

# **SCREENING FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

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**FOR THE**

## **LONGFORD OUTDOOR RECREATION PLAN 2025-2030 TO BE ADOPTED**

**for: Longford County Council**



**by: CAAS Ltd.**



**JANUARY 2026**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Report for the Longford Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted, also referred to as “the Plan”.

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

The purpose of this report is to inform: whether the Plan would, or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations<sup>2</sup>; and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan and all other associated documents including the Screening for AA Report for the Plan and the Longford County Development Plan.

## 1.2 The Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan

In 2022, a national outdoor recreation strategy 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors 2023-2027' was launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). The strategy specifically called for the development of County Outdoor Recreation Plans across Ireland: “At county level, our ambition is to achieve a more planned and coordinated approach between the many stakeholders, with the introduction of a County Outdoor Recreation Committee and the development of an Outdoor Recreation Plan for each county.”

There is a collective recognition amongst key stakeholders in Longford that the development of a County Outdoor Recreation Plan provides an opportunity for a more collaborative approach towards unlocking the positive impacts of outdoor recreation. The Longford Outdoor Recreation Plan's<sup>3</sup> Statement of Strategic Priorities is as follows: “To strengthen cooperation between the key stakeholders to improve infrastructure, enable greater access, broader participation and deeper appreciation of the great outdoors in County Longford.” The Plan's Strategic Objectives are set out under headings as follow:

- **Leadership and Collaboration**  
To create a more co-ordinated, cohesive approach across Longford to ensure best use of our resources.
- **Environment**  
To protect Longford's environment and heritage through better planning and development of outdoor recreation.
- **Access and Infrastructure**  
To protect and improve access to Longford's outdoors, for the benefit of all.
- **Awareness and Engagement**  
To create awareness of Longford's outdoor recreation opportunities and how to enjoy them responsibly.

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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> European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended.

<sup>3</sup> For more detail refer to the Plan document.

- **Participation Opportunities**

To increase and support the number of people active in the outdoors in Longford.

- **Expertise**

To improve the knowledge, skills, and expertise of Longford's stakeholders and partners.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

The Plan will be subject to a mid-term review to assess whether modifications are required given the dynamic nature of outdoor recreation. At the end of the Plan period, the Plan's success will be evaluated against delivery of the actions.

### 1.3 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities<sup>4</sup> were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether the Plan would, or would not, be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the Council. Two responses to the screening notices were received, one from the Environmental Protection Agency and one from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (the issues raised in which are responded to on Table 1.1 below).

**Table 1.1 SEA Screening Submission and Responses**

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
<b>Submission from the Environmental Protection Agency</b>		
<b>EPA 1</b>	We acknowledge your notice, dated 5th November 2025, in relation to the Longford County Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening. In our role as a SEA environmental authority, under the SEA Regulations, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans or programmes. Where we provide specific comments on plans and programmes, our comments will focus on the EPA's remit and areas of expertise (in particular water, air, climate change, waste, resource efficiency, noise, radon and the inter-relationships between these and other relevant	Noted.

