

**SCREENING  
FOR  
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
REPORT**

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**FOR  
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS  
TO THE  
DRAFT CARLOW-GRAIGUECULLEN  
JOINT URBAN LOCAL AREA PLAN  
2024-2030**

**for: Carlow and Laois County Councils**



**by: CAAS Ltd.**



**MAY 2024**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Amendments to the Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030, hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan".

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or amendment to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or amendments to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or amendment to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Amendments are provided under Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Article 8 of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Plan and all other associated documents including the:

- Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan;
- Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report for Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Plan; and
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Plan.

## 1.2 Process so far

The Draft Plan has been progressed to date in compliance with Sections 19 and 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

SEA<sup>2</sup> is being undertaken on and has informed the Draft Plan in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Draft Plan on public display contains the findings of the assessment.

AA<sup>3</sup> is also being undertaken on the Draft Plan (informing both the Draft Plan and the SEA) in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations. An AA Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment and accompanied the Draft Plan on public display.

The Draft Plan associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan and these are the subject of this report.

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

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Environmental Assessment is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning European Sites designated on foot of habitats and species.

### 1.3 SEA Environmental Report (December 2023)

The SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Plan contains the information specified in Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) as amended. The relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report that address these information requirements are detailed on Table 1.1 below.

The assessment undertaken on relevant Proposed Amendments (the findings of which are presented later in this document) has used the information contained in the SEA Environmental Report.

**Table 1.1 Information contained within the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Draft Plan**

<b>Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report</b>	<b>Corresponding Section of this Report</b>
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix II Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

This section examines whether each Proposed Amendment to the Draft Plan would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

### 2.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is being undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan and has informed this SEA Screening.

### 2.3 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive<sup>4</sup>, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for likely significant effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain*, then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The Plan is being subject to Stage 2 AA and an AA Natura Impact Report was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan. At adoption of the Plan, the AA Natura Impact Report will be finalised and AA determinations made by the Councils.

An AA screening process has been undertaken on the Proposed Amendments. This process has demonstrated that Stage 2 AA for the Proposed Amendments is not necessary - a Screening for AA Report contains this information, has informed this Screening for SEA Report and accompanies the Proposed Amendments.

### 2.4 Screening Analysis of Proposed Amendments

The analysis of Proposed Amendments is undertaken considering interactions Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 2.1). Table 2.2 examines whether each part of the Proposed Amendments would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.2 is supplemented by Table 2.3 which provides details on:

- Likely significant effects of implementing the Draft Plan, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Draft Plan; and
- Likely residual non-significant adverse effects arising from the Draft Plan.

Effects encompass the full range of effects<sup>5</sup>, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

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<sup>4</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

<sup>5</sup> These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

The examination of Proposed Amendments also takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

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

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<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>SEO Code</b>	<b>Guiding Principle</b>	<b>Strategic Environmental Objectives</b>
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors<sup>6</sup></b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

<sup>6</sup> Please also refer to relevant legislation and requirements under Section 4.10, Section 8.5 and Appendix I. Targets under the national Climate Action Plan are reviewed and updated periodically.

**Table 2.2 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Amendments<sup>7</sup>**

Ref	SEA Screening Consideration
1	This amendment would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Development Plans that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Amendment: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
2	The update to terminology/language/wording/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. As such, this amendment would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
3	This amendment relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
4	This amendment adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
5	This amendment provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
6	Removal of this provision/text would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision/text would not be likely to result in any environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>

Proposed Amendment No.	SEA Screening Consideration Reference
1	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
2	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
3	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
4	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
5	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
6	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
7	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
8	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
9	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
10	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
11	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
12	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
13	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
14	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
15	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
16	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
17	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
18	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
19	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
20	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
21	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
22	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
23	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
24	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
25	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
26	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
27	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
28	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
29	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
30	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
31	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
32	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
33	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
34	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
35	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
36	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
37	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
38	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
39	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required

<sup>7</sup> For detail on Proposed Amendments please refer to Proposed Amendments document.



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<b>Proposed Amendment No.</b>	<b>SEA Screening Consideration Reference</b>
40	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
41	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
42	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
43	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
44	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
45	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
46	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
47	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
48	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
49	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
50	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
51	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
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58	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
59	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
60	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
61	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
62	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
63	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required
64	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 6 above - SEA not required

**Table 2.3 Detail of effects, if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Eastern and Midland RSES and Southern RSES, the Carlow and Laois County Development Plans and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.			Mitigation Measures	
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	Draft Local Area Plan measures, including:	Existing Carlow and Laois County Development Plans measures, including:
Various – see below	Various – see below	Various – see below	Various – see below	<p>SO. 1: Encourage and support town centre led urban regeneration for Carlow-Graiguecullen, focusing on the appropriate redevelopment and reuse of key derelict, vacant and underutilised sites and buildings, the consolidation of the town through the use of brownfield, infill and backland sites, the conservation of historic building stock, and the implementation of streetscape and public realm improvements.</p> <p>SO. 2: Encourage and facilitate balanced economic development and employment opportunities in Carlow-Graiguecullen, ensuring a vibrant local economy that maximises business and investment opportunities and the existing economic attributes of the town, and supports the development of a diverse range of economic sectors.</p> <p>SO. 3: Improve the public realm and attractiveness of Carlow-Graiguecullen through the delivery of high-quality urban design outcomes, taking account of the need to respond to the social and physical characteristics of the existing built environment and those features that should be protected and/or enhanced by, and inform, new development.</p> <p>SO. 4: Prioritise integrated transport and land use, supported by investment in public transport, active travel networks and shared, low-carbon mobility options, which will improve people's travel choices and support safe, sustainable, and healthy lifestyles.</p> <p>SO. 5: Promote Carlow-Graiguecullen as a priority location for regional level community and social infrastructure and support the expansion and enhancement of existing community facilities, the provision of residential development, and a range of new community facilities in tandem with population growth to meet the needs of future residents in the joint urban area.</p> <p>SO. 6: Transition Carlow-Graiguecullen to a low-carbon and climate resilient town through a combination of effective mitigation and adaptation measures, in addition to maximising opportunities for energy efficiency, renewables, and decarbonisation.</p> <p>SO. 7: Manage the development of Carlow-Graiguecullen in a manner that protects, conserves, and enhances the natural and built heritage of the area.</p> <p>SO. 8: Support the development of, and investment in new and existing arts, culture and tourism infrastructure and amenities in Carlow-Graiguecullen.</p> <p>TD. P1: Support and facilitate the development of the tourism industry in Carlow-Graiguecullen with an emphasis on utilising and harnessing the potential of the natural and built heritage of the joint urban area, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>TD. P7: Develop and maximise the tourism potential of Carlow-Graiguecullen by facilitating the appropriate expansion of existing facilities and the provision of new universally accessible and sustainable tourist attractions, facilities, and infrastructure in the joint urban area, while ensuring the protection of the environment and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>TD. P12: Facilitate, where appropriate, increased access to the River Barrow and Burren River, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>TD. P16: Encourage and support an improved night-time economy</p>	<p><b>Carlow County Development Plan Strategic Environmental Assessment</b> SEA P1: Implement the monitoring programme as set out in the SEA Environmental Report and Statement, in conjunction with the Regional Assembly and other sources as relevant. This will include the preparation of standalone SEA Monitoring Reports to accompany:</p> <p>a) The report required of the Chief Executive under section 15(2) of the Act, including information in relation to progress on, and the results of, monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan;</p> <p>b) In advance of the beginning of the review of the next County Development Plan (2028 – 2032) on the significant environmental effects of implementing this Plan.</p> <p><b>Sustainable Development Goals - Policy</b> SDG P1: Contribute, as practicable, via this Plan, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p><b>Ecosystems Services Approach and Natural Capital Ecosystems – Policies</b> It is the policy of the Council to:</p> <p>ES P1: Promote an Ecosystem Services Approach in the preparation of lower-level Plans, Strategies and Development Management.</p> <p><b>Rural Housing Siting and Design - Policies</b> RH P6: Ensure, in addition to the requirement to comply with the rural housing policy criteria, that applicants demonstrate compliance with all normal siting and design requirements. The siting, layout and design of a new rural house shall appropriately integrate with its physical surroundings, including the natural and built heritage of the area, taking account of:</p> <p>(i) The Rural Housing Design Guidelines in Chapter 13. (ii) The character, sensitivity and capacity of the County's landscape as detailed in Chapter 9. (iii) The capacity of the area to absorb further development, taking account of the extent of existing development in the area, the extent of ribbon development in the area, the degree of existing haphazard or piecemeal development in the area, and the degree of development on a single original landholding. (iv) The protection and preservation of features in the landscape that contribute to local distinctiveness, attractiveness, and ecology, and which can assist in visually absorbing rural housing into its countryside. These features include hedgerows, trees, sod/stone banks and stone walls, historic and archaeological landscapes, water bodies, ridges, skylines, topographical features and important views and prospects. Recessed development located / set back into the landscape away from the public road may be considered where the siting is appropriate to the rural context and provides for the protection of environmental, visual and residential amenities. (v) The ability to provide a safe vehicular entrance in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland publications (Refer Section 16.10.7) and without the need to remove an extensive amount of hedgerow or trees to achieve sightlines. (vi) The ability of a site to accommodate an on-site wastewater treatment system in compliance with the EPA Code of compliance with the 2021 EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses p.e. ≤ 10. (vii) The ability of a site to accommodate an appropriate on-site surface water management system in accordance with Carlow County Council SuDS Policy, and the 'SuDS Manual' CIRIA C753. (viii) The need to comply with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities DoEHLG and OPW (2009). (ix) The need to comply with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities DECLG (2012).</p> <p><b>Section 5.9 "Infrastructural Improvement Process"</b> New roads and other transport infrastructure projects (including greenways, blueways and cycleways) referred to by this Plan that are not already provided for by plans/ programmes other than the County Development Plan or are not already permitted, are subject to the undertaking of feasibility assessment, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <p>• Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and</p>

