and to implement the provisions of the Act to prevent or remove injury to amenity arising from derelict sites;</p> <p>b) To prepare improvement plans and design briefs for larger derelict areas;</p> <p>c) To seek to acquire properties which are appropriate to the Council’s Capital Programme in order to carry out improvements to derelict sites and revitalise the surrounding areas. Any proposed development of derelict sites will not adversely affect habitats or species protected by the Habitats Directive or other sites or habitats of national, regional or local importance.</p>	<p>Suggested additional wording</p> <p>b) To prepare improvement plans and design briefs for larger derelict areas incorporating an Invasive alien species management plan if deemed necessary.</p> <p>Any proposed development of derelict sites will not adversely affect habitats or species protected by the Habitats Directive or other sites or habitats of national, regional or local importance.</p>	<p>SEA recommendation was not incorporated, AA recommendation was incorporated.</p>

3.6.3 Assessment of Settlement Zonings

In considering land appropriate for development for particular uses, SEA has contributed to identifying where sites are unsuitable; those that required amendment in terms of area, nature or extent; those suitable with specific requirements set out in site development objectives; and those which are generally acceptable.

Where the process has identified sites where the impact is uncertain due to location specific issues and where a small number of areas have been identified to have a potential negative effect on the environment, mitigation measures are proposed which are designed to limit or eliminate identified impacts. In addition, monitoring the implementation of the Plan, as discussed in **Chapter 10 of the ER and Section 5.0 of the SEA Statement**, will ensure that if there is any impact it will be identified and appropriate mitigation can then be put in place.

In zoning land for different land-uses in the Clare County Development Plan, the zonings are categorised in accordance with Myplan.ie¹. The zoning classifications and definitions are set out in **Table 8.2** of the SEA ER. The Plan contains a land-use zoning matrix which lists the most common forms of development and classifies whether the proposed use is acceptable in principle, or otherwise, on lands that are zoned for a particular use, so as to promote the orderly development of settlements and to guide future development to the most appropriate locations within the plan area.

In addition to an assessment of the objectives of the Plan, an assessment of the land-use zonings within the Plan area has been undertaken, specifically in relation to residential use including high and low density, Opportunity Sites and other land-uses include industry, enterprise, Tourism and infrastructure safeguards etc.

The assessment of land-use zonings involved both desk top (GIS, aerial photography, baseline data and all other relevant information) together with on-site assessment. This process resulted in an on-going flow of environmental information with regard to site specific land-use zoning proposals. Consequently, the iterative nature of the SEA process has meant that in the evolution of the proposed land-use zonings presented in the Draft Plan and subsequently the final Plan, they have been informed by environmental assessment. This has led to a number of zoning adjustments in the course of its preparation in relation to boundaries, zoning removal, and suggested inclusion of alternative areas and in some cases specific mitigation provisions within specific zoning objectives. The Plan also had the benefit of the outcome of the appropriate assessment process and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, both of which the SEA had regard to in its assessment.

The baseline information presented in **chapter 5 of the SEA ER** shows how the plan area is characterised by a number of environmental sensitivities. Some of these sensitivities will affect the potential development of all land-uses within the plan area. The sensitivities include:

- High to extreme groundwater vulnerability throughout the plan area presents a significant environmental vulnerability that needs to be considered in all future land-uses within the Plan area.

¹ Department of Environment, Community and Local Government Initiative

- Waste water treatment is a particular issue throughout the County of Clare both from a rural and urban perspective. Within the town of Ennis, Clareabbey and Clonroadmore Waste Water Treatment Plants are over capacity and therefore cannot accommodate any additional loads brought about from development and Clarecastle village is not currently served by a WWTP. Within many rural areas and settlements throughout the county there is either no WWTP present, they are over capacity or insufficient treatment is occurring. As a pre-requisite to any development taking place on zoned lands within the county, it is critical to have the infrastructure upgrade in place to accommodate future developments. An objective in the Plan must seek to ensure that, prior to the commencement of any development, future development can be serviced by wastewater treatment which complies with the Water Framework, the EU Urban Wastewater and the Birds and Habitats Directive. This issue and others has been highlighted in the assessment of the settlements as part of the SEA process contained in **Appendix B** of the SEA ER.

It should also be noted that in the case of all settlements and zonings within flood zones identified in **Figure 5.10.7 of the SEA ER** “Flood Zones A, B and recorded flood events” within the plan area that:

- Flood defences that have been/are being put in place are based on protecting existing land-uses of any benefitting lands and NOT any potential future change in use or new development.
- Impacts of climate change in relation to future flooding need to be considered with regard to stipulating development specifications which provide for resilience to flood risk and recommendations given accordingly.

All of the recommendations made within the SEA Environmental Report associated with the settlement specific zonings were taken on board and incorporated directly in the relevant Volume 3 Written Statement and maps by the Forward Planning Team. However, at the Proposed Amendments stage of the Draft Plan preparation a total of 80 submissions were received. The Elected Members did not comply with the recommendations of the Planning Department for the following sites which were identified in the SEA Environmental Report as having potential significant environmental effects. The following table provides a list of those which the Council did not comply with, together with the reasons given for its decision in this regard.