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

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
	topics e.g. biodiversity), as appropriate and relevant to the particular Plan.	
<b>EPA 2</b>	<p>Proposed SEA Determination</p> <p>If a proposed determination hasn't been made, you should determine whether the implementation of the proposed Plan or Programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria to consider are set out in Annex II of Directive 2001/ 42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive) and in Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I No. 435 of 2004, as amended).</p> <p>You should take into account the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 into account in making its determination as to whether the Plan or Programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist available on our website at: <a href="https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-resources-and-guidance/">https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-resources-and-guidance/</a>.</p> <p>We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in making your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Plan or Programme.</p> <p>EPA SEA Screening Guidance</p> <p>Our Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening (EPA, 2021) provides specific stand-alone guidance to assist plan or programme makers and SEA practitioners. It focuses primarily on plans/programmes in the non-land use sector in Ireland and includes an elaboration of the steps needed for screening, the legislative landscape underpinning SEA screening, and step-by-step process and templates to assist in preparing the required documentation.</p> <p>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities (DHLGH, 2022) provides advice on carrying out SEA in the land-use planning sector for those plans listed in S.I. No.436 of 2004, as amended. These plans comprise regional, county and local plans, including Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County or City Development Plans, variations of Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes for Strategic Development Zones. The Guidelines replace previous guidance for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities published in 2004.</p>	<p>Noted. Following completion of this report, Longford County Council will make a determination as to whether implementing the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Following the making of the determination, a copy of the decision, including, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, will be made available for public inspection in the Council's offices and on the Council's website. A copy of the determination will also be sent to the environmental authorities consulted.</p> <p>The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended], the Ministerial SEA Guidelines and the EPA's Guidance on the SEA process have been and will be taken into account throughout the SEA Screening process.</p>
<b>EPA 3</b>	<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>In proposing and in implementing the plan or programme, you should ensure that the plan or programme is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the plan or programme.</p> <p>In considering the plan or programme, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.</p> <p>You should also ensure that the plan or programme aligns with any key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>	<p>Longford County Council will ensure that the Plan and its implementation is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure will be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>In considering the Plan, Longford County Council has taken into account the need to align with national, sectoral, regional and local commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Longford County Council will ensure that implementation of the Plan aligns with and is consistent with higher-level plans and programmes, including the National Planning Framework, the Climate Action Plan and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p>

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
<b>EPA 4</b>	Ireland's State of the Environment Report 2024 In October 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report. This report should be considered, and relevant aspects integrated as appropriate, in implementing the Plan outputs/ recommendations. It is available at: <a href="https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report/">https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/state-of-environment-report/</a> .	The Plan preparation and associated SEA Screening process has taken this report into account.
<b>EPA 5</b>	Available Guidance & Resources Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including: - SEA process guidance and checklists; - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA; - Topic and sector specific SEA guidance (including SEA and Integration Guidance (EPA, 2025), Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)). You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: <a href="https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/">https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/</a> EPA SEA WebGIS Tool Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now available at <a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA</a> . It allows an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area to be produced. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises. Catchments.ie Our <a href="https://www.catchments.ie/maps/">https://www.catchments.ie/maps/</a> website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme. EPA AA GeoTool Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: <a href="https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool">https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool</a>	Noted. These tools, applications, guidance and resources have and will be taken into account through the SEA Screening process.
<b>EPA 6</b>	Future amendments to the Plan Where changes to the plan or programme are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the plan or programme are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended) of the SEA Regulations, as appropriate.	Where changes to the Plan are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Plan are proposed following its adoption, these will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended].
<b>EPA 7</b>	Appropriate Assessment You should ensure that the plan or programme complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the plan or programme.	The findings of the Screening for AA process have been taken into account by the SEA and Plan preparation process – refer to Section 2.2.
<b>EPA 8</b>	Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making your SEA determination you should consult with: • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Climate, Energy and the Environment; and, • Minister for Agriculture, Food, and the Marine.	The relevant environmental authorities have been consulted through the SEA Screening process.
<b>EPA 9</b>	SEA Determination As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, if appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.	Following completion of this report, Longford County Council will make a determination as to whether implementing the Plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Following the making of the determination, a copy of the decision, including, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, will be made available for public inspection in the Council's offices and on the Council's website. A copy of the determination will