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					<p>in Carlow-Graigucullen through the increased use of existing and temporary spaces for Culture, Arts and Entertainment uses including through extended opening hours for existing attractions, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>WW. P1: Facilitate and support Uisce Éireann in the delivery of public wastewater services in Carlow-Graigucullen to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the Plan area, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>HF. P1: Support the Health Service Executive (HSE) and other statutory, private, and voluntary operators in the provision of new and improved healthcare facilities and services at appropriate locations in Carlow-Graigucullen and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>GI. P1: Protect and enhance the biodiversity and ecological function of the green infrastructure network in Carlow-Graigucullen.</p> <p>GI. P2: Identify, protect, maintain, and enhance existing and planned green infrastructure assets in Carlow-Graigucullen, and recognise the wide range of environmental, social, and economic benefits of green spaces and nature-based solutions by ensuring the integration of green infrastructure planning and development in the planning process. GI. P3: Protect and preserve landscape features which significantly contribute to green infrastructure in Carlow-Graigucullen, including trees, hedgerows, woodlands, wetlands, watercourses, and other habitats.</p> <p>GI. P4: Require the protection and integration of new and existing green infrastructure as an essential component of all new developments in Carlow-Graigucullen, and to ensure future development does not fragment, damage, or prejudice the integrity of the green infrastructure network in the joint urban area.</p> <p>GI. P5: Ensure the green infrastructure and habitat features identified on Map 10.3, Network of Existing Green Infrastructure in Carlow-Graigucullen, and the linkages between them and surrounding rural areas, are integrated into the design of new developments as far as practicable.</p> <p>GI. P6: Require development proposals to include an outline of measures to protect the retained green infrastructure of a site during the period of construction. GI. P7: Require large scale development proposals in the joint urban area such as residential schemes, industrial development, or retail schemes, to submit a green infrastructure plan as an integral part of a planning application. GI. P8: Promote a network of pedestrian and cycle paths to enhance accessibility to the green infrastructure network in Carlow-Graigucullen, while ensuring that the layout, design, and operation of the routes responds to the ecological protection needs of each site. GI. P9: Incorporate elements of green infrastructure into existing areas of hard infrastructure in the joint urban area, where possible, thereby integrating these areas of the existing urban environment into the overall green infrastructure network.</p> <p>GI. P10: Promote appropriate tree planting and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 throughout Carlow-Graigucullen and in open spaces within new developments, in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management.</p> <p>GI. P11: Ensure that green areas and open spaces associated with new residential developments and other relevant projects provide multifunctional benefits that enrich quality of life for local communities, ecologically rich areas that enhance biodiversity, and sustainable water management.</p> <p>GI. P12: Take account of Inland Fisheries guidance 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate/Flood Risk and Recreational Planning' (2020) when considering development proposals in the vicinity of rivers and streams in Carlow-</p>	<p>opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and</li> <li>• In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors.</li> </ul> <p>Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable;</li> <li>• In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and</li> <li>• In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations.</li> </ul> <p><b>Forestry – Policies</b></p> <p>FR P1: Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector with a diversity of species including native hardwood species, which maximises its contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the county and which is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>- which does not detract substantially from landscape and visual amenity, protected or scenic views, , built heritage, archaeological / geological features, or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance;</li> <li>- which does not obstruct existing public rights of way, traditional walking routes or recreational and tourism amenities and</li> <li>- which is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity, Water Quality and requirements regarding the protection of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.</li> </ul> <p><b>Extractive Industry - Aggregates (stone, sand and gravel) and Mineral Resources - Policies</b></p> <p>EI P6: To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing and proposed European Sites;</li> <li>- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna;</li> <li>- Areas of significant archaeological potential including recorded monuments;</li> <li>- Important aquifers and sensitive groundwater resources;</li> <li>- Sensitive landscapes; and</li> <li>- Established rights of way.</li> </ul> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>EI O1: Support RSES policy for the adequate supply of aggregate and mineral resources to ensure the continued growth of the county and region and to ensure that all quarrying activities and projects associated with extractive industry comply with all relevant Planning and Environmental Legislation.</p> <p>EI O2: Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) with regard to any developments likely to have an impact on Sites of Geological Importance listed in Chapter 10 of this Plan..</p> <p><b>Section 16.11.10 Undergrounding Cables</b></p> <p>Where undergrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties);</li> <li>• Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered;</li> <li>• Impacts on underground archaeology;</li> <li>• Impacts on soil structure and drainage; and</li> <li>• Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 16.11.5 Construction and Environmental Management Plans</b></p> <p>Construction Environment Management Plans shall be a requirement of any major planning permission for residential, community, employment or infrastructure related development and implemented throughout the construction / operational period as appropriate. The Plan shall be prepared having regard to the EPA Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Waste Projects. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures which have been integrated into the plan / project and where relevant any Environmental Impact Assessment or Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;</li> <li>b) location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;</li> <li>c) details of site security fencing and hoardings;</li> <li>d) details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;</li> <li>e) details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage;</li> <li>f) measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;</li> <li>g) measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris;</li> </ol>
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				<p>Graiguecullen.          GI. P13: Incorporate items of historical or heritage importance within the green infrastructure network in Carlow-Graiguecullen as amenity features, as far as practicable.          GI. P14: Seek to protect trees and hedgerows in the joint urban area with a particular local amenity or conservation value and encourage the planting of native tree and hedgerow species.          GI. O1: Support the implementation of the Carlow Town Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2025, and any subsequent updated version this document.          GI. O2: Investigate the feasibility of providing a wetland amenity area on lands comprising the former Sugar Factory lagoons, in conjunction with relevant stakeholders and local community groups, taking account of the environmental sensitivities of the land and the need to ensure impacts to biodiversity and nature conservation interests are avoided.</p>	<p>h) alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works;          i) details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;          j) containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained (such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater);          k) disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, including compliance with the EPA's 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Resource Management Plans for Construction &amp; Demolition Projects 2021, which supersedes previous 2006 Guidelines published by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government;          l) a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains;          m) details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan;          n) if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan;          o) measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed);          p) appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases; and          q) details of appropriate mitigation measures for lighting specifically designed to minimise impacts to biodiversity, including bats.</p> <p><b>Section 16.15.4 "Tourism Activities / Developments Based on Natural Features"</b>          There are a range of recreational activities based on natural resources. In many cases these are generally based in rural areas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All planning applications for these adventure / recreational activities involving special natural features should be accompanied by a management plan indicating projected numbers of users, hours of operation, seasons of operation, and an undertaking to protect the natural environment in the form of a risk assessment with proposed amelioration measures in respect of flora, fauna, hydrology, geology and soils.</li> <li>• Proposals should seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</li> <li>• All proposals should be accessible insofar as possible by sustainable means of transport including public transport and by modes other than the car.</li> <li>• Where the traffic generated is likely to exceed the capacity of the local road network or require changes to the road network that would adversely affect the character of the area, these will not be permitted.</li> <li>• Where the activity is likely to be noise generating, a noise assessment will be required in connection with the application, measuring likely noise levels at the nearest noise sensitive recipients. Measures to mitigate any adverse impacts shall be identified.</li> </ul> <p><b>Laois County Development Plan</b>          Overarching Core Strategy Policy Objectives          CS 03 In the assessment of development proposals, to take account of transport corridors, environmental carrying capacity, availability and/or capacity to provide waste water and water supply services, potential to conflict with Water Framework Directive objectives, potential to impact on the integrity of European sites and Annexed Habitats and species, features of biodiversity value including ecological networks, impact on landscape and visual characteristics, education and other socioeconomic objectives          Ecosystems Approach Policy Objectives          CS 35 Promote an Ecosystem Services Approach in the preparation of lower-level plans, strategies and Development Management          CS 36 Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016          NRE 3 Ensure the provision, where feasible, of electricity cables being located underground, especially in the urban environment, and generally within areas of public open space. Where undergrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimised:  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties);</li> <li>• Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered;</li> <li>• Impacts on underground archaeology;</li> <li>• Impacts on soil structure and drainage; and</li> <li>• Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation.</li> </ul>         Volume 2 Environmental considerations and imitations in the types of uses          There are a wide range of land use types identified under each of the Land Use Zoning Objectives. Proposals for development will need to demonstrate compliance with the various written provisions of the Plan, as relevant, including those relating to environmental protection and management. Environmental considerations, such as those related to elevated levels of flood risk or European site ecological designations, may limit the types of uses that may be possible at certain sites. Prospective applicants are encouraged to engage with the planning authority at the earliest opportunity to seek guidance as to the appropriateness of emerging proposals.          TRANS 15 It is a Policy Objective that where projects for new roads or other linear projects, identified in Chapter 10 and Volume 2, are not already provided for by existing plans/programme or are not already permitted, that the feasibility of progressing these projects shall be examined, taking into account environmental sensitivities as</p>
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					<p>identified in the SEA Environmental Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and</li> <li>• Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>• Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> <li>• Sustains existing</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>• Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> <li>• Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>• Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds (e.g. swifts) and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>	<p>NH. P1: Protect, manage, and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape, and environment of Carlow-Graigucullen in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, a unique identifier, as a natural resource, an ecosystem services asset that can contribute towards sustainable urban drainage, flood management, and climate action.</p> <p>NH. P2: Support the conservation and enhancement of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, and to protect the SAC from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of the designated site, in accordance with relevant EU environmental directives and applicable national legislation, policies, plans and guidelines.</p> <p>NH. P3: Ensure that Appropriate Assessment Screening, and if required Appropriate Assessment, is carried out in respect of plans and projects in Carlow-Graigucullen. Where likely significant effects have been identified in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, ensure Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive. Carlow County Council and Laois County Council shall only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the SAC, unless the plan or project is subject to the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NH. P4: Contribute towards the protection, from significant adverse effects, of the ecological integrity, and the visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the Oak Park proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) and associated habitats.</p> <p>NH. P5: Promote the carrying out of ecological/habitat assessments to inform the layout and design of development proposals and ensure they integrate the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features wherever possible in Carlow-Graigucullen, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate. NH. P6: Promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage and biodiversity located in the joint urban area of Carlow-Graigucullen.</p> <p>NH. P7: Promote development for recreation and educational purposes that does not conflict with maintaining the favourable conservation status of the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and Oak Park pNHA, including the achievement of their conservation objectives. NH. P8: Promote, protect, and enhance sustainable and appropriate access to natural heritage in Carlow-Graigucullen.</p> <p>NH. P9: Identify, protect, conserve, and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance in Carlow-Graigucullen, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats can include woodland, river, wetlands, and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive</p> <p>NH. P10: Protect and enhance the natural environment of Carlow-Graigucullen and recognise the important role of the natural heritage in the area through its diversity, quality, and integrity, and in terms of enhancing the image of the joint urban area and contributing to quality of life and wellbeing, economic growth, tourism and recreation.</p> <p>NH. P11: Ensure that lighting proposals along water courses, rivers, and streams in the joint urban area, are not in conflict with bat species, and to ensure that expert advice is sought on such lighting proposals in order to mitigate the impacts of lighting on bats and other species and habitats.</p>	<p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b></p> <p><b>Light Pollution - Policies</b></p> <p>It is the policy of the Council to;</p> <p>LP P1: Ensure that the design of external lighting schemes minimises the incidence of light spillage or pollution in the immediate surrounding environment and has due regard to the residential amenity of surrounding areas and the need to mitigate adverse impacts on sensitive fauna and protected species.</p> <p>LP P2: Require the use of energy efficient lighting in all new development proposals.</p> <p>LP P3: Seek to ensure that the use of energy efficient (LED) lighting, both in relation to planning applications and local authority projects, minimises any significant adverse effects on biodiversity with the use of appropriate lighting in sensitive areas.</p> <p><b>Natural Heritage - Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>NH P1: Protect, manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape and environment of County Carlow in recognition of its importance as a non-renewable resource, a unique identifier, and as a natural resource asset.</p> <p>NH P2: Ensure, as far as is practicable, that development does not adversely impact on wildlife habitats and species, and that biodiversity is conserved for the benefit of future generations in the interests of sustainability. This will include moving towards no net loss of biodiversity from plans adopted by and projects granted permission/authorised by the Council.</p> <p>NH P3: Support and co-operate with statutory authorities such as the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and others on measures to manage designated nature conservation sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives. Specific regard shall be had to conservation objectives and conservation management plans where they exist for designated nature conservation sites.</p> <p>NH P4: Promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the county.</p> <p>NH P5: Recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated biodiversity, habitats and species not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>NH P6: Protect and enhance the natural environment of County Carlow and recognise the important role of the natural heritage through its diversity, quality and integrity, in terms of enhancing the image of the County and contributing to quality of life, economic growth, tourism and recreation.</p> <p>NH P7: Promote development for recreation and educational purposes that does not conflict with maintaining the favourable conservation status of designated natural heritage sites, including the achievement of their conservation objectives.</p> <p>NH P8: Promote, protect and enhance sustainable and appropriate access to the natural heritage of the county.</p> <p>NH P9: To promote the carrying out of ecological/habitat assessments to inform the layout and design of development proposals and ensure they integrate the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and landscape features wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats (whether designated or not) and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate.</p> <p>NHO 1: Implement relevant actions from the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2017-2021 (and any superseding plan) and to prepare a County Heritage Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan during the lifetime of this County Development Plan in accordance with RPO 126 in the RSES, to ensure the protection and appreciation of heritage and nature at local level including recognition of rich biodiversity of designation of existing special areas of conservation i.e. Blackstairs Mountains, Slaney River Valley and River Barrow and River Nore SAC.</p> <p>NS P1: Support the conservation and enhancement of Natura 2000 Sites, and to protect the Natura 2000 network from any plans and projects that are likely to have a significant effect on the coherence or integrity of a Natura 2000 Site, in accordance with relevant EU Environmental Directives and applicable National Legislation, Policies, Plans and Guidelines.</p> <p>NS P2: Screening for Appropriate Assessment and if required Appropriate Assessment is undertaken for all plans to be adopted and projects to be granted permission/authorised by the Council. Where likely significant effects have been identified in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, ensure appropriate assessment, in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive. The Council shall only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned, unless the plan or project is subject to the provisions of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NS P3: Consider impacts within a plan or project's zone of influence, which may include Natura 2000 sites outside the County, when assessing whether a plan or project is likely to have significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>NS P4: Maintain or restore the favourable conservation status of County's Natura 2000 sites qualifying interest habitats and species.</p> <p>NS O1: Strictly protect areas designated or proposed to be designated as Natura 2000 sites, including any areas that may be proposed for designation or designated during the period of this Plan.</p> <p>NHA P1: Contribute towards the protection, from significant adverse effects, of the ecological integrity and the visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the County's proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and associated habitats, including any designated Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) during the lifetime of this Plan.</p>