Table 10.0 Recommendations which were not taken on board from the SEA process

Site Reference	Reason for Not Complying with Recommendation
Kilrush R12	<p>The Chief Executive’s report and recommendation was that these lands should not be zoned as Residential given the peripheral location of the lands.</p> <p>The lands are included for zoning by resolution of the Council with the stated reason that: “Kilrush is an identified Service Town and it can accommodate further population growth. The site is reasonably close to the town centre, there is a need for further housing in Kilrush and planning permission for</p>

	<p>residential development was previously granted.”</p>
<p>Ardclooney TOU7, Killaloe</p>	<p>The Chief Executive’s report and recommendation supported the recommendation of both the SEA ER and the NIR and that these lands should not be zoned for tourism as it would be contrary to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and would contravene Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive, the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 and Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.</p> <p>The lands are included for zoning by resolution of the Council with the stated reasons that: “The Elected Members of the Killaloe Municipal District having considered the Manager’s report, the Departments submission, the Manager’s recommendation and the submission by Mr. James Whelan. We have also considered the Appropriate Assessment carried out by Fehily Timoney & Company and the Natura Impact Statement of the site and have decided to propose the retention of the existing zoning of Integrated Tourism of these lands at Ardcloney. Other considerations taken into account by the Killaloe elected members were as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Only 13 acres of the total site (38 acres) is within the SAC (b) Planning permission has been granted on part of this site P16/114 (c) P16/114 required an Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the Habitats Directive (d) As part of the planning application a master plan for the entire site was requested by Clare County Council, which was furnished. In addition a Stage 2 Natura Impact Statement was furnished. <p>All of the points taken into consideration by the elected members listed above were in the public domain”.</p>
<p>Ennis LDR13/LDR14/LDR7 Ballybeg</p>	<p>The Chief Executive’s report and recommendation supported the recommendation of the SEA ER that these lands should not be zoned for Low Density Residential due to the lack of services in the area coupled with environmental sensitivity of the area and not conforming with sequential growth and was therefore not in the interest of proper planning and sustainable development .</p> <p>The lands are included for zoning by resolution of the Council with the stated reason that: “the subject lands are ideal for one-off housing and</p>

	there is potential for a group waste water treatment scheme in the area.”
Ennis LDR5, Knockanean	<p>The Chief Executive’s report and recommendation supported the recommendation of the SEA ER that these lands should not be zoned for Low Density Residential. Part of the site lies within Flood Zone B and failed the Justification Test and the SFRA recommends it retains the Open Space zoning as in the Draft Plan.</p> <p>Additional text to be included which reads: “Only water compatible uses (open space) shall be permitted on areas identified as Flood Zone B in Volume 10 of this Plan, as per ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk 2009’. Any planning for this site specific flood risk assessment based on the most scientifically accurate information available.”</p> <p>The lands are included for zoning for Low Density Residential by resolution of the Council with the stated reason that: “Having regard to the attractiveness of the site for residential development, proximity to the local school and to the motorway and the location of the site within a reasonable distance of the town core.”</p>
Ennis LDR6, Loughville	<p>The Chief Executive’s Report and recommendation supported the recommendation of the SEA ER that these lands should not be zoned for Low Density Residential as the SFRA for the site identified fluvial/groundwater risk in this area and is likely to operate as a storage basin. The site is also located within the Inner Protection Zone for the Drumcliffe Springs and as such poses potential risk to the drinking water source and therefore public health.</p> <p>The lands are included for zoning for Low Density Residential by resolution of the Council with the state reason that: “This is is an upland site outside a flood zone area. The site is further away from the swallow hole than existing zoned land and is an extension of a residential area which is fully serviced with waste water.”</p>

3.6.4 Cumulative and In-combination effects

This section of the Environmental Report provides an outline of the potential cumulative effects on the environment as a result of implementation of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023.

Cumulative effects are referred to in a number of SEA Guidance documents and are defined in the EPA SEA Process Checklist as “effects on the environment that result from incremental changes caused by the strategic action together with other past, present and reasonably foreseeable future actions. These effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over time or space” (EPA SEA Process Checklist (2011)). These effects can be insignificant

individually but cumulatively over time and from a number of sources can result in the degradation of sensitive environmental resources. The assessment of cumulative effects is a requirement of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

The 2004 Guidelines produced by the DECLG outlines that the SEA process is in a good position to address cumulative effects for which the Environmental Impact Assessment process is not equipped to deal with. Due to the strategic nature of the SEA process a forum is provided in which cumulative effects can be addressed. The EPA is presently undertaking a study in relation to cumulative effects and it is anticipated that a draft *Cumulative Effects – Best Practice Guidance Document* will be available soon to SEA practitioners.