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
		also be sent to the environmental authorities consulted.
<b>EPA 10</b>	If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.	Noted.
<b>Submission from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</b>		
<b>DHLGH 1</b>	I refer to correspondence received in connection with the above. Outlined below are heritage-related observations/recommendations of the Department coordinated by the Development Applications Unit under the stated heading:	Noted.
<b>DHLGH 2</b>	<p>Nature Conservation</p> <p>The Department welcomes engagement at this early stage and notes the second strategic objective of the Plan – “To protect Longford’s environment and heritage through better planning and development of outdoor recreation”. Recognising the importance of county Longford’s sensitive species and habitats is vital in ensuring outdoor recreational projects support local biodiversity. There is the opportunity for the Plan to provide tangible, on the ground actions, where communities could get involved, which can be supported by the Objectives. It will also be important to monitor recreational activities, and how these may impact upon local flora and fauna. Quantitative monitoring of sites tied to recreational usage would also allow for adaptive management throughout the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>County Longford contains a large number of protected sites and habitats which should be fully recognised within the Plan, incorporating EU and National designations (SACs, SPAs NHAs &amp; pNHAs). As the proposed outdoor recreation plan will inevitably encourage higher usage of designated sites, the Department highlights the need for potential impacts of the Plan on European sites to be fully anticipated and assessed. A number of these sites are likely to experience negative impacts as a result of tourism and recreational activities. For example, visitor pressures on SPAs are a significant stressor resulting in repetitive avian disturbance and displacement impacts.</p> <p>Recreation is scientifically proven as one of the drivers of biodiversity loss, (NBAP1). This is further reiterated in the Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) Ireland’s Environment, An Integrated Assessment 20202, where recreation is listed a key pressure/threat on Ireland’s habitats and species. It is therefore essential that there is adequate flexibility to avoid impacts to European sites and on biodiversity in general. By selecting recreation options that avoid impacts on nature it will reduce the project carbon footprint, biodiversity loss, impacts on climate change and the need for additional costs for mitigation.</p> <p>The Department wishes to advise that the provision, management, upkeep and use of outdoor recreation and amenity facilities have potential to impact negatively on nature conservation sites, and on habitats and species of flora and fauna. Issues of potential concern in relation to Outdoor Recreation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- direct, indirect and cumulative habitat loss, alteration, deterioration and fragmentation</li> <li>- disturbance or displacement of species or changes to their abundance and distribution</li> <li>- loss or damage to species’ habitats, including breeding sites, roosting or resting areas, feeding areas, wintering sites and commuting or migratory routes</li> <li>- the introduction or expansion of barriers to movement or to natural processes of habitats</li> <li>- the potential introduction or spread of invasive species.</li> </ul> <p>All plans require screening for Appropriate Assessment in accordance with Regulation 42 of the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011 and the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended. Screening will suffice only if it can be concluded, based on objective information, that a plan or an amendment to a plan, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, poses no risks of having significant effects on a European site in view of its conservation objectives. In the event that there are risks of significant</p>	<p>Noted, this response has been considered by both Screening for AA and Screening for SEA processes.</p> <p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.</p> <p>The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.</p>

Ref.	Submission Text/Summary of Issues Raised	SEA Response
	<p>effects, appropriate assessment and the preparation of a Natura Impact Report (NIR) will be required.</p> <p>In combination plans, and projects of potential relevance to the plan, include existing statutory plans covering the region and their policies for amenity, recreation, walkways and cycle ways in particular; existing, permitted and proposed greenways and cycle routes; waymarked trails; existing tourism facilities and amenity provision. There should be consideration of any impacts that could arise from increases in recreational and amenity usage and visitor numbers. The Department also notes the need to apply the precautionary principle when screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) and/or undertaking AA for greenways, blueways and trails. Such projects should also be subject to Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) where biodiversity impacts may occur outside of the Natura network.</p> <p>Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment of the outdoor recreation plan should also be carried out in parallel with its AA and should encompass, as well as evaluate, the potential effects of the plan on European sites, possible effects on flora, fauna and ecologically significant habitats occurring in pNHAs and on protected plant and animal species throughout Longford.</p>	
<b>DHLGH 3</b>	<p>You are requested to send any further communications to this Department's Development Applications Unit (DAU) at <a href="mailto:referrals@npws.gov.ie">referrals@npws.gov.ie</a>, where used, or to the following address: The Manager, Development Applications Unit (DAU), Government Offices, Newtown Road, Wexford, Y35 AP90.</p>	Noted.



## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

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

### 2.2 Screening for Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive<sup>5</sup> and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for likely significant effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

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

### 2.3 Screening Analysis

The analysis of the Plan is undertaken with reference to the main interactions with Strategic Environmental Objectives<sup>6</sup> (SEOs). SEOs are detailed in full at Table 2.1. The range of interactions identified with symbols are detailed on Table 2.2.

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

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

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

Effects encompass the full range of effects<sup>7</sup>, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

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

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

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

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

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<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 and grids</li> </ul>
<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>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Climatic Factors</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 Development Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

**Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols**

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

**Table 2.3 SEA Screening Analysis of Plan**

SEO Codes (see Table 2.2 for main interactions)									
BFF	PHH	S	W	MA	A	C	CH	L	Additional SEA Screening Comments
- + *	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	- +	<p>The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.</p> <p>The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.</p> <p>In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.</p> <p>Taking into account all of the above (refer also to Table 2.4 and Appendix I) it is demonstrated that: significant beneficial environmental effects are present already under the existing planning framework and would not result from the Plan; and potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are present already under the existing planning framework, have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments and would not result from the Plan.</p> <p>Consequently, it is advised that the Plan would not result in likely significant environmental effects and does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.</p>

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

Environmental Component	Selection of Environmental Effects, in combination with the existing planning framework [Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the Revised National Planning Framework and associated National Development Plan, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Longford County Development Plan and other plans and programmes – see Appendix I]			Mitigation Measures to be complied with as relevant, including the following:
	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various – see below</li> </ul>	Various – see below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Various – see below</li> </ul>	<p>CPO 4.69 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p> <p>CPO 4.70 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p> <p>CPO 4.71 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas;</li> <li>• Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.);</li> <li>• Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas;</li> <li>• Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive;</li> <li>• Entries to the Record of Monuments;</li> <li>• Entries to the Record of Protected Structures;</li> <li>• Architectural Conservation Areas; and</li> <li>• Landscape/amenity designations.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 5.17 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure: Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options;</li> <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>DMS16.70 Construction Environmental Management Plan All development proposals of five or more residential units shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation. Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP). Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP).</p>