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	<p>sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</p>				<p>NHA P2: Ensure that development proposals within or adjacent to a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) or Natural Heritage Area (NHA) are designed and sited to minimise significant impacts on the biodiversity (including net loss) and ecological, geological and landscape value of the site, particularly plant and animal species listed under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), the Habitats Directive and the Birds Directive, including their habitats.</p> <p>NHA P3: Restrict development within a proposed Natural Heritage Area (pNHA) or Natural Heritage Area (NHA) to development that is directly related to the area's amenity potential or development that is required for the conservation management of these sites, subject to the protection and enhancement of natural heritage and visual amenities including biodiversity and landscapes.</p> <p>NHA P4: To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and other appropriate prescribed bodies when assessing development proposals affecting proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) and Natural Heritage Areas (NHA).</p> <p>ND P1: Conserve the existing flora, fauna and wildlife habitats in the County, including rare and threatened plant, animal and bird species, through the preservation of ecological corridors and ecological networks.</p> <p>ND P2: Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse effect on rare and threatened species, their breeding places, resting places, habitat or environment, as applicable, including those protected under the Wildlife Acts 1976 to 2021, the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and including plant species listed on the Flora (Protection) Order 2015 (S.I. No. 356 of 2015).</p> <p>ND P3: Require the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment, where deemed necessary, for any development proposal likely to have a significant impact on existing flora, fauna and wildlife habitats, including rare and threatened plant, animal and bird species.</p> <p>ND P4: Ensure that, where evidence exists of species that are protected under the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended), the Bird Directive 1979, and the Habitats Directive 1992, appropriate avoidance and mitigation measures are incorporated into development proposals as part of any ecological impact assessment. In the event of a proposed development impact on a site known to be a breeding or resting site of species listed in the Habitats Regulations or the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) a derogation licence, issued by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, may be required.</p> <p>ND P5: Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.</p> <p>ND P6: Ensure that the management of the Council's open spaces and parks is pollinator-friendly and provides more opportunities for biodiversity, supporting the objectives of the National Pollinator Plan 2021-2025. Where it is used, herbicide should be certified and applied as per the manufacturer's instructions.</p> <p>ND P7: Support the implementation of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025 and to incorporate actions as appropriate into a Biodiversity Plan for County Carlow providing more opportunities for biodiversity in accordance with RPO 128.</p> <p>ND P8: That biodiversity data generated during the lifetime of this Development Plan for the preparation of environmental assessment reports, shall be made available to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NBDC).</p> <p>WT P1: Protect and manage existing woodlands, trees and hedgerow which are of amenity or biodiversity value and/or contribute to landscape character and ensure that proper provision is made for their consideration, protection and management when undertaking, approving or authorising development.</p> <p>WT P2: Ensure that hedgerow removal to facilitate development is kept to an absolute minimum and, where unavoidable, a requirement for mitigation planting will be required comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking in to existing adjacent hedges. Native plants of a local provenance should be used for any such planting.</p> <p>WT P3: Adhere to the provisions of the Wildlife Act 1976 (as amended) in prohibiting the cutting of hedges during the bird nesting season (1st March to 31st August), except in certain legally defined circumstances.</p> <p>WT P4: Encourage the protection of historic hedgerows or significant hedgerows which serve to link habitat areas to each other and the surrounding countryside.</p> <p>WT P5: Recognise the biodiversity and archaeological importance of townland boundaries, including hedgerows, and promote their protection and retention.</p> <p>WT P6: Protect individual or groups of trees which are important for environmental, recreational, historical, biodiversity and/or aesthetic reasons or by reason of contribution to sense of place, and to discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development.</p> <p>WT P7: To contribute towards the protection where possible of the trees which are considered to be an important component of demesne landscapes.</p> <p>WT P8: Ensure a Tree Management Plan is provided so as existing tree planting is adequately protected during development and incorporated into the layout and design of new developments.</p> <p>WT O1: Promote the Native Woodland and Neighbourhood schemes and other initiatives that aim to establish and enhance woodlands for recreational and wildlife benefits.</p> <p>IW P1: Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other watercourses, to maintain them in an open state, to discourage culverting or realignment, and where possible, uncover existing culverts and restore the watercourses to acceptable ecological standards and for the passage of fish.</p> <p>IW P2: Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers, streams and riparian zones, including those which occur outside of designated areas, in order to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the County.</p> <p>IW P3: Control the encroachment of development on watercourses and riparian zones and provide for protection measures to watercourses and their banks, including but not limited to: the prevention of pollution of the watercourse, the protection of the river bank from erosion, the retention and/or provision of wildlife corridors and</p>
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					<p>the protection from light spill in sensitive locations, including during construction of permitted development.</p> <p>IW P4: Require the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment, where deemed necessary (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment where in relation to Natura 2000 sites), including bat and otter surveys, for development proposals along rivers, streams and canal corridors and areas of ecological importance.</p> <p>IW P5: Maintain a biodiversity protection (buffer) zone of not less than 10 metres from the top bank of all watercourses in the County, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities and consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>IW P6: Ensure that lighting proposals along water courses, rivers, streams and canal corridors, are not in conflict with bat species, and to ensure that expert advice is sought on such lighting proposals in order to mitigate the impacts of lighting on bats and other species.</p> <p>IW P7: Require that runoff from a development area will not result in deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats, and that pollution generated by a development is treated within the developed area prior to discharge to local watercourses.</p> <p>IW P8: Ensure the protection, improvement or restoration of riverine floodplains and to promote strategic measures to accommodate flooding at appropriate locations, to protect ground and surface water quality and build resilience to climate change.</p> <p>IW P9: Ensure that development proposals do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>IW P10: Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland, as appropriate, in relation to any works or development that could have potential impacts on watercourses, aquatic habitats, species, and associated riparian habitats, and to take full account of any Guidance documents issued by Inland Fisheries Ireland in this regard, including 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate/Flood Risk and Recreational Planning' (2020).</p> <p>IW P11: Promote the use of watercourses for the pursuit of angling, through working with Inland Fisheries Ireland to improve water quality, to improve fish stocks and to provide safe access to fishing, where appropriate, taking full account of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>IW P12: Promote the natural, historical and amenity value of the County's watercourses, including public access where feasible and appropriate, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Services, Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and other relevant stakeholders, while maintaining the watercourses free from inappropriate development.</p> <p>WT P1: Protect, manage, and enhance wetlands in the County, and resist development that would remove, fragment, or degrade wetlands.</p> <p>WT P2: Protect the biodiversity and flood protection value of wetlands and floodplains in the County.</p> <p>WT P3: Ensure that ecological impact assessment is carried out, where appropriate, for development proposals involving, drainage, reclamation, or infill of wetland areas.</p> <p>WT P4: To promote voluntary construction of new wet lands where deemed in accordance with proper planning and environmental considerations and where same maybe facilitated by ecological schemes.</p> <p>IW O1: Carry out a Wetlands Survey of the County during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>IS P1: Prevent the spread of invasive alien species in the County, and to require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the containment and control of invasive alien species, including Invasive Species Ireland guidelines (see <a href="http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com">www.invasivespeciesireland.com</a>)</p> <p>TII (2020) The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Roads – Standard GE-ENV-01104 <a href="https://www.tipublications.ie/library/GE-ENV-01104-01.pdf">https://www.tipublications.ie/library/GE-ENV-01104-01.pdf</a></p> <p>TII (2020) The Management of Invasive Alien Plant Species on National Roads – Technical Guidance <a href="https://www.tipublications.ie/library/GE-ENV-01105-01.pdf">https://www.tipublications.ie/library/GE-ENV-01105-01.pdf</a></p> <p>IS P2: To require, as appropriate, development proposals to address the presence or absence of invasive alien species, and to require the preparation of an Invasive Species Management Plan for their eradication and/or containment and control where identified on a site or in the vicinity of a site, in accordance with the requirements of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011-2015.</p> <p>IS P3: Prohibit invasive alien plant species from inclusion in landscape design proposals and to require the use of native local plant species.</p> <p>IS O1: Prepare an Invasive Alien Species Management Strategy, in conjunction with a Hedge and Road Verge Maintenance Strategy, during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>IS O2: To raise awareness of the potential threat of invasive alien species in the County, and to inform the public of appropriate management measures for the prevention, containment, and control of invasive alien species.</p> <p>IS O3: Undertake a programme of mapping of invasive alien species in the County and initiate control programs with relevant stakeholders and landowners on the prevention, containment and control of invasive alien species.</p> <p><b>Agriculture – Policies</b></p> <p>AG P2: Support and facilitate changes to farming practices that will adapt to climate change and a more sustainable sector, that encourage biodiversity and contribute to more sustainable methods of production.</p> <p>AG P3: Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p> <p>AG P4: Ensure that all agricultural activities comply with legislation on water quality, such as the Phosphorous Regulations, Water Framework Directive and Nitrates Directive. In relation to intensive agricultural installations (i.e. intensive pig and poultry farming), recent EPA Guidance (2021) on Assessment of the Impact of Ammonia and</p>
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					<p>Nitrogen on Natura 2000 sites from intensive agriculture installations should be consulted when carrying out project assessment.</p> <p><b>Forestry – Policies</b></p> <p>FR P1: Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector with a diversity of species including native hardwood species, which maximises its contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the county and which is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>- which does not detract substantially from landscape and visual amenity, protected or scenic views, , built heritage, archaeological / geological features, or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance;</li> <li>- which does not obstruct existing public rights of way, traditional walking routes or recreational and tourism amenities and which is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity, Water Quality and requirements regarding the protection of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.</li> </ul> <p>FR P3: Promote the avoidance of deforestation or commercial afforestation within Natura 2000 sites unless directly relating to the management of the site for its qualifying interests.</p> <p><b>Fisheries and Aquaculture - Policies</b></p> <p>FA P5: Require proposed services / facilities to support fisheries along water courses to undertake the required level of Appropriate Assessment in accordance with appropriate environmental assessments including Habitats Directive Assessment and planning legislation.</p> <p>FA P6: Ensure that the development of services / facilities along watercourses will seek to ensure the protection of water quality and will also be subject to, and consistent with, the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the relevant South Eastern River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Extractive Industry - Aggregates (stone, sand and gravel) and Mineral Resources - Policies</b></p> <p>EI P6: To ensure that development for aggregates / mineral extraction, processing and associated processes does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Existing and proposed European Sites;</li> <li>- Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna;</li> <li>- Areas of significant archaeological potential including recorded monuments;</li> <li>- Important aquifers and sensitive groundwater resources;</li> <li>- Sensitive landscapes; and</li> <li>- Established rights of way.</li> </ul> <p>EI O1: Support RSES policy for the adequate supply of aggregate and mineral resources to ensure the continued growth of the county and region and to ensure that all quarrying activities and projects associated with extractive industry comply with all relevant Planning and Environmental Legislation.</p> <p>EI O2: Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) with regard to any developments likely to have an impact on Sites of Geological Importance listed in Chapter 10 of this Plan.</p> <p><b>Laois County Development Plan</b></p> <p>CS 20 Promote higher densities at appropriate locations, owing to position on public transport network where appropriate to do so having regard to Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas (DEHLG, 2009) and ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required;</p> <p>CA ST 1 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains subject to flooding as "green infrastructure" where appropriate and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive;</p> <p>RH 4 Provide for sustainable rural housing in the county in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2005) ', EPA Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment Systems for Single Houses (2009) and ensure that any plan or project associated with the provision of new housing is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required;</p> <p>NRPO 4 Prepare an Open Space Plan for the County having regard to the town parks, riverside walks and other amenity spaces and resources and ensure that any plan or project associated with open space planning or tourism is subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening in compliance with the Habitats Directive, and subsequent assessment as required</p> <p>NRPO 7 Investigate the feasibility of the following specific recreation and leisure projects subject to the Habitats and Birds Directives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the ongoing development of an athletic track, including provision of dressing rooms and tartan resurface in Portlaoise;</li> <li>• Investigate and facilitate where appropriate the provision of strategic greenways throughout the county.</li> <li>• Facilitate where appropriate the provision of additional handball facilities throughout the county.</li> </ul> <p>NRPO 13 Facilitate the development of greenways / blueways along the main waterways through the county – Grand Canal, River Barrow and River Nore and their tributaries subject to the Habitats and Birds Directives and the proper planning and development of the areas</p> <p>ABT 2 Support in principle and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive, developing and marketing off-road Slieve Bloom Mountain Biking Trail by Coillte, Mountmellick –Portlaoise – Abbeyleix Greenway (and potential extensions onto Portarlinton to connect with the Offaly Greenway network) and Durrow Green Network Cycle Trail in co-operation with relevant stakeholders including Durrow Development Forum.</p>
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					<p>ABT 3 Develop on-road cycle trails in the Slieve Blooms along existing lightly-trafficked roads in partnership with cycling clubs, Offaly County Council, Laois Sports Partnership, Laois Partnership Company and the National Trails Office, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive</p> <p>ABT 6 Promote and investigate the feasibility of, subject to compliance with the habitats and Birds Directives, sustainable developing and improving of facilities and infrastructure supporting water based tourism activities, (including shore side interpretive centres and jetties). Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development</p> <p>TM 17 Where relevant, the Council and those receiving permission for development under the Plan shall seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Management measures may include ensuring that new projects and activities are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate</p> <p>CH 2 Take responsibility for the development of a more sustainable tourism industry which minimises adverse impacts on local communities, the built heritage, landscapes, habitats and species; leaving them undiminished as a resource for future generations, while supporting social and economic prosperity</p> <p>Support the development and marketing of the Barrow Blueway and facilitate related commercial opportunities in Vicarstown, Portarlinton, Graiguecullen and Portlaoise, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive</p> <p>NH 2 Support the development and marketing of the Erkina River Blueway in association with all relevant stakeholders and facilitate related commercial opportunities in the area, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive</p> <p>NH 3 Promote and facilitate the continued development of the Slieve Bloom Mountains bike trail as a key tourism asset for the county and as part of the tourism offer on the Slieve Bloom Mountains, in conjunction with Offaly County Council.</p> <p>In addition, it is the Council policy to (i) promote the further development of walking trails on the mountains, (ii) connect to and develop Clonslee, Camross, Coolrain and Rosenalis as a service hubs for the area and (iii) promote and facilitate links to / from other existing and proposed greenways, blueways and peatways (iv) Support the development of visitor centre facilities in Baunreagh, , subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directive</p> <p>RL 2 Facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p> <p>RL 7 Encourage, subject to compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives, access to forestry including private forestry for amenity and educational purposes including the provision of walking routes, cycling routes, mountain biking routes, mountain trails, nature trails and orienteering;</p> <p>RL 14 Support in principle the expansion of the aggregates and concrete products industry which offers opportunity for employment and economic development generally subject to environmental , traffic and planning considerations and ensure that any plan or project associated with extractive industry is subject to Appropriate assessment screening in compliance with the Habitats Direction and subsequent assessment as required , applicants for planning permission shall have regard to the GSI-ICF Quarrying Guidelines;</p> <p>TRANS 45 Investigate the feasibility of developing a National Scale Centre for Off-Road Mountain-Biking in the Slieve Bloom Mountains, subject to planning permission &amp; the Habitats' and Birds Directives;</p> <p>TRANS 46 Continue to audit, maintain and promote walking trails and walking events in the Slieve Blooms, subject to planning permission &amp; the Habitats' and Birds Directives:</p> <p>TRANS 47 Designate the following graded on-road cycling trails in the Slieve Blooms; install related signage and improve road surfaces along these trails, as resources allow; produce trail maps and market the trails , subject to the Habitats' and Birds Directives; H1. Cut Cycle Climb; H2. Wolftrap Cycle Climb; H3. Glendine Cycle Climb; H4. Mountrath-Clonslee Trail; H5. Camross Coolrain Trail; H6. Castletown Mountrath Trail</p> <p>TRANS 51 Establish a new Woodenbridge Walking Trail linking Durrow and Ballacolla, subject to the Habitats' Directive</p> <p>BNH 23 Encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries and laneways, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>LCA 17 Maintain the rivers throughout the county whilst ensuring that all works are carried out subject to appropriate environmental assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, in respect of any proposed development likely to have an impact on a designated natural heritage site, site proposed to be designated and any additional sites that may be designated during the period of this Plan</p> <p>LCA 18 Preserve riverside historic features and their landscape settings. Conserve valuable habitats focused on and around river corridors and estuaries including European and national designations</p> <p>LCA 19 Recognise the potential constraints on development created by river flood plains and the value of these flood plains as increasingly rare habitats</p> <p>LCA 24 Conserve valuable habitats including any European and national designations</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Biodiversity and Designated Sites</b></p> <p>BNH 1 Protect, conserve, and seek to enhance the county's biodiversity and ecological connectivity</p> <p>BNH 2 Conserve and protect habitats and species listed in the Annexes of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as amended) and the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2010 (as amended) and the Flora Protection Orders.</p> <p>BNH 3 Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage proposed or designated sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of Sites under National and European legislation and International</p>
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					<p>Agreements and maintain and /develop linkages between them where feasible.</p> <p>BNH 4 Protect and maintain the conservation value of all existing and future Natural Heritage Areas, Nature Reserves, Ramsar Sites, Wildfowl Sanctuaries and Biogenetic Reserves in the county.</p> <p>BNH 5 Projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) <sup>8</sup>. Screening for AAs and AAs undertaken shall take into account invasive species as relevant.</p> <p>BNH 6 Assess, in accordance with the relevant legislation, all proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect or cumulative impact) on designated natural heritage sites, sites proposed for designation and protected species.</p> <p>BNH 7 Protect Natural Heritage Areas (NHA) from developments that would adversely affect their special interests.</p> <p>BNH 8 Recognise and protect the significant geological value of sites in County Laois and safeguard these sites, in consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland and in accordance with the National Heritage Plan and "Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry".</p> <p>BNH 9 Engage with the National Parks and Wildlife Service to ensure Integrated Management Plans are prepared for all Natura sites (or parts thereof) and ensure that plans are fully integrated with the County Development Plan and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations and with special regard to local communities.</p> <p>BNH 10 Support the objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020 by encouraging the planting of pollinator friendly trees and plants within grass verges along public roads and existing and future greenways, new hedgerows, public parks and public open spaces in towns and villages, including part of mixed use and residential developments</p> <p>BNH 11 Support measures to protect Swift population such as the creation of Swift nest cavities in all new commercial and public buildings (schools/libraries, etc).</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows</b></p> <p>BNH 25 Undertake a study within the lifetime of the Plan and for all Local Area Plans to document and map significant trees and groups of trees that require preservation and prepare Tree Preservation Orders for individual trees, groups of trees or woodland areas where expedient and in the interests of visual amenity, biodiversity and the environment.</p> <p>BNH 26 Protect individual trees, groups of trees and woodland in the interests of landscape conservation (including townscapes) and nature conservation as part of the development management process</p> <p>BNH 27 Protect existing hedgerows, particularly of historical and archaeological importance of townland boundaries, from unnecessary removal in order to preserve the rural character of the countryside ad promote biodiversity</p> <p>BNH 28 Ensure that hedgerow removal to facilitate development is kept to an absolute minimum and, where unavoidable, a requirement for mitigation planting will be required comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking in to existing adjacent hedges. Native plants of a local provenance should be used for any such planting</p> <p>BNH 29 Promote and develop urban forests in parkland and street trees in urban settlements to enhance public realm and increase tree canopy coverage and diversity.</p> <p>BNH 30 Ensure that hedgerow and mature tree removal to facilitate development is kept to an absolute minimum and, where unavoidable, a requirement for mitigation planting will be required comprising a hedge of similar length and species composition to the original, established as close as is practicable to the original and where possible linking in to existing adjacent hedges. Native plants of a local provenance should be used for any such planting</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Waterways and Wetlands</b></p> <p>BNH 31 Protect waterbodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, to ensure they are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>BNH 32 Promote and develop the Barrow Blueway initiative and work with State Agencies, landowners, local communities and other relevant groups to protect and manage inland waters, river corridors and their floodplains from degradation and damage, and to recognise and promote them as natural assets of the urban and rural environment</p> <p>BNH 33 Promote and facilitate the development of the Grand Canal for cycling, walking and nature study in conjunction with the relevant bodies including Waterways Ireland to enhance its amenity. Investigate the possibility of developing long distance walking routes/Greenway, within the lifetime of the Plan, along the disused Mountmellick Grand Canal Line.</p> <p>BNH 34 Protect riparian corridors by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors and maintain them free from inappropriate development. Where developments are proposed adjacent to waterways in previously undeveloped areas, the Planning Authority will require a general setback distance of a minimum of 10 metres from the waterways edge, subject to site-specific characteristics and the nature and design of the development. In previously developed areas, for example, within town centres, this general setback distance is likely to be reduced</p>
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<sup>8</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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					<p>and should be part of any pre-planning consultations with the Council.</p> <p>BNH 35 Require that development along rivers set aside lands for pedestrian routes and cycleways that could link to the broader area and established settlements in the area.</p> <p>BNH 36 Provide for public access to waterways where feasible and appropriate, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, whilst maintaining them free from inappropriate development, subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.</p> <p>BNH 37 Protect the Nore Pearl Mussel through the measures set out in the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Nore Sub-Basin Management Plan (2009).</p> <p>BNH 38 Protect the migration of fish in the River Barrow Nore SAC from high risk barriers such as weirs and bridge sills.</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Peatlands</b></p> <p>BNH 40 The County Development will continue to support the objectives of the Strategic Framework for the Future use of Peatlands which identifies new potential future land uses and also seek to progress opportunities under Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>BNH 41 Protect the county's designated peatland areas and landscapes and to conserve and manage their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage by promoting high environmental standards in conjunction with Bord na Mona, NPWS, IPPC, NGO's and local communities.</p> <p>BNH 42 Work with relevant agencies such as Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent Local Authorities to prepare an integrated afteruse framework and management plans for the peatlands and related infrastructure,</p> <p>BNH 43 Support the preparation of a Sustainable Holistic Management Plan for the future use of the Industrial Peatlands in the County, which recognises the role of peatlands in carbon sequestration.</p> <p>BNH 44 Support the designation of a National Park for the peatlands area in the Midlands in conjunction with adjoining Local Authorities.</p> <p>BNH 45 Undertake a feasibility study to identify peatways, where appropriate and examine the tourist potential of same such as a peatway link from Portarlington to the Grand Canal and River Barrow Greenway.</p> <p>BNH 46 Support relevant agencies to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands at Cuil Na Mona.</p> <p><b>Light Pollution Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 49 Ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised, thereby limiting light pollution into the surrounding environment and protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species</p> <p>ES 50 Encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas and limit light pollution in urban and rural areas</p> <p>ES 51 Encourage the maintenance of dark skies in rural areas and limit light pollution in urban and rural areas</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p>BNH 19 Ensure that areas and networks of Green Infrastructure are identified, protected, enhanced, managed and created to provide a wide range of environmental, social and economic benefits to communities.</p> <p>BNH 20 Develop and implement a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Laois in partnership with key stakeholders and the public which reflects a long-term perspective, including the need to adapt to climate change. Ensure the Green Infrastructure Strategy for Laois protects existing Green Infrastructure resources and plans for future Green Infrastructure provision</p> <p>BNH 21 Require all Local Area Plans and Master Plans to protect, enhance, provide and manage Green Infrastructure in an integrated and coherent manner. Set targets for the provision of Green Infrastructure elements such as trees and green roofs as part of the preparation of Local Area Plans.</p> <p>BNH 22 Promote a network of paths and cycle tracks to enhance accessibility to the Green Infrastructure network, while ensuring that the design and operation of the routes respect and where possible enhances the ecological potential of each site</p> <p>BNH 23 Encourage, pursuant to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the management of features of the landscape, such as traditional field boundaries and laneways, important for the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>BNH 24 To identify and map Green Infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>
<p><b>Population and Human Health</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from "Soil", environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b></p> <p><b>Major Accident Directive – Policies</b></p> <p>MA P1: Have regard to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive (European Council Directive 2012/18/EU) and any regulations under any enactment giving effect to that Directive, and the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) in relation to any identified SEVESO sites in the county during the life of this Plan.</p> <p>MA P2: Have regard to the provisions of the Major Accident Directive (EC Directive 2012/18/EU), including any regulations under any enactment giving effect to that Directive, and to the technical advice of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), in relation to any identified SEVESO sites in the county during the lifetime of this Plan and to the control of development with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The siting of Major Accident Hazard sites.</li> <li>The modification of an existing Major Accident Hazard site.</li> </ul>