The EPA Strive Report 2007-2013 on ‘Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment’ describes cumulative effects as incremental effects resulting from a combination of two or more individual effects, or from an interaction between individual effects – which may lead to a synergistic effect (i.e. greater than the sum of the individual effects), or any progressive effect likely to emerge over time.

Assessment Approach

The following approach has been undertaken in relation to assessing the potential cumulative and in-combination effects of the County Development Plan. It includes;

- An assessment of International, National, Regional and Local Plans, Policies and Programmes that have the potential for cumulative or in-combination effects
- An assessment of the County Development Plan Objectives 2017- 2023 in relation to the other objectives contained within Volumes 5,6,7,8 & 9
- An assessment of the key elements of the County Development Plan against one another to identify any internal conflict between the policies and objectives (In-combination effects)

Cumulative effects with other plans and programmes

This section focuses on international, national, regional and local plans, policies and programmes that have the potential for cumulative or in-combination effects with the County Development Plan. The assessment is contained in **Appendix C Tables 8.1 to 8.4** of the **SEA ER**. In addition an assessment of the in-combination and cumulative effects of Volumes 5, 6 and 7 was undertaken within **Chapter 8** of the **SEA ER** the results of which are documented in **Table 8.3**. Further details in relation to mitigation measures associated with this assessment of the incorporated volumes can be found in **Chapter 9** of the **SEA ER**.

4.0 Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted in light of other alternatives considered

The development and assessment of alternatives is a legal requirement under the SEA Directive and Regulations. Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive and 13E(1) of the Planning Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (as amended 2011) requires that the Planning Authority considers within the Environmental Report:

- **Reasonable** alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme;
- The alternatives are **identified, described and evaluated**;
- An outline of the **reasons** for selecting the alternatives dealt with;
- A **description of how the assessment was undertaken** including any difficulties (such as technical deficiencies or lack of know-how encountered in compiling the required information).

Alternatives should not be retrospectively considered but they should be developed as the SEA and plan develops.

Option 1: Amend settlement hierarchy and review growth in fewer areas in line with infrastructural provisions and outside of high risk areas e.g. flooding, protected areas, areas susceptible to issues arising from climate change.

This alternative is to amend the number of settlements within the plan area, reducing the number of smaller settlements, and targeting growth in a fewer number of locations where appropriate infrastructure is already in place. This would see a smaller number of existing settlements prioritised for development. Designated areas (European Sites, Groundwater Protection Zones etc.) would be subject to appropriate environmental protection measures in line with the regulatory framework. Rural development policies would support agriculture, forestry, renewable energy and tourism

Option Two: Dispersed Settlement led approach (Unrestricted settlement)

This scenario envisages growth of all settlements within the County with heavy emphasis on accommodating housing within all settlements. Other than Ennis and other large towns (such as Shannon and Kilrush) there would be no hierarchy and growth would be envisaged in all settlements). Designated areas (European Sites, Groundwater Protection zones etc.) would be subject to appropriate environmental protection measures in line with the regulatory framework. As per Option 1, rural development policies would support agriculture, forestry, renewable energy and tourism.

This option is in effect an unrestricted option.

Option Three: Strategic Planning Approach/Balanced Approach

This scenario is a planned sustainable development approach to planning in the County. Development will be focused within zoned and serviced areas. This scenario plans for the

strengthening of rural villages and residential development into designated settlements. Appropriate environmental protection measures will be implemented for designated areas. In this scenario particular rural development activities would be more strategic and certain areas identified to support tourism and renewable energy.

Option Four: Employment led growth

This scenario looks at employment-led growth which focuses development in key locations where employment growth is more likely to be delivered and differed from previous Plan strategies which spread growth based on the size and scale of the settlement in accordance with the core strategy. The scenario focused on key variations to the 2011-2017 CDP which included the focus of economic development in the Shannon Estuary and its hinterland identified through the SIFP and the identification of a key infrastructural safeguard in the Limerick Northern Distributor Route which seeks to open up access to UL and the National Technology Park in Limerick for employment and education. In addition the identification of potential sources of employment outside the settlement boundary for example at junction 12 in Ennis which was identified as a key employment opportunity.

Option 5: Strategic Planning for Sustainable Growth

This scenario involves strategic planning taking into account all new and improved policies. Planning authorities and those interacting with the planning process have, in the past few years, had to address a wide range of new policy and legislative requirements. These guidelines, up-dates to Directives and subsequent regulations are designed at ensuring all growth and development is carried out in a sustainable fashion.