## Screening for SEA Report

<b>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</b>	<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 County's settlements) 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 County 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</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development/activities 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>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 owls) 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>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and Landscape.</p> <p><b>Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.6 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European 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 be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.7 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.8 Ensure that all development proposals relating to European Sites will comply with the DoECLG publication 'Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland- Guidance for Planning Authorities'.</p> <p>CPO12.9 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in-combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site's conservation objectives to comply with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.10 Permit development on or adjacent to designated Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Statutory Nature Reserves or those proposed to be designated over the period of the Plan, only where an appropriate level of assessment can clearly demonstrate that it will have no significant adverse effect on the integrity of the site.</p> <p>CPO12.11 Consult and have regard to the views and guidance of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where there is a possibility that such development may have an impact on a designated European or National site, or a site proposed for such designation.</p> <p>CPO12.12 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development.</p> <p>CPO12.13 Undertake appropriate surveys and collect data to provide an evidence-base to assist the Council in meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitats Directives (92/43/EEC) subject to available resources.</p> <p>CPO12.14 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for European Sites in the County in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>CPO12.15 Require an ecological appraisal, in addition to an Appropriate Assessment, for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of European Sites, or a proposed European Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Ensure that no plan, programme, or project giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European 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 be permitted on the basis of this Plan, either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for any proposed development which may have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non-designated habitats of biodiversity value.</p> <p>CPO12.18 Where surveys carried out for the preparation of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA/EcIA)/Natura Impact Statement or other assessments generate biodiversity data previously unknown or unrecorded in the County this data be submitted to the National Biodiversity Data Centre (NDBC).</p> <p><b>12.5.3 European Sites and Appropriate Assessment</b></p> <p>A plan or project will only be authorised after the Council has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and subsequent Appropriate Assessment where necessary that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The plan or project will not give rise to significant adverse direct, indirect or secondary effects on the integrity of any European Site (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) or</li> <li>The plan or project will have significant adverse effects on the integrity of any European site (that does not host a priority natural habitat type/and or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000 or</li> <li>The plan or project will have a significant adverse effect on the integrity of any European Site (that hosts a natural habitat type and/or a priority species) but there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons for overriding public interest, restricted to reasons of human health or public safety, to beneficial consequences of primary importance for the environment or further to an opinion from the Commission, to other imperative reasons of overriding public interest. In this case, it will be a requirement to follow procedures set out in legislation and agree and undertake all compensatory measures necessary to ensure the protection of the overall coherence of Natura 2000.</li> </ol>
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	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain.</li> </ul>		<p>Following a finding that a proposed development will adversely affect the integrity of a European Site, planning permission may only be granted in exceptional cases, in the absence of any alternatives, for Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) subject to the strict requirements of Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Non-Designated Sites – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.15 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites and to require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.16 Co-operate with statutory and other relevant agencies to identify and protect a representative sample of the County's wildlife habitats, of local or regional importance, not otherwise protected by legislation.</p> <p>CPO12.17 Protect Ramsar sites under The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (especially as Waterfowl Habitat).</p> <p>CPO12.18 Enhance and sustain landscapes and features within the County in order to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• safeguard, sustain and improve the quality and character of landscapes which are important and valued or,</li> <li>• promote understanding and awareness of the distinctive character and special qualities of local landscapes or,</li> <li>• promote important settings for outdoor recreation and tourism development.