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	<p>population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specified development in the vicinity of a Major Accident Hazard site.</li> </ul> <p><b>Laois County Development Plan</b>  <b>COMAH Policy Objectives</b>  ES 55 Ensure that any COMAH sites in County Laois are managed in accordance with the provisions of the Seveso III Directive  ES 56 Have regard to the following in assessing applications for new developments (including extensions);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Major Accidents Directive Seveso III Directive (2012/18/EU);</li> <li>• The potential effects on public health and safety;</li> <li>• The need to ensure adequate distances between such developments and residential areas, areas of public use and any areas of sensitivity</li> </ul> <p>ES 57 Any proposals for developments within the vicinity of major accident hazard sites shall have cognisance of the required minimum separation distances as required by the Major Accidents Directive. In this regard all future proposals of this nature shall be forwarded to the Health and Safety Authority</p>
<p><b>Soil</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of the environment from</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>• Potential for riverbank erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>• Riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b>  <b>Geological Heritage - Policies</b>  It is the policy of the Council to:</p> <p>GH P1: Protect and enhance the geological and geomorphological heritage of the County.  GH P2: Protect from inappropriate development the list of County Geological Sites (CGS) included in this Plan.  GH P3: Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland on development proposals which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p><b>Geological Heritage - Objectives</b>  It an objective of the Council to:  GH O1: Protect geological Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) as they become designated during the lifetime of this Plan..</p> <p><b>Extractive Industry - Aggregates (stone, sand and gravel) and Mineral Resources - Policies</b>  EI O2: Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) with regard to any developments likely to have an impact on Sites of Geological Importance listed in Chapter 10 of this Plan.</p> <p><b>Section 16.11.6 Soil Protection, Contamination and Remediation</b>  Where appropriate adequate soil protection measures shall be outlined in planning applications submitted. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed. The EPA's publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites. All undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant on remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p>

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	<p>contamination the highest standards of remediation.</p>				<p>Treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>Prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will be required to carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and</li> <li>• How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with.</li> </ul> <p><b>Section 16.11.7 Peatlands</b>          Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses, potentially undermining expected carbon savings (in the case of renewable energy developments) and damaging rare habitats of European importance. When developing project proposals for developments on peatlands the following assessments maybe required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peatland stability;</li> <li>• Carbon emissions balance; and</li> <li>• Hydrology and Ecology.</li> </ul> <p>Where relevant the Council will support the implementation of recommendations contained in the National Peatlands Strategy 2015.</p> <p><b>Laois County Development Plan</b>          ES 32 Control intensive agriculture development e.g. intensive pig unit productions in order to minimise their impact on soil and ground water quality.</p> <p>Developments involving intensive pig units shall be required to show compliance with the following requirements:</p> <p>a) The developer shall demonstrate that all lands available are suitable for landspreading of manures and have satisfactory Nutrient Management Plans for such lands</p> <p>b) Satisfactory arrangements for storage, management and spreading of slurries are provided.</p> <p><b>Soil Quality Policy Objectives</b>          ES 52 Ensure good soil quality throughout the county by requiring developments of a certain nature (as specified in the relevant environmental legislation) to carry out assessments of the impact of the development on soil quality          ES 53 Recognise the significant impacts of land use, land use change and sludge generation and treatment in relation to carbon loss/stocks and recognise the function of soil assessment and management, carbon sinks, carbon sequestration and restoration of degraded lands in plan led settlement and development strategies</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Geology</b>          GEO 1 Work with stakeholders to protect, preserve, enhance, maintain, manage, conserve, recognise and, where appropriate, restore the character conservation value and integrity of these sites for their amenity, scientific, heritage and historic values (including County Geological Sites listed in Table 28, proposed NHA's, areas near site and areas of geomorphological interest          GEO 2 Protect geological NHAs as they become designated and notified to the Local Authority, during the lifetime of the Plan;          GEO 3 Promote and encourage, where practicable and when not in conflict with ownership rights, access to geological and geomorphological features          GEO 4 Encourage and facilitate the development of geo-tourism by conserving and managing geological resources, and by the development of a Rock Trail (named), Geoparks or other similar geo-tourism initiatives</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Eskers</b>          GEO 5 Protect, preserve and conserve the landscape and natural heritage and geo-diversity values of esker systems from inappropriate development. Ensure that any plan or project affecting eskers are adequately assessed with regard to their potential impact on the environment          GEO 6 Assess applications for quarrying activity and gravel extraction and other development in proximity to eskers, with respect to their landscape importance or amenity value and the need to conserve them free from inappropriate development and to conserve their environmental character values and the extent to which proposals would damage these qualities.</p>
<p><b>Water</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>• Increase in flood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>• Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>WW. P1: Facilitate and support Uisce Éireann in the delivery of public wastewater services in Carlow-Graigucullen to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the Plan area, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>WW. P2: Encourage the decommissioning of existing on-site private wastewater treatment systems and the connection of properties to the public wastewater network in Carlow-Graigucullen wherever feasible, to minimise risk of groundwater pollution and subject to connection agreements with Uisce Éireann and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>The provision of individual wastewater treatment systems within</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b>  <b>Surface Water Drainage / SuDS- Policies and Objectives</b>          SW P1: Ensure adequate surface water drainage systems are in place which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan.          SW P2: Ensure as an alternative to underground tanks and piped outfalls to watercourses, that all development proposals incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems and to promote the use of green infrastructure e.g. green roofs, green walls, planting and green spaces for surface water retention purposes, as an integrated part of SuDS and maximise the multi-functional potential of these systems including benefits for biodiversity and amenity value wherever possible.          SW P3: Require appropriate maintenance of surface water drainage infrastructure to avoid flood risk.          SW P4: To require all new developments, to provide for separated drainage systems.          SW P5: Seek to minimise in as far as is practical the discharge of additional and existing surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers (in existing combined sewer serviced areas) in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.          SW P6: Require all new developments to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to</p>