Other Sub Options and prioritised development strategies

During the course of development of the County Development Plan and through round table discussions between both the Planning and Environmental Assessment teams, discussions took place in relation to the identification of a series of Opportunity Sites within towns and villages across the county. A strategic approach to the best use of these sites as a means to facilitate redevelopment which would make a significant positive contribution to the settlement was identified. These Opportunity Sites are existing sites which would represent a sustainable reuse and long term significant contribution to the overall appearance and amenity in the area together with the potential to create employment opportunities within the settlement. This strategy was brought forward in the following settlements;

- Ennis
- Kilrush
- Ennistymon
- Lahinch
- Scarriff/Tuamgraney
- Killaloe
- Kilkee
- Lisdoonvarna
- Tulla
- Newmarket-on-Fergus

- Sixmilebridge

Preferred Option

Following an assessment and evaluation of the alternatives set out in this chapter together with round table discussions between the plan making and environmental teams the preferred way forward in relation to the future land-use plan for the County is a combination of **Option 3 (Strategic Planning Approach/Balanced Approach)** and **Options 5 (Strategic Planning for Sustainable Growth)**. Both options contain similarities in terms of preparing a Clare County Development Plan with a defined plan area, within which the settlement hierarchy will be defined in line with the requirements of the core strategy. Areas of environmental sensitivity, including designated sites and natural flood plains located within or adjacent to the settlement areas will be included and zoned accordingly for their protection within the settlement boundary and others will be within the Plan boundary, as will areas at risk of flooding (defined as Flood Risk Zones A, B and C). This strategic planning approach aligns more closely with European and National Policy and regulation, directs development to serviced lands, focuses on town centres for service provision and supports Ennis as a ‘hub’ town and Shannon as a ‘gateway’. The settlement hierarchy remains on an evidence base and with the responsibility for the provision and management of water services (water supply and wastewater but excluding storm/surface water other than where sewage has been combined with surface water) being transferred to Irish Water they are committed to providing a strategic treatment capacity to facilitate the core (residential) strategies identified in this county development plan, subject to the availability of funding and environmental constraints. This alternative, in favouring strategic planning, which is carried out in a sustainable manner also aligns with Volume 7 (SIFP) of the CDP. The SIFP identifies the nature of development, economic growth and employment that can be sustainably accommodated within the Shannon Estuary which is a key feature of the Development Plan area. The SIFP in its process sought to;

- Facilitate the long term conservation of the Shannon Estuary as an entire ecosystem whilst enabling the development of a broad range of appropriate activities in a sustainable manner
- Encourage, facilitate and promote a balanced approach to harnessing the Estuary’s growth potential
- Ensuring careful protection, management and enhancement of the area’s natural resources
- Deliver a coordinated, sustainable and innovative approach to the optimisation of the estuarine resource through the continued proactive involvement of all key stakeholders

The preparation of the Environmental Sensitivity Map also fed into the assessment of alternatives through highlighting the overall vulnerability of the county using different indicators which served to inform the development and ultimate selection of the preferred option.

5.0 Monitoring

Article 10 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EEC) requires that monitoring must be undertaken of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan. This is to provide for any unforeseen adverse effects to be identified at an early stage in its implementation, allowing for appropriate remedial action to be undertaken.

The primary purpose of monitoring is to allow the actual impacts of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 on adoption to be assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives and their associated targets and indicators. The indicators used will show changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the County Development Plan.

Monitoring can use existing sources of information and does not necessarily require new research to be undertaken, but can be effective in identifying where additional research should be targeted to supplement where information is deficient. **Table 10.0** sets out the strategic environmental objectives, targets and indicators to be applied in monitoring the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan, in accordance with Section 13J(2) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended. It is proposed that the SEA monitoring reporting should go parallel with the reviewing of the Clare CDP.

The SEA Objectives formed the basis of the assessment of the Clare CDP and it includes targets (overall aim), indicators (measurement of monitoring change), data sources and agency/body responsible for the monitoring.

The monitoring programme (to be effective) must be subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data. Should the monitoring programme identify significant impacts (such as impacts on designated sites or to the landscape) early on in the County Development Plan implementation, this should trigger a review of the plan and monitoring programme. In addition, the identification of positive impacts from monitoring should also be reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental policies.

As a number of the indicators within the monitoring table relate to the number of planning applications received it is also recommended that data arising from planning applications, particularly in terms of environmental monitoring through the preparation of Screening Reports for Appropriate Assessment, Ecological Reports, Environmental Impact Statements, Environmental Reports etc be integrated into the GIS and a dedicated environmental database. This will assist in assessing cumulative impacts also, in particular ecology and water quality. This is something which Clare County Council Planning Department has partially undertaken but which should be prioritised and driven through the CDP Monitoring Programme.

Finally, it is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion. It is recommended that this data be shared with neighbouring local authorities to assist in monitoring cross border or transboundary effects should they arise. This will be particularly useful for example in relation to the Shannon Estuary should any Strategic Projects arise from the implementation of the SIFP or perhaps in relation to the Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midlands Region should the Parteen Basin option move to planning.