</li> </ul> <p>CPO12.19 Protect and enhance important landscape features and their setting including rivers, streams, canals, lakes and associated wetlands such as reedbeds and swamps; ponds; springs; bogs; fens; trees; woodlands and scrub; hedgerows and other field boundary types such as stone walls and ditches. These are important because they;</p> <p>a) form part of a network of habitats, corridors and 'stepping stones' essential for wildlife to flourish, thus providing a high-quality natural environment for all, and/or</p> <p>b) protect and enhance surface water and groundwater resources and are essential as part of the integrated approach to the management of water resources, necessary to ensure the highest water quality into the future, as set out in the Water Framework Directive (Directive 2000/60/EC establishing a framework for Community action in the field of water policy).</p> <p><b>Wetlands, Turloughs, Watercourses and Fens - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the Longford County Wetlands Fields Survey 2017 and 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Protect and conserve the ecological and biodiversity heritage of the wetland sites surveyed in 2019 listed and mapped in Appendix xx.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Ensure that development proposals or activities that may impact on sensitive water habitats, in particular turloughs and wetlands, shall not be permitted without the introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts. Proposals to drain or otherwise interfere with the sources of turloughs will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO12.29 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p><b>Inland Lakes, Waterways and Broadzones – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.30 Preserve, protect and enhance the Counties inland lakes and waterways for their amenity and recreational resource amenity, including the Royal Canal, the Rivers Shannon, Inny and Camlin and Lough Ree, Lough Gowra as well as the County's other rivers and lakes.</p> <p>CPO12.31 In order to build on amenity potential, the Council will support the development and upgrading of the Inland Waterways and their associated facilities in accordance with relevant management strategies, key stakeholders and bodies including Waterways Ireland. An inter-regional approach shall also be taken in association with Leitrim, Roscommon, Westmeath and Offaly to develop the North Shannon Tourism area.</p> <p>CPO12.32 Protect Lough Ree from unsustainable, large-scale and high volume abstraction of water resources for use in areas external to County Longford.</p> <p>CPO12.33 Ensure all abstractions of water from Lough Ree will be subject to assessment for compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO12.34 Provide additional accesses to lake shores, river and canal banks, through the acquisition of land for public rights of way, parking and lay-by facilities, where appropriate.</p> <p>In areas adjacent to inland waterways, lakes, canals and rivers where planning permission is sought, conditions may be attached requiring the retention or creation of public access to the waterway in order to facilitate the creation or expansion of walking/ cycling routes.</p> <p>CPO12.35 Require that land adjacent to lakeshores and river and canal banks in the County be protected and reserved for public access provision.</p> <p>CPO12.36 Protect the broadzones of the lakes, rivers, canals and deciduous woodlands from inappropriate development (see Appendix 10), i.e. development which adversely affects high amenity and landscape quality in relation to their setting, such as the environs of Newcastle House and Woods, particularly adjoining the River Inny Bridge.</p> <p>CPO12.37 Protect, enhance and preserve the built and natural heritage of the Royal Canal and its associated structures including the maintenance of the broadzone at 100m either side of the Canal. This shall include the natural setting of the canal and its views and prospects.</p> <p>CPO12.38 Restrict development in the broad zones of the major rivers and lakes of the County, as illustrated in Appendix 12, to extensions of existing dwellings, which shall be sensitively designed in terms of the individual site and materials.</p> <p>CPO12.39 Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p>
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				<p>CPO12.40 Promote and encourage ongoing works to improve the navigability of the Royal Canal, and to investigate the provision of mooring points in appropriate locations along the Canal and on the islands within the major lakes of the County</p> <p>CPO12.41 Protect the historical, cultural and scenic importance of the Islands on the lakes and rivers within the County from inappropriate development, whether on the Islands themselves, or at locations that interferes with their integrity and setting.</p> <p><b>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.42 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.43 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.44 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.45 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p><b>Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.46 Work with partners and stakeholders to progress the development of the Mid-Shannon Wilderness Park and Biosphere.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity and Nature Conservation – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.47 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy the National Biodiversity Plan and the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2019-2024.</p> <p>CPO12.48 Ensure, where appropriate, the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological/networks of biodiversity value outside designated sites.</p> <p>CPO12.49 Improve the biodiversity and ecological value of the County through the promotion of the planting of native and heritage / traditional varieties and grass-cutting schemes amended to encourage local wildflower growth.</p> <p>CPO12.50 Require an appropriate level of ecological assessment by suitably qualified professional(s) to accompany development proposals likely to impact on such areas or species.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Assess proposed large-scale developments, particularly on greenfield sites and in environmentally sensitive areas, in terms of their impact on the biodiversity of the area.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Screen all projects and plans arising from this plan for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. All such projects and plans will also be required to comply with statutory Environmental Impact Assessment requirements where relevant.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Require mitigating measures in certain cases where it is evident that biodiversity is likely to be affected. These measures may, in association with other specified requirements, include establishment of wildlife areas/corridors/parks, tree planting, wildflower meadows/marshes and other areas. With regard to residential development, in certain cases, these measures may be carried out in conjunction with the provision of open space and/or play areas.