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	<p>sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<p>risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</p>	<p>Plan.</p>	<p>the Plan boundary will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WW. P3: Ensure that development proposals adhere to the standards and requirements of Uisce Éireann in relation to connections to the public wastewater network, and to encourage all developers to consult with Uisce Éireann prior to submitting a planning application in relation to connection agreement/self-lay agreement requirements.</p> <p>WW. O1: Support wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provision by Uisce Éireann in Carlow-Graiguecullen, including any maintenance works and planned upgrades for Mortarstown WWTP and the associated wastewater network serving the joint urban area, including the safeguarding of existing such infrastructure corridors, in order to ensure that zoned lands are adequately serviced over the period of the Plan and in accordance with the Core Strategies of Carlow and Laois County Councils.</p> <p>WW. O2: Implement, in conjunction with Uisce Éireann, the relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2022) publication 'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2021' and any subsequent update to this document.</p> <p>SG. P1: Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in Carlow-Graiguecullen and to protect surface and ground water quality in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>SG. P2: Require the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) within development proposals and infrastructure projects, in accordance with the DHLGH Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Best Practice Interim Guidance Document, 2022' (and any subsequent amendments or revisions to the document), Carlow County Council's SuDS Policy, and Laois County Council's Storm Water Management Policy as appropriate, in order to reduce flood risk, improve water quality and enhance biodiversity and amenity in the joint urban area.</p> <p>SG. P3: Ensure that all development proposals maintain surface water discharge at greenfield run-off rate, including an allowance for climate change.</p> <p>SG. O1: Maintain, improve, and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Carlow-Graiguecullen in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent amendments or revisions to the Plan.</p> <p>SG. O2: Require applicants, where necessary, to demonstrate that development proposals will not negatively impact on any surface water or groundwater body and be compliant with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and measures to protect and improve our water bodies set down in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 and any subsequent amendments or revisions to the Plan.</p> <p>FR. P1: Ensure that all development proposals in Carlow-Graiguecullen comply with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) and Circular PL2/2014 (and any future revisions or updates to these Guidelines), in particular through the application of the sequential approach and the Development Management Justification Test.</p> <p>FR. P2: Have regard to the findings and recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) carried out for this Joint Urban Local Area Plan.</p> <p>FR. P3: Carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting, and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding in Carlow-Graiguecullen and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.</p> <p>FR. P4: Require the submission of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) in areas at risk of flooding in Carlow-Graiguecullen. The assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional, shall be appropriate to the</p>	<p>incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate / viable in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>SW O1: Require all development (including extensions to existing development) proposals to incorporate design criteria and SuDS measures in accordance with Carlow County Council SuDS Policy in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flood risks and to improve biodiversity and amenity value.</p> <p><b>Water Quality- Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>WQ P1: Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and any associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of this Plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including headwaters, surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated habitats. The Council will support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation. Site specific assessments to determine localised pressures / impacts may be required as part of the development management process.</p> <p>WQ P2: Promote and comply with the environmental standards and objectives established for (i) bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Water) Regulations 2009 and (ii) groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 or as may be amended during the period of this Plan.</p> <p>WQ P3: Ensure that the Water Framework Directive, the River Basin Management Plan and any subsequent Water Management Plans or statutory guidance are fully considered throughout the planning process.</p> <p>WQ P4: Encourage the use of catchment sensitive farming practices in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the RBMP.</p> <p>WQ O1: Ensure through the implementation of the River Basin Management Plan, and any associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the County.</p> <p>WQ O2: Work with the Local Authority Waters Programme and other relevant State agencies to develop and implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and any updates subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>WQ O3: Implement the Blue Dot Catchment network programme under the RBMP to protect and maintain the excellent 'High' status water bodies.</p> <p>WQ P4: Promote and support locally led community initiatives aimed at improving local water quality standards subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management – Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>FR P1: Support, in co-operation with the OPW the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC) on the assessment and management of flood risks, the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and relevant outputs of the South Eastern Catchment and Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study.</p> <p>FR P2: Carry out flood risk assessment for the purpose of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding and to minimise the level of flood risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.</p> <p>FR P3: Ensure that all development proposals comply with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) and Circular PL2/2014 (or any amendments thereto), in particular through the application of the sequential approach and the Development Management Justification Test.</p> <p>FR P4: Require the submission of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) in areas at risk of flooding. The assessment shall be carried out by a suitably qualified and indemnified professional, shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of the risk to the proposed development and shall consider all sources of flooding. The FRA shall be prepared in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities and shall address climate change, residual risk, avoidance of contamination of water sources and any proposed site-specific flood management measures.</p> <p>FR P5: To protect and enhance the county's floodplains and wetlands as "green infrastructure" which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed. Riparian buffer zones shall have regard to Policies contained in Section 10.7 of this Plan.</p> <p>FR P6: To ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management.</p> <p>FR O1: Ensure that flood risk management is incorporated into the preparation of future statutory local area plans in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) and Circular PL2/2014, and any future updates of these guidelines.</p> <p>FR O2: Facilitate the provision of new, or the augmentation of existing flood defences and protective measures, where necessary including natural flood management measures where deemed appropriate and to support the implementation of proposed flood schemes while also seeking to ensure zoning or development proposals support and do not impede or prevent the progression of these schemes subject to compliance with the requirements of the EU Habitats Directive, the protection of natural and built heritage and visual amenities.</p> <p>FR O3: Seek to ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the cultural and natural heritage of rivers, streams and watercourses are protected, and improved where possible.</p> <p><b>Inland Waters and Riparian Zones - Policies</b></p> <p>IW P1: Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other watercourses, to maintain them in an open state, to discourage culverting or realignment, and where possible, uncover existing culverts and restore the watercourses to acceptable ecological standards and for the passage of fish.</p> <p>IW P2: Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers, streams and riparian</p>
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				<p>scale and nature of the risk to the proposed development and shall consider all sources of flooding. The FRA shall be prepared in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) and Circular PL2/2014 (and any future revisions or updates to these Guidelines), and shall address climate change, residual risk, avoidance of contamination of water sources and any proposed site-specific flood management measures.</p> <p>FR. P5: Minimise flood risk arising from pluvial (surface water) flooding in Carlow-Graigucullen by promoting the use of natural flood risk management measures including the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and nature-based solutions. FR. P6: Maintain a riparian (buffer) zone of not less than 10 metres between all watercourses and any development proposals to mitigate against flood risk, with the full extent of the buffer zone to be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities and consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>FR. O1: Manage flood risk in Carlow-Graigucullen in conjunction with the Office of Public Works (OPW) and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009), Circular PL02/2014, and any future revisions or updates to these Guidelines.</p> <p>FR. O2: Seek to ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural and cultural heritage of the River Barrow and Burren River is protected and improved where possible.</p>	<p>zones, including those which occur outside of designated areas, in order to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the County.</p> <p>IW P3: Control the encroachment of development on watercourses and riparian zones and provide for protection measures to watercourses and their banks, including but not limited to: the prevention of pollution of the watercourse, the protection of the river bank from erosion, the retention and/or provision of wildlife corridors and the protection from light spill in sensitive locations, including during construction of permitted development.</p> <p>IW P4: Require the submission of an Ecological Impact Assessment, where deemed necessary (and where necessary an Appropriate Assessment where in relation to Natura 2000 sites), including bat and otter surveys, for development proposals along rivers, streams and canal corridors and areas of ecological importance.</p> <p>IW P5: Maintain a biodiversity protection (buffer) zone of not less than 10 metres from the top bank of all watercourses in the County, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities and consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p> <p>IW P6: Ensure that lighting proposals along water courses, rivers, streams and canal corridors, are not in conflict with bat species, and to ensure that expert advice is sought on such lighting proposals in order to mitigate the impacts of lighting on bats and other species.</p> <p>IW P7: Require that runoff from a development area will not result in deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats, and that pollution generated by a development is treated within the developed area prior to discharge to local watercourses.</p> <p>IW P8: Ensure the protection, improvement or restoration of riverine floodplains and to promote strategic measures to accommodate flooding at appropriate locations, to protect ground and surface water quality and build resilience to climate change.</p> <p>IW P9: Ensure that development proposals do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater dependent habitats and species.</p> <p>IW P10: Consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland, as appropriate, in relation to any works or development that could have potential impacts on watercourses, aquatic habitats, species, and associated riparian habitats, and to take full account of any Guidance documents issued by Inland Fisheries Ireland in this regard, including 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, A Guide to the Protection of Watercourses through the use of Buffer Zones, Sustainable Drainage Systems, Instream Rehabilitation, Climate/Flood Risk and Recreational Planning' (2020).</p> <p>IW P11: Promote the use of watercourses for the pursuit of angling, through working with Inland Fisheries Ireland to improve water quality, to improve fish stocks and to provide safe access to fishing, where appropriate, taking full account of the requirements of the Habitats Directive and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>IW P12: Promote the natural, historical and amenity value of the County's watercourses, including public access where feasible and appropriate, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Services, Waterways Ireland, Inland Fisheries Ireland, and other relevant stakeholders, while maintaining the watercourses free from inappropriate development.</p> <p><b>Wetlands - Policies</b></p> <p>WT P1: Protect, manage, and enhance wetlands in the County, and resist development that would remove, fragment, or degrade wetlands.</p> <p>WT P2: Protect the biodiversity and flood protection value of wetlands and floodplains in the County.</p> <p>WT P3: Ensure that ecological impact assessment is carried out, where appropriate, for development proposals involving, drainage, reclamation, or infill of wetland areas.</p> <p>WT P4: To promote voluntary construction of new wet lands where deemed in accordance with proper planning and environmental considerations and where same maybe facilitated by ecological schemes.</p> <p><b>Agriculture – Policies</b></p> <p>AG P3: Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p> <p>AG P4: Ensure that all agricultural activities comply with legislation on water quality, such as the Phosphorous Regulations, Water Framework Directive and Nitrates Directive. In relation to intensive agricultural installations (i.e. intensive pig and poultry farming), recent EPA Guidance (2021) on Assessment of the Impact of Ammonia and Nitrogen on Natura 2000 sites from intensive agriculture installations should be consulted when carrying out project assessment.</p> <p><b>Forestry – Policies</b></p> <p>FR P1: Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector with a diversity of species including native hardwood species, which maximises its contribution to the economic and social wellbeing of the county and which is;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites.</li> <li>- which does not detract substantially from landscape and visual amenity, protected or scenic views, built heritage, archaeological / geological features, or cause pollution or degradation to wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance;</li> <li>- which does not obstruct existing public rights of way, traditional walking routes or recreational and tourism amenities and</li> <li>- which is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity, Water Quality and requirements regarding the protection of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel.</li> </ul>
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Development proposals outside settlement centres will be required to demonstrate a need to locate in the area and will be required to ensure that the ecological integrity and water quality of the river or lake, including lakeshore and riparian habitats, is not adversely affected by the development</p> <p>WS 3 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and roll-out Drinking Water Safety Plans across all water schemes to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments and to ensure that good water quality is sustained in all public water supplies.</p> <p>WS 21 Continue to draw up and implement annual programmes for the monitoring of water quality in Group Water Schemes in accordance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended and as approved by the EPA.</p> <p><b>Water Quality Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 17 Implement the provisions of water pollution abatement measures in accordance with National and EU Directives and other legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate</p> <p>ES 18 Maintain and improve the water quality in rivers and other water courses in the county, including ground waters. The Council will have cognizance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and 36 which provide guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>ES 19 Minimise the impact on groundwater of discharges from domestic wastewater treatment systems and other potentially polluting sources. The Council will comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses' (2009) and the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code for Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels'</p> <p>ES 20 Assist and support with the Blue Dots Catchment Programme which been established under the current River Basin Management Plan specifically for the protection and restoration of high ecological status water bodies</p> <p>ES 21 Ensure the protection of all High Status Water Bodies in the county by complying with the requirements of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended), the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the River Basin Management Plans, and other relevant Regulations.</p> <p>WS 22 Ensure where private wastewater treatment systems are permitted by virtue of their remoteness from Public Wastewater Schemes to serve commercial and business developments, e.g Motorway Service Stations, Tourism and the Hospitality Sector etc, that their performance is monitored and audited so that they are operated in compliance with their wastewater discharge license, in order to protect water quality.</p> <p><b>Groundwater Protection Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 23 Ensure, through the implementation of the relevant River Basin Management Plan and their associated Programmes of Measures and any other associated legislation, the protection and improvement of all drinking water, surface water and ground waters throughout the county</p> <p>ES 24 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and control development in a manner consistent with the proper management of these resources, in accordance with the County Water Source Protection Zones</p> <p>ES 25 Assist and co-operate with the EPA, LAWPRO and IW in the continued implementation of the EU Water Framework Directive</p> <p>ES 26 Minimise the impact on groundwater of discharges from septic tanks and other potentially polluting sources through compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's 'Code of Practice: Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses' (2009).</p> <p>ES 27 Ensure the protection of groundwater dependant Natura 2000 sites which rely on the continued supply of groundwater resources to secure the key environmental conditions that support the integrity of the site and through the protection of groundwater standards as defined by the National River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 (and any subsequent Plan). Where no detailed Plan for protection of a specific source is available wastewater discharge will not be permitted within a radius of 200 metres of that source</p> <p>ES 28 Ensure that Source Protection Areas are identified for any public and group scheme water supplies or multiple unit housing developments with private water supplies;</p> <p>ES 29 Continue efforts to improve water quality under the Local Government (Water Pollution) Act 1977, (as amended) and by implementing the measures outlined under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and complying with the requirements of the Surface Water Legislation Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the River Basin Management Plans, and other relevant Regulations</p> <p>ES 30 Ensure that all industrial development is appropriately located, to seek effluent reduction and 'clean production' where feasible, and require that waste water treatment facilities are adequate, and that effluents are treated and discharged in a satisfactory manner</p>
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					<p>ES 31 New developments which include on-site wastewater treatment in an Extreme Vulnerability Inner Source Protection Area shall be restricted to the following categories:  a) A dwelling for a full-time farmer;  b) An existing inhabited dwelling in need of replacement;  c) A second family dwelling on a farm where this is required for management of the farm  Permission may be granted in the above instances subject to the following stipulations:  a) That an alternative site outside the Extreme vulnerability Inner Protection Area is not available  b) The existing water quality of the source is not subject to any significant nitrate and /or microbiological contamination  c) The existing water quality of the groundwater source is in compliance with the environmental objectives set out in relevant River Basin District Management Plan.  ES 32 Control intensive agriculture development e.g. intensive pig unit productions in order to minimise their impact on soil and ground water quality.  Developments involving intensive pig units shall be required to show compliance with the following requirements:  a) The developer shall demonstrate that all lands available are suitable for landspreading of manures and have satisfactory Nutrient Management Plans for such lands  b) Satisfactory arrangements for storage, management and spreading of slurries are provided.  ES 33 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets, European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017, as amended and comply with the relevant River Basin Management Plan.  ES 34 Consult as necessary with other competent authorities with responsibility for environmental management  ES 35 To work in co-operation with relevant organisations and major stakeholders, to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the protection and improvement of the county's water resources  ES 36 Ensure that developments that may adversely affect water quality will not proceed unless mitigation measures are employed, such as settlements ponds, interceptors etc  ES 37 Promote public awareness of water quality issues and the measures required to protect both surface water and groundwater bodies</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management Policy Objectives</b>  FRM 1 Ensure that flood risk management is incorporated into the preparation of all local area plans through the preparation in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG 2009)  FRM 2 Ensure that all development proposals comply with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management-Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG 2009) and to ensure that the Justification Test for Development Management is applied to required development proposals and in accordance with methodology set out in the guidelines and new development does not increase flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water runoff.  FRM 3 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.  FRM 4 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.  FRM 5 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.  FRM 6 Assist the OPW in developing catchment-based Flood Risk Management Plans for rivers in County Laois and have regard to their provisions/recommendations.  FRM 7 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains and wetlands as 'green infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defenses in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.  FRM 8 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Laois County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defense infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.  FRM 9 Ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural and cultural heritage, rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced.  FRM 10 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.  FRM 11 Consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the provision of flood alleviation measures in the County.  FRM 12 Prioritise plans for flood defence works in the towns as indicated in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in order to mitigate against potential flood risk;  FRM 13 Ensure new development does not increase flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water runoff;  FRM 14 Protect water sinks because of their flood management function, as well as their biodiversity and amenity value and encourage the restoration or creation of water sinks as flood defence mechanisms, where appropriate</p> <p><b>Surface Water and Drainage Policy Objectives</b>  SWD 1 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.  SWD 2 Implement policies contained in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) in relation to</p>
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					<p>SUDS and climate change.                  SWD 3 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.                  SWD 4 Require that planning applications are accompanied by a comprehensive SUDS assessment that addresses run-off quantity, run-off quality and its impact on the existing habitat and water quality.                  SWD 5 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.                  SWD 6 Ensure appropriate maintenance of surface water drainage infrastructure to avoid flood risk.                  SWD 7 Ensure that all storm water generated in a new development is disposed of on-site or is attenuated and treated prior to discharge to an approved storm water system;                  SWD 8 Promote storm water retention facilities for new developments and to incorporate design solutions that provide for collection and recycling of surface water in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems as recommended in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, 2009) and Laois County Council's Roads and Drainage Standards, or as amended.</p>
<p><b>Material Assets</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> <li>Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting sustainable compact growth, sustainable mobility, sustainable design and energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Interactions between agricultural waste and soil,</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>	<p>ABTA. P1: Progress the delivery of the appropriate measures and interventions as outlined in the Carlow-Graiguecullen Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) on a phased basis and subject to the availability of funding, in order to support the shift towards sustainable travel and transport throughout the joint urban area and to accommodate anticipated transport demand due to planned population growth.                  WC. P1: Support and promote enhanced connectivity where appropriate for pedestrians and cyclists in Carlow-Graiguecullen in order to improve accessibility throughout the joint urban area and to the town centre, employment areas, residential areas, local schools and other educational facilities, recreational facilities, and public transport nodes.                  WC. P2: Ensure that all development where appropriate within Carlow-Graiguecullen provides for connectivity (pedestrian, cyclist and vehicular) to adjacent lands in accordance with the National Transport Authority's Permeability Best Practice Guide (2015) and any subsequent update to this Guide.                  WC. P3: Ensure all new development proposals are permeable for walking and cycling and seek the retrospective implementation of walking and cycling connections and facilities in existing neighbourhood, where feasible and appropriate, in order to support and encourage a shift to sustainable travel modes.                  WC. P4: Ensure that pedestrian and cycling infrastructure is based on principles of Universal Design, and that all footpaths in Carlow-Graiguecullen are accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, the elderly, and people with young children.                  WC. P5: Provide adequate and secure bicycle parking facilities subject to demand analysis at appropriate locations in the joint urban area.                  WC. P6: Develop and promote in conjunction with local communities and relevant stakeholders in the joint urban area, short walking routes such as looped walks, heritage trails and Slí na Sláinte routes.                  W. O1: Support and facilitate the delivery of new and improved walking and cycling network in Carlow-Graiguecullen, which delivers permeability enhancements and connections where appropriate as identified in the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) and in Figures 6.4 and 6.5, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority, other statutory agencies, and relevant stakeholders. Final design details shall be subject to appropriate environmental assessment and undergo a separate public consultation process where applicable.                  PT. P1: Promote the sustainable development of Carlow-Graiguecullen by actively engaging with and supporting relevant national transport agencies in their remit to deliver improvements to the public transport network/services for the joint urban area, including at Carlow Railway Station and Carlow Bus Park, and to ensure the provision of integrated public transport services that provide an attractive and convenient alternative to private car travel thereby reducing car dependency for travel purposes. PT.</p>	<p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b>                  Climate Action is provided for throughout the Plan, and is focused upon at Chapter 7 "Climate Action and Energy".  <b>Air Pollution - Policies</b>                  AP P1: Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) or any updated/ superseding documents.                  AP P2: Require activities likely to give rise to air emissions (not licenced under separate legislation) to implement measures to mitigate impacts and to undertake air quality monitoring.  <b>Noise Pollution - Policies</b>                  NP P1: Have regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the Environmental Protection Agency Act (Noise) Regulations 1994 or any amendments thereto when assessing planning applications.                  NP P2: Support and seek the implementation of the Carlow Noise Action Plan 2018 -2023 (and any revisions thereto during the life of this Plan).                  NP P3: Regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise, other than those activities which are regulated by the Environmental Protection Agency.                  NP P4: Ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions.  <b>Laois County Development Plan</b>                  Climate Action is provided for throughout the Plan, and is focused upon at Chapter 3 "Climate Action and Energy".  <b>Air Quality Policy Objectives</b>                  ES 38 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).                  ES 39 Encourage more sustainable modes of transport and a more balanced modal split to reduce carbon emissions                  ES 40 Encourage the use of appropriate mitigation measures, such as dust dampeners, chimney stack scrubbers, etc. to minimise the potential impacts of developments on air quality                  ES 41 Require developments of a certain nature to carry out assessments of the impact of the development on air quality                  ES 42 Ensure the implementation of the radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the Building Regulations  <b>Noise Pollution Policy Objectives</b>                  ES 42 Require an assessment of impact of the developments on noise levels, having regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the EPA Noise Regulations 1994 when assessing planning applications                  ES 43 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006                  ES 44 Ensure that relevant planning applications comply with the provisions of any Noise Action Plan or noise maps relating to the area.                  ES 45 Restrict development proposals causing noise pollution in excess of best practice standards                  ES 46 Regulate and control activities likely to give rise to excessive noise, other than those activities which are regulated by the EPA.                  ES 47 Ensure new development does not cause an unacceptable increase in noise levels affecting noise sensitive properties. Proposals for new development with the potential to create excessive noise will be required to submit a construction and/or operation management plan to control such emissions.                  ES 48 Require activities likely to give rise to excessive noise to install noise mitigation measures and monitors. The provision of a noise audit may be required where appropriate</p>