Table 11.0 Monitoring Table

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
Population, Human Health and Quality of Life			
P1 – Protect, enhance and improve people’s quality of life based on high quality residential, community, educational, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.	<p>Increase in the number of green spaces and amenities available to the public.</p> <p>Improved trends in perceived quality of life related to these matters.</p> <p>Bonds to ensure the completion of developments until taken charge.</p> <p>No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors.</p>	<p>No/area of green spaces and amenities available to the public.</p> <p>Improved trends in perceived quality of life related to these matters as gathered through surveys.</p> <p>Employment rates over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Completion handover of development to CCC.</p> <p>Availability of public transport/ smarter travel initiatives.</p> <p>Occurrence of any decline in human health around the plan area.</p>	<p>CSO – every six years in line with census</p> <p>CCC - Annual</p> <p>Iarnrod Eireann - Annual</p> <p>Bus Eireann – Annual</p>
P2 - To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from incompatible land uses/developments.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors.	Any occurrence of spatially concentrated deterioration in human health.	CSO – every six years and as results arise on a yearly basis from the 2016 census CCC – Annual
P3 - Provision of green spaces for amenity and recreational uses.	Increase in the number of green spaces and amenities available to the public.	No. /area of green spaces and amenities available to the public.	CCC – Annual
Biodiversity			
B1 – Protect, conserve, enhance where possible and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of the broad range of habitats, species and wildlife corridors.	<p>No reduce in length or loss of hedgerows.</p> <p>Operators who conduct mechanical hedge cutting should have achieved the Teagasc proficiency standard MT 1302-Mechanical Hedge Trimming.</p> <p>30% broadleaf/native afforestation.</p> <p>Protection and promotion of non-designated salmonid rivers.</p> <p>No ecological networks or parts thereof which provide significant</p>	<p>Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in non-designated sites over the lifetime of the Plan through trending of annual/bi-annual surveys.</p> <p>Percentage of broadleaf/native afforestation.</p> <p>Percentage loss of connectivity between areas of local biodiversity importance as a result of implementation of the Clare County Development Plan as evidenced from a resurvey of CORINE mapping.</p> <p>Decrease in population of freshwater pearl mussels in <i>Margaritifera</i> sensitive areas and/or habitat and</p>	<p>CCC – Annual/bi-annual surveys</p> <p>OPW - Annual</p> <p>Coillte- Annual</p> <p>Shannon RBD/National RBD – First and second RBMP Cycle</p> <p>NPWS – Annual or as and when surveys completed by NPWS for National Monitoring programmes on a rolling basis and/or surveillance monitoring undertaken for compliance with Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and reported</p>

	connectivity between areas of local biodiversity to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Clare County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 Afford the same level of protection to Margaritifera Sensitive Areas as is afforded to Freshwater Pearl Mussel SAC rivers	water quality deterioration.	on every 6 years. CCC - Annual OPW - Annual National Biodiversity Data Centre - Annual
B2 – To achieve the conservation objectives of European Sites (SACs and SPAs) and other sites of nature conservation.	No loss of protected habitats and species during the lifetime of the Plan. No compromise in the favourable conservation condition of European sites. No compromise or impact on the achievement of the favourable conservation condition objectives (whether maintain or restore) of European sites.	Designation of additional areas due to biodiversity and/or geological value. Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in designated sites through trending of annual surveys. No./percentage of developments in/near Natura 2000 network. Percentage of Natura 2000 sites in the plan area that are at 'Favourable' conservation status. Percentage of Qualifying Interest Features which have achieved their specific objectives of maintain or restore.	
B3 - Conserve and protect other sites of nature conservation including NHAs, pNHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries as well as protected species outside these areas as covered by the Wildlife Act.	No loss of protected habitats & species during the lifetime of the Plan. Submission of HDA for proposed developments with planning applications in/and/or near Natura 2000 sites.	Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in designated sites through trending of annual surveys. Provision/No. of HDAs with developments proposed for sites in/and/or near Natura 2000 sites.	
B4 - Meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the Shannon River Basin Management Plan/National River Basin Management Plan	All waters within the plan area to achieve the requirements of the WFD and the relevant River Basin Management Plan by 2027. Ensure provision of riparian zones at project/site level	No of surface and groundwater bodies achieving "Good Status". No of waterbodies indicating deterioration in status. No of planning applications with sufficient inclusion of buffer zones where necessary and applicable.	
B5 – To minimise and, where possible, eliminate threats to biodiversity including invasive species.	Prevent the introduction of new invasive or alien species. Control/manage new invasive	No., type and location of invasive species identified. No of actions achieved under the Biodiversity	