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Facilitate increased awareness of the County's biodiversity and natural heritage through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in cooperation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Investigate and encourage the establishment of wildlife areas and corridors, particularly in the context of educational, recreational and amenity facilities.</p> <p>CPO12.56 Enhance the County's biodiversity and natural heritage, including its landscape, by promoting appropriate recreational and amenity schemes.</p> <p>CPO12.57 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values.</p> <p>CPO12.58 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>CPO12.59 Maintain a biodiversity zone of not less than 10 metres from the top of the 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 Council, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. (Agriculture, native tree forestry, appropriate public amenity and recreational projects (Including the provision of slipways and angling infrastructure) and strategic Green Routes / Blueways / Trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments).</p> <p>CPO12.60 Any development that is visible from any of our protected areas or waterways shall be substantially screened with multiple lines of native tree and hedge planting on all sides.</p> <p><b>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.61 Encourage and promote in co-operation with Coillte and the Department of Communication, Energy and Natural Resources, the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forestry Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to its objective of sustaining, protecting and enhancing the County's biodiversity, natural resources and landscape and developing tourism product.</p> <p>CPO12.62 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO12.63 Undertake a survey of trees and woodlands within the County in order to identify individual trees and or, groups and stands of trees of value worthy of protection, including those in Demense landscapes.</p> <p>CPO12.64 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p>
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				<p>CPO12.65 Protect the following important stands of trees identified in Appendix X from inappropriate development and unmanaged tree felling not part of an overall plan to ensure their sustainability;  1. Avenue at Smithfield, Legan 2. Woods at Carriglass, Castleforbes and Cashel. The perimeter deciduous woodland of Newcastle Woods but not the interior areas of commercial forestry. 3. Portanure Pine Woods 4. Derrycassan Woods 5. Culnagore Wood 6. Rathcline Wood 7. Trees along Regional Road R393 at Knockahaw 8. Woodlands at Erne Head, Woodville and Golaroe 9. Lime trees at Mosstown, Keenagh 10. Trees at Rathsalagh 11. Wood at Farragh, Killoe  The Council reserve the right, through the appropriate process, to add to this list of protected trees over the period of the Development Plan.  CPO12.66 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.  CPO12.67 Protect all substantial areas of deciduous forest within the County, other than areas of commercial forestry. Proposals for development in these areas should seek to interact with the landscape character of the forested areas and its limits, recognising the importance of working with the forest to achieve sustainable development proposals, and enhancing and building on aspects of the forested areas that increase biodiversity and the natural habitat.  CPO12.68 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.  CPO12.69 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works, or other works, seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.  CPO12.70 Investigate the potential of completing a review of the Hedgerow Survey 2006.  <b>Invasive Species - County Policy Objectives</b>  CPO12.71 Promote best practice in the control of invasive species in the carrying out of its functions in association with relevant authorities.  CPO12.72 Develop and implement a programme of public awareness on the spread of invasive species and noxious weeds.  CPO12.73 Require landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.  CPO12.74 Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species.  If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011)  <b>Tourism Related Objectives</b>  CPO10.13 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant detrimental impacts, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.  CPO10.14 Consider applications for tourism development in line with the planning criteria as set down in this plan (see Chapter 15: Development Management Standards), and which will also be subject to high standards of design and materials particularly given their sensitive locations.  CPO10.15 Support and promote the use of the Sustainable Tourism and where appropriate, 'Ecotourism Principles of Tourism Development' in all proposed tourism activities in the County.  CPO10.16 Ensure the potential environmental effects of a likely increase in tourists/tourism-related traffic volumes in particular locations/along particular routes shall be considered and mitigated as appropriate. Such a consideration should include potential impacts on existing infrastructure (including drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) resulting from tourism proposals.</p>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<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 population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands that are served</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> <li>Potential interactions if additional tourists are directed towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water,</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.  <b>Major Accidents Directive – County Policy Objective</b>  CPO 5.177 Have regard to the following in assessing applications for new developments (including extensions);  - The Major Accidents Directive (Seveso II – 96/082/EEC and Seveso III 2012/18/EU);  - The potential effects on public health and safety;  - The need to ensure adequate distances between such developments and residential areas, areas of public use and any areas of sensitivity.  CPO 5.178 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.  <b>Radon</b>  CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p>