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		<p>water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</p>		<p>P2: Support transport agencies, including the National Transport Authority (NTA) and public service transport providers in the provision of new and improved public transport services and routes, the enhancement of the quality, frequency and speed of existing train and bus public transport services serving Carlow-Graigucullen, and with measures incorporated to facilitate access for all.</p> <p>PT. P3: Generate additional demand for public transport services in Carlow-Graigucullen by maximising the accessibility of these services through integrated land use and transport planning. PT. P4: Ensure that public transport infrastructure, as required and appropriate, is considered as part of any significant residential or commercial development proposals in the joint urban area e.g., evaluation for requirement for new bus stops, turnaround facilities, pedestrian access, and layover facilities.</p> <p>PT. O1: Support and facilitate the delivery of the preferred public transport improvements identified in the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) to make public transport travel in Carlow-Graigucullen a more accessible, convenient, attractive, and viable transport option. PT. O2: Seek the delivery of a transport node in the immediate vicinity of Carlow Railway Station, facilitating integration of local bus services and private transport modes with the rail network which will facilitate easy exchange between modes and / or routes.</p> <p>RI. P1: Maintain, improve, and extend the public road network in and around Carlow-Graigucullen to ensure a high standard of connectivity and safety for all road users.</p> <p>RI. P2: Co-operate and liaise with the Department of Transport, the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) in relation to securing appropriate improvements/ extensions as appropriate to the public road network within Carlow -Graigucullen.</p> <p>RI. P3: Provide for traffic calming and speed reduction measures throughout the joint urban area, where necessary as funding allows, and ensure that all new developments are designed to incorporate appropriate traffic calming measures as set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS 2013-2017), and any subsequent updates to this Design Manual.</p> <p>RI. P4: That all medium to large scale and complex planning applications (30+ residential units, commercial development over 1,000sq.m., or other development proposals as required by Carlow and Laois County Councils) shall be accompanied by a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA) carried out in accordance with Transport Infrastructure Ireland’s (TII) Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014) and any subsequent updates this Guidelines.</p> <p>RI. O1: Support and facilitate the delivery of the preferred road infrastructure improvements identified in the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) and Figure 6.8, with associated benefits for sustainable travel and transport and multi-modal solutions.</p> <p>RI. O2: Support and facilitate the planning, design, and completion of the Carlow Southern Relief Road N80-R448 including a new bridge crossing over the River Barrow, to enhance connectivity between the South-East and Midlands Regions, and to address and alleviate traffic management considerations thereby making a positive contribution to the local economy and urban environment of Carlow-Graigucullen.</p> <p>CCH. P1: Increase public awareness of the impacts of climate change on built heritage, and support and promote measures to climate proof-built heritage in the joint urban area having regard to the ‘Built &amp; Archaeological Heritage, Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan’ (Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht 2019)</p> <p>CA. P1: Support the transition of Carlow-Graigucullen to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>CA. P2: Promote and encourage positive community and/or co-operative led climate action initiatives and projects in Carlow-</p>	
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			<p>Graiguercullen that seek to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency and conservation, enhance green infrastructure, and encourage awareness on climate change issues and impacts.</p> <p>CA. P3: Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p>CA. O1: Support, in conjunction with key stakeholders, the preparation and implementation of the Climate Action Plans for County Carlow and County Laois, and to facilitate their role as a driver in the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change adaptation in Carlow-Graiguercullen, and the translation of national climate policy to local and community levels in the joint urban area.</p> <p>CA. O2: Support and facilitate the role of the Carlow Town Decarbonisation Zone in the delivery of effective climate action at a local level, through interventions, projects, and actions aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing energy efficiency and conservation.</p> <p>CA. O3: Advocate for climate action by raising public awareness of climate change issues and responses.</p> <p>LU. P1: Secure climate resilience and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Carlow-Graiguercullen by actively implementing policies which support integrated land use planning and sustainable travel, and maximise such opportunities through development location, form, layout, and design.</p> <p>UR. P1: Secure climate resilience and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in Carlow-Graiguercullen through encouragement and support for urban regeneration projects and interventions, including those set out in Project Carlow 2040 – A Vision for Regeneration.</p> <p>UR. P2: Support the effective and efficient use of land in Carlow-Graiguercullen, prioritising compact growth in preference to greenfield land consumption, through the development and regeneration of vacant and underutilised brownfield/infill land and buildings within the existing built-up footprint of the joint urban area.</p> <p>UR. O1: Leverage all available funding streams which will support and deliver urban regeneration outcomes in Carlow-Graiguercullen which seek to secure climate resilience and a reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in the joint urban area.</p> <p>RE. P1: Encourage and support a transition to renewable energy sources in Carlow-Graiguercullen, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>EE. P1: Encourage and promote the consideration of energy efficient and low-carbon design solutions and modern construction methods when carrying out pre-planning discussions for major residential, commercial, and industrial development in Carlow-Graiguercullen.</p> <p>EE. P2: Encourage development proposals that are low carbon, well adapted to the impacts of climate change, include mitigation measures, and maximise energy efficiency through renewable energy sources, water conservation, SuDS, siting, layout and design.</p> <p>EE. P3: Promote the use of efficient energy storage systems and infrastructure that support energy efficiency and reusable energy system optimisation, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>EE. P4: Support the use of blue roofs, green roofs, green walls, photovoltaic and/or solar thermal collector panels and heat pumps on new residential, commercial, industrial, and public buildings.</p> <p>EE. P5: Support and facilitate the installation of district heating systems as a decarbonising technology in new developments in Carlow-Graiguercullen, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations. EE. P6: Promote the use of efficient energy storage systems and infrastructure in Carlow-Graiguercullen that support energy efficiency and reusable energy system optimisation, subject to compliance with proper planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>EE. O1: Support the implementation of national energy efficiency</p>	
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				<p>standards in Carlow-Graigucullen, including energy efficiency and conservation measures through: . Improved building design; . Promoting smarter travel; and, . Raising awareness/benefits of energy conservation.</p> <p>EE. O2: Reduce dependency on fossil fuels for domestic and commercial heating in Carlow-Graigucullen by encouraging the use of renewable heat solutions through the development management process. EE. O3: Retrofit all non-LED local authority public lighting in Carlow-Graigucullen to high efficiency LED lanterns to contribute to meeting statutory energy efficiency targets, and to significantly reduce emissions and achieve cost savings with energy and maintenance efficiencies.</p> <p>NB. P1: Actively promote and encourage nature-based approaches and green infrastructure solutions in Carlow-Graigucullen as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the adaptive capacity of ecosystems and optimise the multifaceted benefits through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>. Conservation, promotion, and restoration of the natural environment;</li> <li>. Integrating an ecosystem services approach and promote healthy living environments through enhanced connection with nature and recreation/amenity.</li> <li>. Enhancing biodiversity in the joint urban area.</li> <li>. Assist with water and flood risk management; and,</li> <li>. Carbon storage or sequestration.</li> </ul> <p>SW. P1: Ensure that all development proposals where viable incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage solutions.</p>	
<p><b>Air and Climatic Factors</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the town's core areas) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond.</li> <li>• In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>○ Sustainable</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality<sup>9</sup>.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors<sup>10</sup>.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</li> <li>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</li> </ul>		

<sup>9</sup> Although interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

<sup>10</sup> Although interventions would be likely to result in an overall reduction in traffic flows and associated interactions with air, noise and human health, there would be potential for displacement of traffic to lead to localised increases traffic flows and associated localised potential impacts in terms of increased population exposure to air pollutants and/or elevated noise levels, both within the Plan area and beyond.

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	<p>mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>○ Sectors including agriculture, residential heating and infrastructure;</li> <li>○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure.</li> </ul>	relating to flood risk management.			
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and Climatic Factors and various Land Use provisions.</p> <p>PW. P1: Support Uisce Éireann in the provision of a sufficient quantity and quality of water to serve the needs of the existing and future population of Carlow-Graigucullen over the period of the Plan and in accordance with the Core Strategies of Carlow and Laois County Councils, and to promote the sustainable management of the water supply for the joint urban area.</p> <p>PW. P2: Ensure that new developments will be required to connect to the public water supply network in Carlow-Graigucullen where public water mains are available, and subject to connection agreements with Uisce Éireann and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>PW. P3: Ensure that development proposals adhere to the standards and requirements of Uisce Éireann in relation to connections to the public water network, and to encourage all developers to consult with Uisce Éireann in relation to connection agreement/self-lay agreement requirements prior to submitting a planning application.</p> <p>PW. P4: Support and collaborate with Uisce Éireann in increasing public awareness of water conservation measures and techniques, and in the reduction of water leakage in Carlow-Graigucullen as part of the implementation of their National Leakage Reduction Programme.</p> <p>PW. P5: Support best practice water conservation measures in development proposals, including the use of rainwater harvesting systems, roof water collection (water butts), and grey water recycling.</p> <p>PW. P6: Contribute towards the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, and groundwater, and associated habitats and species, in accordance with the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>PW. O1: Support the investment and provision of public water supply infrastructure by Uisce Éireann, including any maintenance works and planned upgrades to water treatment plants and the associated public mains water network serving the joint urban area, including the safeguarding of existing such infrastructure corridors, in order to ensure that zoned lands are adequately serviced over the period of the Plan and in accordance with the Core Strategies of Carlow and Laois County Councils.</p> <p>WW. P1: Facilitate and support Uisce Éireann in the delivery of public wastewater services in Carlow-Graigucullen to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the Plan area, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>WW. P2: Encourage the decommissioning of existing on-site private</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and Climatic Factors and various Land Use provisions.</p> <p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b></p> <p><b>Water Supply -Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>WS P1: Work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and associated drainage infrastructure and to promote investment in the water and drainage network to support environmental protection and facilitate the sustainable growth of the County.</p> <p>WS P2: Collaborate with Irish Water in relation to the preparation of their Investment Plans in order to align the supply of water services with the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy.</p> <p>WS P3: To support Irish Water in delivering key water service projects to meet the future needs of the County subject to compliance with all relevant EU and national legislation and normal environmental and planning criteria.</p> <p>WS P4: Assist Irish Water in their commitment to water conservation and support efforts to address leakage including watermain rehabilitation.</p> <p>WS P5: Promote best practice water conservation practices in all developments including rainwater harvesting and grey water recycling and supporting the implementation of BS8515-2009 Rainwater Harvesting Systems – Code of Practice.</p> <p>WS P6: Require new developments where public water supply and network infrastructure is available to seek a connection to existing public water mains where viable.</p> <p>WS O1: Work with Irish Water to protect, manage and optimise water supply networks in the County and to seek the timely delivery of ongoing upgrades to the watermain networks in towns, villages and those serving the rural population including the significant asset of the trunk main between Rathvilly and Brownshill providing a significant portion of the water supply for the Greater Carlow Urban Area.</p> <p>WS O2: Work with Irish Water in progressing the upgrade of Rathvilly Water Treatment Plant, provision of additional reservoir storage at Leighlinbridge, and improved resilience of supply in the Carlow Central Region, Hacketstown and Bilboa.</p> <p>WS O3: Work with Irish Water to ensure expansion of water supply to meet the future needs of the County in the medium to long term.</p> <p>WS O4: Support the implementation of the Rural Water Programme.</p> <p><b>Wastewater Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the policy of the Council to:</p> <p>PW P1: Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment by Irish Water and to support Irish Water in providing and maintaining adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure to service zoned lands, towns and villages and developments over the period of the Plan in accordance with the Core Strategy and Settlement Hierarchy.</p> <p>PW P2: Facilitate Irish Water in the delivery of public wastewater services which address the residential, commercial and industrial needs of the County subject to compliance with all relevant EU and national legislation and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>PW P3: Encourage and support a changeover from septic tanks/ private wastewater treatment plants to public collection networks wherever feasible, subject to connection agreements with Irish Water and to ensure that any future development connects to the public wastewater infrastructure where it is available.</p> <p>PW O1: Facilitate the required upgrade of wastewater projects that may arise during the lifetime of this Plan subject to compliance with all relevant EU and national legislation and normal planning and environmental criteria including upgrade and improvement works on current and planned IW schemes for Tullow WWTP, Bagenalstown/Leighlinbridge WWTP, Mortarstown WWTP, and Borris WWTP.</p> <p>PW O2: Work and support Irish Water in progressing the "Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme" which is intended to provide growth capacity at WWTPs (and WTPs) in smaller settlements which would not otherwise be provided for in the current Investment Plan.</p> <p>PW O3: Work and support Irish Water, other public infrastructure agencies and local communities to develop the programme for "new homes in small towns and villages" through land activation and supportive works (e.g.</p>