	<p>species.</p> <p>Control/manage/eradicate invasive species throughout the county</p>	<p>Action Plan.</p> <p>Increase/decrease in coverage of invasive species identified.</p> <p>No. of submissions/observations submitted through invasive species Ireland “Alien Watch”. www.invasivespeciesireland.com/alien-watch</p> <p>The National Biodiversity Data Centre will track success in the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan by measuring increases in the abundance and diversity of pollinators within the Irish landscape as the 81 actions are implemented.</p>	
B6 - Promote green infrastructure networks, including riparian zones and wildlife corridors.	<p>Ensure new development is set back at from rivers.</p> <p>The recommended width for larger river channels (>10m) is 35m to 60m and for smaller channels (<10m) is 20m or greater. The determined width should be tailored to site specific, river reach or lakeshore characteristics and their associated habitats. It is important that the buffer zone is large enough to protect the ecological integrity of the river (including emergent vegetation), the riparian zone (bank side vegetation including trees) and takes into account the human history of the area.</p>	No. planning permissions close to water.	
Soil and Geology			
S1 – To maximise the sustainable re-use of the existing built environment, derelict, disused and infill sites (brownfield sites), rather	<p>Preference for development on brownfield site over green field.</p> <p>Specified % of new applications granted to be on brownfield sites.</p>	<p>No/% of new developments on brownfield sites.</p> <p>Area of brownfield land developed over the plan period.</p> <p>% of total greenfield land developed.</p>	CCC – Annual through a review of planning applications

than greenfield sites.	Limited and controlled development of greenfield sites. Re-use of soil from redeveloped sites where possible. No incidences of soil contamination.	Level of urbanisation. Excessive land-filling of quality soil. Incidences of soil contamination.	
S2 – Minimise the excavation and movement of soils within site works		Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled No of brownfield sites that have been redeveloped	CCC – Annual
S3 – Minimise the consumption of non-renewable deposits on site.	Re-use of soils from redeveloped sites where possible. Increased provision of construction and demolition waste facilities.	Excessive land-filling of quality soils. No. of facilities for Construction and Demolition Waste.	CCC – Annual
S4 - Minimise the amount of waste to landfill from site.	Reduction in the quantities of waste sent to landfill. Increase in the quantities of waste sent for recycling. Increase in the number of bring banks in the plan area. Compliance with the Southern Region Waste Management Plan	Quantity of household waste sent to landfill. Quantity of household waste sent to recycling. The number of bring banks provided for in the plan area. Compliance with the Southern Region Waste Management Plan. Statistical Indicators (Primary and Secondary) reported on through the Southern Waste Region Statistical Indicators Annual Report.	CCC EPA Southern Waste Region – Annually through Statistical Indicators Report and Waste Management Plan Annual Report.
S5 - Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.	No loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites. Designation of sites as County Geological Sites.	Percentage of habitats, geological features, species etc. Lost over the lifetime of the Plan through trending of annual/bi-annual surveys. No. of areas designated as County Geological Sites.	GSI CCC - Annual
Water			
W1 – Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with	To achieve a Q rating of 4 ‘good’ quality status by 2015.	Biotic quality rating of river waters at EPA monitoring locations.	EPA – Annual as recorded through the WFD Monitoring Programme

regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).			
W2 – Monitor the on-going trends in water quality status.	Demonstrate an on-going status improvement and an upward trend in water quality	Progression from bad to poor, poor to moderate, moderate to good and good to high in terms of WFD Status.	EPA EDEN Portal – As up-dated through the 2 nd River Basin Management cycle by the EPA.
W3 – Maintain or improve the quality of surface water and groundwater (including estuarine) to status objectives as set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and POMS.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface water quality by 2015.	Changes in receiving water quality as identified during water quality monitoring for WFD, ShIRBMP/National RBMP conducted by CCC and EPA.	CCC – As reported through the 1 st and 2 nd River Basin Management Plan EPA – As reported through the 1 st and 2 nd River Basin Management Plan
W4 – Implement appropriate sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) in the County.	New drainage systems to be compliant with SUDs.	No. of developments granted planning permission that incorporate SUDs.	CCC – Quarterly planning permissions granted
W5 – Reduce the impact of polluting substances to all waters and prevent pollution and contamination of ground water by adhering to aquifer protection plans and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface and groundwaters by 2015.	Changes in receiving waters and groundwater quality as identified by water quality monitoring programmes conducted by CCC and EPA.	CCC - Annual EPA – Annual
W6 - Promote sustainable water use and water conservation in the plan area and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.	Pressure on water and waste water treatment plants	Decrease in no. of water shortage notices issued during drought periods, Decrease in the amount of water consumed per household in the plan area.	CCC/Irish Water
W7 –Protect flood plains and areas of flood risk from development through avoidance, mitigation and adaptation measures.	In accordance with OPW/DOEHLG, all planning applications within designated Flood Risk zones A and B as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the plan are required to undertake Flood Risk assessment	Level and location of flooding.	CCC – Records obtained as and when flood events occur OPW – As updated on http://www.floods.ie/ and once CFRAMS final maps become available in 2017 and are updated as part of the overall