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			<p>wastewater treatment systems and the connection of properties to the public wastewater network in Carlow-Graiguecullen wherever feasible, to minimise risk of groundwater pollution and subject to connection agreements with Uisce Éireann and compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance. The provision of individual wastewater treatment systems within the Plan boundary will be strongly discouraged to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WW. P3: Ensure that development proposals adhere to the standards and requirements of Uisce Éireann in relation to connections to the public wastewater network, and to encourage all developers to consult with Uisce Éireann prior to submitting a planning application in relation to connection agreement/self-lay agreement requirements.</p> <p>WW. O1: Support wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provision by Uisce Éireann in Carlow-Graiguecullen, including any maintenance works and planned upgrades for Mortarstown WWTP and the associated wastewater network serving the joint urban area, including the safeguarding of existing such infrastructure corridors, in order to ensure that zoned lands are adequately serviced over the period of the Plan and in accordance with the Core Strategies of Carlow and Laois County Councils.</p> <p>WW. O2: Implement, in conjunction with Uisce Éireann, the relevant recommendations set out in the EPA (2022) publication 'Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2021' and any subsequent update to this document.</p> <p>WM. P1: Promote and support sustainable forms of waste management by households, communities, and businesses, including waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling, and recovery.</p> <p>WM. P2: Safeguard the environment of the joint urban area by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.</p> <p>WM. P3: Ensure that Carlow-Graiguecullen is served by adequately sized public recycling facilities, including bring bank recycling facilities, and to adequately maintain existing recycling facilities in the joint urban area.</p> <p>WM. P4: Require the incorporation of sustainable waste management measures within developments, including the provision of adequately sized facilities for the storage, separation, and collection of waste and recyclable materials.</p> <p>WM. O1: Implement the provisions of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and the Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021, and any subsequent or updated versions of these plans during the lifetime of this JULAP, as a means of promoting the circular economy approach and ensuring the prevention and management of waste in a safe and sustainable manner.</p> <p>WM. O2: Promote and facilitate communities becoming involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives in support of local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM. O3: Eliminate unauthorised fly tipping in the joint urban area and to regulate and control the disposal of builder's spoil and rubble.</p>	<p>serviced sites) as set out in NPO 18b of the National Planning Framework.</p> <p>WW P1: Require that private wastewater treatment systems for individual houses where permitted, comply with the recommendations contained within the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems (2021) Serving Single Houses (population equivalent less than or equal to 10) or any updated version during the period of this Plan, the Water Framework Directive, the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (as maybe updated) and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>WT P1: Ensure that the proposed wastewater treatment system for development in unserviced areas complies with the relevant EPA Code of Practice, the Water Framework Directive, the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 (as maybe updated) and the Habitats Directive. There will be a general presumption that development will be focused into areas that are serviced by public wastewater collection networks where available.</p> <p>WT P2: Prohibit the use of shared wastewater treatment systems for new multi-house developments in unserviced rural areas.</p> <p><b>Waste Management Infrastructure Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>WM P1: Implement European Union, National and Regional waste related environmental policy, legislation, guidance and codes of practice to improve management of material resources and wastes.</p> <p>WM P2: Encourage the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy in accordance with A Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy, Ireland's National Waste Policy 2020-2025', to enhance employment and increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</p> <p>WM P3: Support the circular economy, and to provide, promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure and technology in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy subject to economic and technical feasibility and environmental assessments.</p> <p>WM P4: Seek the provision of adequately sized public recycling facilities in association with new commercial developments and in tandem with significant change of use / extensions of existing commercial developments where appropriate.</p> <p>WM P5: Require the appropriate provision for the sustainable management of waste within developments, including the provision of facilities for storage, separation and collection of waste.</p> <p>WM P6: Ensure that all waste that is disposed of by private waste companies is done so in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Waste Management Legislation and in accordance with the Planning Code.</p> <p>WM O1: Implement the provisions of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021, and any updates thereto during the life of this Plan, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and normal planning and environmental considerations.</p> <p>WM O2: Continue to rehabilitate the former Powerstown landfill site and following completion of these works to accommodate an appropriate end-use that is compatible with the local environment.</p> <p>WM O3: Implement the Litter Management Plan 2021-2023 and updates during the life of this Plan.</p> <p>WM O4: Use statutory powers to prohibit the illegal deposit and disposal of waste, refuse and litter, and to authorise and regulate waste disposal within the County in an environmentally sensitive manner.</p> <p>WM O5: Implement the legislative provisions in relation to historic landfill sites in the County and to undertake risk assessments where required and any subsequent remedial measures where necessary.</p> <p><b>Laois County Development Plan</b></p> <p><b>Public Water Supply Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>WS 1 Continue in conjunction with Irish Water to ensure that a Safe and Reliable Water Supply by managing the sustainability and quality of drinking water from source to tap to protect human health</p> <p>WS 2 Provide for Resilience in Public Water Schemes and support social and economic growth and meet customer demands particularly during drought conditions by working with IW to deliver on the following priority schemes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Portlaoise PWS – Bring into production the 3 non-producing Boreholes in Coolbanagher and increase Storage Capacity to provide 24 hours emergency supply;</li> <li>• Portarlinton PWS – Bring into Production Borehole(s) and Treatment Plant in the Doolough Wellfield and increase Storage Capacity to provide 24 hours emergency supply and</li> <li>• Swan PWS – Bring into Production the Borehole and Treatment Plant at Tollerton.</li> </ul> <p>WS 3 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and roll-out Drinking Water Safety Plans across all water schemes to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments and to ensure that good water quality is sustained in all public water supplies.</p> <p>WS 4 Work with Irish Water to ensure that adequate water services will be available to service zoned development and to require developers to engage with IW in a timely fashion by way of submitting a pre-connection enquiry form to IW.</p> <p>WS 5 Laois County Council will not permit developments of greater than one dwelling which propose standalone developer provided waste water infrastructure in areas remote from Public Water Schemes</p> <p>WS 6 Work with IW to minimise wastage of water supply by requiring existing and new developments to incorporate water conservation measures</p> <p>WS 7 Promote and encourage the harvesting of rainwater to meet non-potable water needs</p> <p>WS 8 Implement Energy Efficiency solutions in Water Systems;</p> <p>WS 9 Encourage industrial and commercial developments with small private water supplies to connect to the public water schemes where technically and financially feasible.</p> <p>WS 10 Ensure Water Conservation through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Roll-out further Mains Replacement programmes;</li> <li>• Continue with validation of District Metre Areas(DMA's)</li> <li>• Carry out focused Find and Fix Programmes to achieve target volumetric reductions in accordance</li> </ul>
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					<p>with IWs targets.</p> <p>WS11 Work in accordance with IW/LA MoU and Protocol on an agreed programme with LA planning to take in charge private housing estates Water and transfer assets to IW.</p> <p>WS 12 Work in accordance with IW/LA MoU and Protocol and with the NFGWS on an agreed programme with the Local Authority to take in charge Public Group Water Scheme and transfer assets to IW.</p> <p>WS 13 Secure the future sustainability of Laois County Council's INAB Accredited Laboratory and enhance the accreditation status of the Laboratory in order to develop the Laboratory into one of 4 Regional Local Authority Accredited Laboratories nationally.</p> <p><b>Public Wastewater Objectives</b></p> <p>WS14 Support and facilitate social and economic growth in line with National, Regional and Local spatial planning policy and the Core Strategy in Chapter 2 of this plan through the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Measure 1: Facilitate Growth: Wastewater Growth Programme: - Upgrade to the Portlaoise WWTP – phase 1 as proposed in the Feasibility Study. Roll-out agreed priorities for IWs Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020 to 2024 and subsequent Programmes.</li> <li>• Measure 2: Network and Treatment Programmes: Roll-out improvements to network in Portlaoise WW Network as identified in the Portlaoise Drainage Area Plan (DAP). Complete DPAs for Portarlinton and Mountmellick Wastewater Networks and complete modeling for improvements to these networks.</li> <li>• Measure 3: Irish Water Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme Under IWs Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme 2020 to 2024 and subsequent programmes agree priorities for delivering upgrades/replacements of WWTPs with insufficient headroom or plants that are non-compliant and damaging to the receiving environment so as to enhance and provide for growth in small towns and villages throughout the county.</li> </ul> <p>WS 15 Work in conjunction with Irish Water and with the DHPLG during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of waste water collection and treatment systems in the County that have existing facilities to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of those towns, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy. In particular</p> <p>A. Wastewater Discharge Authorisation Compliance (EPA Licensed Plants)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Complete upgrade to Portlaoise – phase 1 as proposed in the Feasibility Study;</li> <li>ii. Upgrades to Ballinakill;</li> <li>iii. Ballyroan – Phase 3, 4 and 5;</li> <li>iv. Castletown _- Sludge and Storm Tank Programmes;</li> <li>v. Mountmellick – Ortho P and Ammonia Compliance</li> </ol> <p>B. Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive Compliance: Complete upgrades to COA WWTPs (plants with &lt;500pe design) under the National Certificate of Authorisation Programme (NCAP) on a priority basis as agreed with the Local Authority.</p> <p>WS 16 Promote use of wetland systems for treatment of waste-water in accordance with Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidelines "Integrated Constructed Wetlands –Guidance Document for Farmyard Soiled Water and Domestic Wastewater Applications" [2010].</p> <p>WS 17 Deliver Energy efficient Capital Programmes where appropriate and as follows</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Borris-in-Ossory – Install Fine Bubble Diffused Aeration</li> </ol> <p>WS 18 Work in accordance with IW/LA MoU and Protocol on an agreed programme with LA planning to take in charge private housing estates Wastewater Infrastructure and transfer assets to IW.</p> <p><b>Rural Water and Wastewater Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>WS 19 Work in conjunction with the NFGWSs and with the support and funding of the DHPLG by way of the Rural Water Multi-Annual Programme 2019 to 2021 and subsequent programmes to - through various measures - improve the quality, reliability and efficiency of water services for rural dwellers where Irish Water services are not available and thereby sustain and enhance the social, economic and future prosperity of the rural water sector.</p> <p>WS 20 Support, monitor, advise and administer Group Water Schemes on behalf of the DHPLG in conjunction with the NFGWSs by implementation of Source Protection Works, Water Treatment Improvements, Amalgamation/Rationalisation of schemes and administering of Capital Replacement Costs</p> <p>WS 21 Continue to draw up and implement annual programmes for the monitoring of water quality in Group Water Schemes in accordance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014, as amended and as approved by the EPA.</p> <p>WS 22 Embed water conservation at the heart of water policy through prioritising resource management, abstraction control, source protection, tackling leakage and encouraging behavioural change.</p> <p>WS 23 Promoting water conservation and water resource management reflected in investment for leak detection and repair, network improvements, cost effective metering and awareness campaigns among the GWS.</p> <p>WS 24 Ensuring that rural water services investment decisions are aligned with the broad strategic aims of Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework and Improve the resilience of rural water supplies by supporting the implementation of the following measures</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) New Group Water Schemes and extensions</li> <li>b) Transition of Group Water and Group Sewerage schemes to the Public (Irish Water) Water Sector</li> <li>c) Community Connections (Water &amp; Wastewater) Networks</li> <li>d) Innovation and Research.</li> </ol> <p>WS 25 Ensure that the scheme relating to private wells is administered effectively and that improvements to sources and/or treatment works are carried out in accordance with IW and EPA standards</p>
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					<p>WS 26 Work in conjunction with stakeholders through various measures to improve the quality, reliability and efficiency of water services for consumers of Small Private Supplies where Irish Water services are not available and thereby sustain and enhance the social, economic and future prosperity of the rural water sector.</p> <p>WS 27 Support, monitor, advise and raise awareness among owner/operators of SPSs of their duties as water suppliers under the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 as amended to ensure that a safe and dependable water supply is available to those persons who avail of the service (Customers/service users/children etc).</p> <p>WS 28 Collaborate with stakeholders including LA Water and Environmental Services staff, the HSE, LEO staff, Laois Chamber, representatives from the educational, tourist, childcare and hospitality sectors to raise awareness among their members of the duties of the Owners/Operators in relation to the provision of clean and wholesome drinking water</p> <p>WS 29 Maintain and update its register of SPSs and will focus their enforcement powers on those schemes that are non-compliant with the Drinking Water Regulations by carrying out Audits on these schemes and by further enforcement measures if improvements are not implemented. Where the option exists to connect to a public water supply, the water supplier will be encouraged to make an application to IW for a connection.</p> <p><b>Waste Recovery &amp; Disposal Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 1 Implement and support the strategic objectives of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy – Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020-2025.</p> <p>ES 2 Implement and support the strategic objectives of the Eastern Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any subsequent Waste Management Plan adopted during the current development plan period.</p> <p>ES 3 Promote circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, and to sustainably manage residual waste. New developments will be expected to take account of the provisions of the Waste Management Plan for the Region and observe those elements of it that relate to waste prevention and minimisation, waste recycling facilities, and the capacity for source segregation.</p> <p><b>Waste Management Enforcement Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 4 Implement the provisions of the Waste Management Act, 1996, as amended and associated Waste Regulations.</p> <p>ES 5 Investigate and take appropriate legal action against those involved in unauthorised waste activities.</p> <p>ES 6 Implement the provisions of the Litter Pollution Act, 1997, as amended and the Laois Litter Management Plan 2018 -2020 and any subsequent revisions.</p> <p>ES 7 Implement, complete and report to the EPA on the annual agreed Recommended Minimum Criteria for Environmental Inspections (RMCEI).</p> <p>ES 8 Encourage and support the segregation of food waste and the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the EU (Household Food Waste &amp; Bio-Waste) Regulations 2015, the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>ES 9 Implement the provisions of the Laois Waste Management (Storage, Presentation and Segregation of Household &amp; Commercial) Waste Bye-Laws 2018 and to take enforcement action where necessary to protect the environment and local amenities.</p> <p>ES 10 Process and make recommendations of all Waste Facility Permit (WFP) and Certificate of Registration (COR) Applications under the relevant Regulations. To monitor and inspect all authorised facilities with WFPs &amp; CORs.</p> <p>ES 11 Require Construction and Environmental Management Plans (CEMPs) to be prepared for larger scale projects and this requirement shall be assessed on a case by case basis as part of the development management process.</p> <p>ES 12 Require that all construction projects are carried out in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects.</p> <p>ES 13 Encourage best environmental practice in all agricultural, industry, business and local authority activities.</p> <p><b>Civic Amenity Facilities &amp; Bring Bank Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>ES 14 Provide for, improve and maintain the network of bring infrastructure (e.g. civic amenity facilities, bring banks) in the County to facilitate the recycling and recovery of hazardous and non-hazardous municipal wastes.</p> <p>ES 15 Develop a 10-year roadmap for the strategic planning and development of the Kylealesha Transfer Station and Civic Amenity Site.</p> <p>ES 16 Develop the Bring Bank Regional Contract to improve the quality of service and frequency of collection.</p> <p>RL 2 Facilitate the development of agriculture while ensuring that natural waters, wildlife habitats and conservation areas are protected from pollution.</p>
<p><b>Landscape</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan’s landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage</p> <p>LC. P1: Protect significant views of landmark structures in Carlow-Graigucullen.</p> <p>LC. P2: Protect the character and setting of demesne landscapes in Carlow-Graigucullen, including Oak Park Demesne to the north of the joint urban area and Brownshill Demesne to the east.</p> <p>LC. P3: Protect and enhance the landscape character of the joint urban area, having regard to the assigned Landscape Character Types in Map 10.4 and recommendations in Section 10.4, and to urban gateways, key open spaces, landmark structures, and to important landscape features such as at the River Barrow and Burren River.</p> <p>LC. P4: Ensure that development will not have a disproportionate landscape or visual impact in the joint urban area, due to siting,</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage</p> <p><b>Carlow County Development Plan</b></p> <p><b>Landscape – Policies and Objectives</b></p> <p>LA P1: Protect and maintain the overall integrity of the County’s landscape, by recognising its capacity to sustainably integrate and absorb appropriate development, and by ensuring that development protects, retains and, where necessary, enhances the appearance and character of the landscape, and does not unduly damage or detract from those features which contribute to its value, character, distinctiveness and sensitivity e.g. landform, habitats, scenic quality, settlement pattern, historic heritage, amenity, land use and tranquillity.</p> <p>LA P2: Ensure that development will not have a disproportionate landscape or visual impact in sensitive upland areas of the County (due to siting, layout, design or excessive scale, height and bulk) and will not significantly interfere with or detract from scenic upland vistas, when viewed from the surrounding environment, including nearby areas, scenic views and routes, and from settlements.</p> <p>LA P3: Adopt a presumption against developments which are located on elevated or visually exposed sites or areas with open exposed vistas, and where the landscape cannot accommodate such development with appropriate mitigation.</p>

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			<p>layout, design, or excessive size or scale.</p> <p>LC. P5: Protect and maintain the landscape quality and visual integrity of river corridors in Carlow-Graiguecullen, including the River Barrow and Burren River.</p> <p>LC. P6: Ensure the effective management of lands adjoining the River Barrow and Burren River and in a manner that maximises views and interactions with these important landscape features in the joint urban area, taking account of the environmental sensitivities of these lands and the need to ensure impacts to biodiversity and nature conservation interests are avoided. LC. P7: Require, where appropriate, Landscape/Visual Impact Assessments to be prepared by suitably qualified professionals, for development proposals which may have significant landscape or visual impacts in the joint urban area, and/or which are located within or adjacent to sensitive landscapes such as river corridors and demesne landscapes. LC. P8: Ensure that features which contribute to local landscape character in Carlow-Graiguecullen, including historic features and buildings, trees, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected, and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the appearance and local landscape character of an area, whilst supporting sustainable landscape change and development. Development proposals necessitating the removal of such features will be discouraged.</p> <p>LC. P9: Preserve historic place and street names in Carlow-Graiguecullen and ensure that the names of all new developments take account of local historical, heritage and cultural associations in the joint urban area.</p> <p>LC. O1: Ensure that landscape/visual impact assessment will be a key consideration in the assessment of development proposals in Carlow-Graiguecullen.</p> <p>LC. O2: Ensure that the management and assessment of development in Carlow-Graiguecullen takes account of the recommendations and assigned Landscape Character Types detailed in Section 10.4 and Map 10.4.</p>	<p>LA P4: Ensure that developments on steep slopes or ridges will not be conspicuous or have disproportionate landscape or visual impacts when viewed from the surrounding environment, including from nearby areas, scenic views and routes, and from settlements.</p> <p>LA P5: Protect and maintain the landscape quality and visual integrity of river valleys and river corridors, and to ensure development in these sensitive landscape areas does not adversely affect or detract from scenic views, including views from bridges, or from distinct linear sections such as open floodplains.</p> <p>LA P6: Require all developments, having regard to their landscape setting, to be appropriate in siting, layout, design and scale, in order to ensure any potential adverse or landscape and visual impacts are minimised and/or removed where necessary, and that natural site features and characteristics are retained and maintained.</p> <p>LA P7: Facilitate, where appropriate, developments that have a functional and locational requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoir, telecommunication masts or wind energy structures) where residual adverse visual impacts are minimised or mitigated.</p> <p>LA P8: Require, where appropriate, Landscape/Visual Impact Assessments to be prepared by suitably qualified professionals, for development proposals which may have significant landscape or visual impacts, and/or which are located within or adjacent to sensitive landscapes.</p> <p>LA P9: Have regard to the potential for screening vegetation when evaluating proposals for development within the uplands.</p> <p>LA P10: Ensure that features which contribute to local landscape character, including historic features and buildings, trees, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected, and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the appearance and local landscape character of an area, whilst supporting sustainable landscape change and development. Development proposals necessitating the removal of such features will be discouraged.</p> <p>LA P11: Protect and preserve the established appearance and aesthetic attributes of views and prospects that contribute to the inherent quality of the County's landscape, including views, prospects and scenic routes listed in Tables 9.3 and 9.4, and particularly views to and from mountains, hills, river valleys and river corridors, and views of historical or cultural value (including buildings and townscapes) and views of natural beauty.</p> <p>LA O1: Ensure that the management and assessment of development throughout the County takes account of the recommendations and assigned Landscape Character Areas, Landscape Types, and Landscape Sensitivity, and the Schedule of Views, Prospects and Scenic Routes, as contained in this Plan, and in accordance with Government Guidance on Landscape Character Assessment and the National Landscape Strategy.</p> <p>LA O2: Ensure landscape/visual impact assessment will be a key consideration in the assessment of development proposals within the County.</p> <p><b>Laois County Development Plan</b></p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Landscape Character Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 1 Ensure that consideration of landscape sensitivity, as indicated in Table 11.6 of the Plan, is an important factor in determining development uses. In areas of high landscape sensitivity, the design, type and the choice of location of proposed development in the landscape will also be critical considerations</p> <p>LCA 2 Protect and enhance the county's landscape, by ensuring that development retains, protects and, where necessary, enhances the appearance and character of the existing local landscape and conserve valuable habitat including any European and National Designations</p> <p>LCA 3 Seek to ensure that local landscape features, including historic features and buildings, hedgerows, shelter belts and stone walls, are retained, protected and enhanced where appropriate, so as to preserve the local landscape and character of an area, whilst providing for future development</p> <p>LCA 4 Seek to minimise the individual and cumulative adverse visual impacts that local concentrations of one-off housing, outside of settlements, may have on Hills and Upland, River Corridor and Lakes and Mountain landscape character areas or High Sensitivity areas. In this regard, in locations where the Council considers that there is a risk of individual or cumulative adverse impacts, the Council will only consider proposals for housing developments where a need for the dwelling has been demonstrated in accordance with the criteria contained in the Rural Housing Policy contained in Chapter 4</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Hills and Uplands Areas and Mountain Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 5 Ensure that development will not have a disproportionate visual impact (due to excessive bulk, scale or inappropriate siting) and will not significantly interfere with or detract from scenic upland vistas, when viewed from areas nearby, scenic routes, viewpoints and settlements</p> <p>LCA 6 Ensure that developments on steep slopes (i.e. &gt;10%) will not be conspicuous or have a disproportionate visual impact on the surrounding environment as seen from relevant scenic routes, viewpoints and settlements</p> <p>LCA 7 Facilitate, where appropriate, developments that have a functional and locational requirement to be situated on steep or elevated sites (e.g. reservoirs, telecommunication masts or wind energy structures) where residual adverse visual impacts are minimised or mitigated</p> <p>LCA 8 Maintain the visual integrity of areas which have retained a largely undisturbed upland character and Respect the remote character and existing low-density development in these areas.</p> <p>LCA 9 Have regard to the potential for screening vegetation when evaluating proposals for development within the uplands</p> <p>LCA 10 Actively propose the designation of the Slieve Blooms as a Special Amenity Area and seek an Order to that effect.</p> <p>LCA 11 Protect the positive contribution that views across adjacent lowland areas and landmarks within the landscape make to the overall landscape character.</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Lowland Agricultural Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 12 Recognise that this lowland landscape character area includes areas of significant landscape and</p>
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					<p>ecological value, which are worthy of protection, particularly the 18th and 19th century estate landscapes and associated parkland &amp; woodland to develop them as a tourism resource.</p> <p>LCA 13 Continue to permit development that can utilise existing structures, settlement areas and infrastructure, whilst taking account of the visual absorption opportunities provided by existing topography and vegetation</p> <p>LCA 14 Recognise that the lowlands are made up of a variety of working landscapes, which are critical resources for sustaining the economic and social wellbeing of the county</p> <p>LCA 15 Promote good agricultural practices to create a sustainable rural economy and support incentives for smaller rural/family farms to manage their land to avoid loss of hedgerows and field patterns.</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for River Corridors and Lakes Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 16 Recognise the importance of river corridors for scenic value, ecology, history, culture and for recreational purposes such as walking, cycling and various on-water activities;</p> <p>LCA 17 Maintain the rivers throughout the county whilst ensuring that all works are carried out subject to appropriate environmental assessment in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive, in respect of any proposed development likely to have an impact on a designated natural heritage site, site proposed to be designated and any additional sites that may be designated during the period of this Plan</p> <p>LCA 18 Preserve riverside historic features and their landscape settings and Conserve valuable habitats focused on and around river corridors and estuaries including European and national designations</p> <p>LCA 19 Recognise the potential constraints on development created by river flood plains and the value of these flood plains as increasingly rare habitats</p> <p>LCA 20 Avoid unsustainable exploitation of watercourses, e.g. for abstraction and dilution of effluent, to the point that these water courses lose their ecological and amenity value</p> <p>LCA 21 Collaborate with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders to facilitate public access to waterway corridors and maintain and enhance the natural character of rivers, lakes and canals by reserving land to facilitate walking, cycling and other non-noise generating recreational activities</p> <p>LCA 22 Explore the establishment of the Barrow/Nore Valley and the Grand Canal as Areas of Special Amenity, as per section 202 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Peatland Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 23 Recognise the importance of peatlands for ecology, history, culture and for alternative energy production</p> <p>LCA 24 Conserve valuable habitats including any European and national designations</p> <p>LCA 25 Support the identification of projects that have the potential to achieve commercial value such as industrial developments, renewable energy, tourism developments etc. while at the same time promoting high environmental standards and supporting Biodiversity objectives</p> <p>LCA 26 Support the restoration of peatlands on suitable sites</p> <p>LCA 27 Recognise that intact boglands are critical natural resources for ecological and environmental reasons and recognise that cutaway and cut-over boglands represent degraded landscapes and/or brownfield sites and thus are potentially robust to absorb a variety of appropriate developments</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Urban Fringe Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 28 Diversify the urban fringe by developing mixed-use amenity areas, which will create a landscape buffer creating a transition between urban and rural areas</p> <p>LCA 29 Define the urban fringe with planting of native species and mixed woodland to tie into existing rural landscape</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Rolling Hill Areas</b></p> <p>LCA 30 Maintain the visual integrity of rolling hill areas which have retained an upland character</p> <p>LCA 31 Continue to facilitate appropriate development, in an incremental and clustered manner, where feasible, that respects the scale, character and sensitivities of the local landscape, recognising the need for sustainable settlement patterns and economic activity within the county</p> <p>LCA 32 Continue to permit development that can utilise existing infrastructure, whilst taking account of local absorption opportunities provided by the landscape, landform and prevailing vegetation</p> <p><b>Policy Objectives for Views and Prospects</b></p> <p>SV 1 Protect views from designated scenic routes indicated in Table 11.7 and Map 11.8 (Scenic Views and Prospects in County Laois) of the Plan, by avoiding any development that could disrupt the vistas or disproportionately impact on the landscape character of the area, thereby affecting the scenic and amenity value of the views.</p> <p>SV 2 Review and update all Scenic Routes and Views in the county during the lifetime of the Plan.</p>
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## 2.5 Schedule 2A

### PART 1

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

The Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 will provide a six-year framework for the sustainable development of Carlow-Graiguecullen, while considering the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment. It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town in terms of its social, cultural, economic and physical development and consists of a written statement supported by mapping and other appendices. The Amendments propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Amendments provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Amendments and the Draft Local Area Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 has been guided by the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the relevant Development Plans. In turn, the Plan will guide any lower-tier plans and future proposals for land use developments and activities. The Amendments are being proposed to the Draft Plan.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Amendments provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Amendments and the Draft Plan influence other plans, the Proposed Amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030, to which the Proposed Amendments relate, has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Plan and found that the Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Amendments provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Amendments and the Draft Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and

management, the Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, they contribute towards its amelioration.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Amendments provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Proposed Amendments and the Draft Plan, the Proposed Amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Carlow-Graiguecullen Joint Urban Draft Local Area Plan 2024-2030 relates to the land use and town planning sector and has fulfilled requirements in relation to SEA. This process integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Amendments provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of the Proposed Amendments and the Draft Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Amendments would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**PART 2**

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

**a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

**c) intensive land-use.**

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

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

Proposed Amendments would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Amendments provided under Section 2.4).

## **Section 3 Conclusion**

The Proposed Amendments are advised not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Carlow and Laois County Development Plans that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from the Proposed Amendments: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some amendments merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, the Proposed Amendments are advised as not requiring SEA.

An SEA Statement will be prepared following adoption of the Plan, which will detail how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations on the SEA and associated Plan-preparation process were considered.