			implementation of the Floods Directive in Ireland.
W8 – To promote a responsible attitude to recreation and amenity use of water in relation to water quality and disturbance to species and to prevent pollution and contamination of designated bathing waters.	Maintain water quality, no pollution or contamination issues in our rivers and lakes in particular but also our estuaries and all waters designated as bathing waters	Adherence to bathing water guidance and standards in accordance with the bathing water Directive and associated regulation Regulation (S.I. No. 79 of 2008)	Retention or approval for Blue Flag status - The Blue Flag is operated in Ireland by An Taisce-The National Trust for Ireland on behalf of the Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) – Annually Progression of bathing waters from ‘sufficient’ to ‘good’ to ‘excellent’ with no waters categorised as ‘poor’ in accordance with the water quality standards specified in the 2008 Regulations with a classification of at least ‘sufficient’ to be achieved for all bathing waters.
Air and Climate Change			
C1 – Minimise all forms of air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality.	Maintain ambient air quality through reduction of private vehicle usage.	Air quality indicators.	CCC - Annual EPA - Annual
C2 – Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human-induced global climate change.	Provide for increased use of public transport. Increase number of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the plan area. Establish incentives/increase no. of permissions for renewable energy projects.	Use of public transport. Provision of cycle lanes and walking routes. No. of grants given for insulation works; energy efficiency of new buildings – energy rating figures. No. of planning applications for residential houses with low carbon footprint. No. Of wind turbines permitted which may contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to Climate Change Location of permitted wind farms within areas of the greatest wind energy resource in County Clare as depicted through the SEAI Wind Atlas.	CCC – Annual as new cycle strategy and/or Green Infrastructure is published CSO – Annual as figures/reports based on 2016 census become available. CCC – No and type of planning applications in relation to low carbon residential housing and wind turbines and/or commencement of construction of such on an annual basis. SEAI

		http://maps.seai.ie/wind/	
C3 - Reduce car dependency within the plan area by way of an integrated approach to sustainable urban transport (SUMP).	An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means. A decrease in the average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.	Percentage population within the plan area travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means. Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.	CSO – every 6 years through census information
Material Assets – Transport			
T1 – Maximise sustainable modes of transport and encourage use of walkways/cycle paths as alternative routes to school, work, and shops.	An increase in provision of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes. An increase in population travelling to work and school by public transport or non-motorised transport. A reduction in the distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.	No. of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes provided in the plan area. Percentage of the population within the plan area travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means. Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area. Number of private cars on road as a percentage of AADT.	CCC – Achievement of Clare County Council Active Travel under the Departments Smarter Travel Scheme annually. CSO – every 6 years through census information NRA
T2 - Provide for ease of movement for all road users and to promote development patterns that protect and enhance road safety.	Reduce the number of private vehicles on the road. Increase in public transport. Increase cycle and walking modes of transport. Integrated traffic management plan for the plan area.	No. of private cars on the road as a percentage of AADT. No. of applications for the Bike to Work Scheme. Traffic survey and pedestrian surveys undertaken in the preparation of a traffic management plan.	CCC - ongoing
Material Assets – Waste			
WA1 – Implement the waste pyramid and encourage reuse/recycling of material wherever possible.	Reduction in the quantities of waste sent to landfill. Increase in the quantities of waste	Quantity of household waste sent to landfill. Quantity of household waste sent to recycling.	CCC – Environment Department statistics and reports Southern Waste Region – Annually through Statistical Indicators Report and

	<p>sent for recycling.</p> <p>Increase in the number of bring banks in the plan area.</p> <p>Compliance with the Southern Region Waste Management Plan</p>	<p>The number of bring banks provided for in the plan area.</p> <p>Compliance with the Southern Region Waste Management Plan.</p>	Waste Management Plan Annual Report
Material Assets – Water Supply			
WS1 - To ensure adequate and clean drinking water supplies.	Upgrade existing water treatment plants within the plan area	Number of upgrades undertaken within the plan area.	<p>Irish Water – Achievement of Water Services Strategic Plan objectives</p> <p>Irish Water – The implementation of the Lead Mitigation Plan over the lifetime of the County Development Plan to achieve safe, clean drinking water for all.</p>
WS2 - Improve efficiency in distribution of potable water to the population through pipe rehabilitation and to promote water conservation and sustainable water usage for long-term protection of available water resources.	<p>Reduce the amount of water usage.</p> <p>Reduce the amount of water lost through pipe leakage (currently 65%) through the pipe rehabilitation.</p> <p>Increase usage of water collected through water harvesting.</p>	<p>Water meter readings (Reintroduction of water charges based on conservation)</p> <p>Sale of water harvesting butts.</p> <p>Retrofitting of rainwater harvesting units.</p>	Irish Water – reduction in household costs for water charges based on conservation (This is dependent on water charges being reintroduced, meter readings are still on-going in the absence of charges.
Material Assets – Waste Water			
WW1 - To ensure that all zoned lands (existing and proposed) are connected to the public sewer network ensuring treatment of wastewater which meet EU requirements prior to discharge.	Upgrade existing wastewater treatment plant infrastructure identified within the plan as being insufficient, based on existing and forecasted population demands to meet EU requirements.	Upgraded Waste Water Treatment Plants within the plan area	<p>Irish Water – Achievement of Water Services Strategic Plan objectives</p> <p>CCC – granting of permission conditioned based on a future WWTP upgrade</p> <p>CCC – refusal of permission as no upgrade to WWTP due to take place.</p>
WW2 - Reduce the dependency on individual proprietary wastewater treatment facilities and ensure the	Testing of individual proprietary wastewater treatment facilities in	No. planning applications for single houses within the plan area, served by individual WWT facility.	CCC - ongoing

highest standards possible in existing and future wastewater treatment facilities.	line with EU/National guidance. Sustainable alternative individual proprietary WWT facilities. Measures to promote, encourage and incentivise a change from traditional WWTS to alternative sustainable systems.	Testing of individual WWT facilities. Types/usage/percentage using sustainable methods of WWT.	
Material Assets – Renewable Energy			
RE1 - Reduce waste of energy, promote use of renewable energy sources and support energy conservation initiatives across all sectors including the development of low carbon business practices and buildings.	Increase in renewable energy developments.	No. of renewable energy developments granted planning permission Establishment of R&D projects (one or more) Meet or exceed County contributions to national renewable energy targets. Meet or exceed County contributions to national energy efficiency/conservation targets. In line with the Wind Energy Strategy (Volume 5 of the Development Plan) achieve the minimum target of 550MW from wind energy by 2017 The number of hectares of land that has been converted to use for Bioenergy production utilising Miscanthus; Oilseed Rape; Reed Canary Grass or SRC Willow. (Suitable lands have been identified through the SEAI Bioenergy Map http://maps.seai.ie/bioenergy/)	CCC – new solar farms, windfarms or other renewable energy developments granted. LCEA, Clare CoCo, SIFP – number of new R&D projects within the Plan area e.g. testing of tidal energy devices. Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly
Cultural Heritage			
CH1 – Protect and conserve the cultural heritage including the built environment and settings; archaeological (recorded and unrecorded monuments),	No permitted development which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features.	No. of developments permitted during the lifetime of the plan which will result in the loss or partial loss of protected structures or sites of archaeological status.	CCC - ongoing

architectural (Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, materials and urban fabric) and manmade landscape features (e.g. field walls, footpaths, gate piers etc.).		No. of additions to the list of Protected Structures. No. of additions to the list of Architectural Conservation Areas. Development of cultural heritage areas for amenity resources	
CH2 – To protect, conserve and enhance local folklore, traditions and placenames within the Plan area.			CCC - ongoing
CH3 – To ensure the restoration and re-use of existing uninhabited and derelict structures where possible opposed to demolition and new build (to promote sustainability and reduce landfill).	To increase the number of uninhabited and derelict structures that are restored opposed to demolition.	No. planning applications for restoration/re-use of vacant and derelict structures. No. planning applications for demolition and redevelopment of vacant and derelict sites.	CCC - ongoing
Landscape			
L1 – Conserve, protect and enhance valued natural, cultural and built landscapes, views of local value and features including those of geological and aesthetic value.	Ensure no significant disruption of historic/cultural landscapes and features through objectives of the County Development Plan.	No. of developments permitted and their impacts on cultural/historic landscapes. No. of developments located within Scenic Route or no degradation of areas designated as Heritage Landscapes (Locations in text and on maps) No. of developments located within a designated scenic view or route or high landscape area in County Clare that disrupt views (based on the LCA) Development and application of framework in relation to the application of LCA and their contribution to SEA.	CCC – ongoing Heritage Council - ongoing Fáilte Ireland - ongoing GSI - ongoing NPWS - ongoing EPA SEA Unit in conjunction with CCC
L2 - Maintain and enhance landscape	No significant visual impact from	No. of developments located within a high	CCC - ongoing

<p>quality within the plan area by minimising visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting.</p>	<p>development. Ensure no significant disruption of high landscape values.</p>	<p>landscape area that disrupt views (based on LCA):</p> <p>Loss of vistas/views</p> <p>Loss of trees</p> <p>Loss of amenity woodland.</p> <p>No of large scale developments permitted</p>	
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6.0 Conclusion

The Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 sets out an overall Vision, goals, policies and objectives for the period 2017 – 2023 which seeks to provide for the long term planning and overall benefit of the county. The SEA Environmental report demonstrates how environmental parameters have been addressed in the plan preparation process. The SEA, AA and SFRA have informed the plan through an ongoing iterative process that incorporated environmental considerations and sensitivities throughout the plan development. The SEA and AA have been undertaken in line with the Planning and Development (Strategic environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 to 2011 (as amended), the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011. Subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this SEA Environmental Report which have been incorporated into the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023 and adherence to policies, objectives and landuse zonings contained in the CCDP 2017 – 2023 including appropriate site level investigations it is considered that significant adverse impacts on the environment will be avoided.



CLARE COUNTY
DEVELOPMENT PLAN

2017
2023



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Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023
Strategic Environmental Assessment
Statement