	<p>(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 County 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 County's settlements) 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 County 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>	<p>wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified.</p>		
<b>Soil</b>	<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 County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental</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> <li>• Land-take arising from mobility, accommodation and hospitality and</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><b>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.86 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of/compliance with the following (and any future updates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region.</li> <li>• National Hazardous Waste Plan.</li> <li>• EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution.</li> </ul> <p>CPO12.87 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities.</p> <p>CPO12.88 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses.</li> <li>• Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible.</li> <li>• Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity</li> <li>• Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses.</li> </ul>

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	<p>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 County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination using the highest standards of remediation; where appropriate, consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<p>other tourism products.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adverse effects on designated geological heritage sites.</li> </ul>	<p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>CPO12.90 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality.</p> <p>CPO12.91 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p><b>Landfills</b></p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p><b>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.24 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5.</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p><b>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.50 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Support the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and restoration works which will be both a positive conservation measure and help to reduce carbon loss in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Designated and non-designated peatlands may be subject to the requirements of the planning code, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA screening and EIA where applicable) and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications will need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary.</p> <p><b>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.115 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO12.116 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution</p> <p>CPO12.117 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land.</p> <p>CPO12.118 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects.</p> <p>CPO12.119 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. 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.</p> <p>CPO12.120 Require that 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.</p> <p>CPO12.121 Ensure 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 remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise</p>
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				<p>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> <p>CPO12.123 Require that the 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>CPO12.124 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will 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>
<b>Water</b>	<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 County's settlements) 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 County and beyond.</li> <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>	<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 risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</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 wider planning framework.</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p><b>Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 12.92 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.93 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan</p> <p>Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.94 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving 'good status' in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.95 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.96 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 12.97 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.98 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected.</p> <p>Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.100 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining 'good' water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications.</p> <p>Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangement for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p> <p>CPO12.103 Support, where possible, the development and implementation of a Groundwater Protection Scheme in tandem with the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).</p> <p><b>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 5.100 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.</p> <p>CPO 5.101 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.</p> <p>CPO 5.102 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) standards such as The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater</p>

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				<p>Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works” incorporating “Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments” or any future updates.</p> <p>CPO 5.103 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.</p> <p>CPO 5.104 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.105 Prohibit the discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul sewer systems.</p> <p><b>Flood Risk Management - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 5.106 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.</p> <p>CPO 5.107 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO 5.108 Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding versions). This will include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application.</li> <li>• Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts.</li> <li>• Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted.</li> <li>• Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM's Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.109 Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DMS 16.205. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, Development Management Standard, DMS 16.205, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council.</p> <p>Flood Zone maps should not be used to suggest that any areas are free from flood risk as they do not include groundwater or artificial drainage system flood risk.</p> <p>Applications for development on land identified as Benefitting Land (under Arterial Drainage Schemes /Drainage Districts) may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. The Council will ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.</p> <p>CPO 5.110 Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.</p> <p>CPO 5.111 Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.</p> <p>CPO 5.112 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.</p>
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				<p>CPO 5.113 Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.</p> <p>CPO 5.114 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 5.115 Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.</p> <p>CPO 5.116 Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.</p> <p>CPO 5.117 Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p> <p>CPO 5.118 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.</p> <p>CPO 5.119 Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps. Future development on these lands is limited to minor development where plan-making Justification Tests have not been undertaken and the Constrained Land Use applies.</p> <p>SFRA datasets will be made available to the lower-tier forward planning and Development Management and associated SFRA/FRA processes in the Council. These processes may lead to the identification of areas where the Constrained Land Use Zoning provisions contained within this Plan may apply. In this regard, prospective applicants for developments in areas that have been previously developed and are at elevated levels of flood risk are encouraged to consult with the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity. Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.</p> <p>CPO 5.120 Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>(Please Refer to CPO 5.119 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.206).</p>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<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 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 County 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> </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> </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, including 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</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions.</p> <p><b>Water Supply and Distribution - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 5.83 Work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</p> <p>CPO 5.84 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.</p> <p>CPO 5.85 Have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.86 Support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.87 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 5.88 Ensure that adequate water services is available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to consult Irish Water regarding available capacity, prior to applying for planning permission.</p> <p>CPO 5.89 Promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation in existing and new development within the County by encouraging demand management measures among all water users and requiring new developments to incorporate water conservation measures.</p> <p>CPO 5.90 Provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p><b>Wastewater - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 5.91 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County.</p> <p>CPO 5.95 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants (and any other plants within the County of limited capacity to accommodate the core strategy and settlement hierarchy), with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings and grids.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> <li>Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</li> <li>Increased number of visitors have the potential to increase traffic levels.</li> <li>Contributions towards energy demand and usage.</li> </ul>	<p>infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</p>	<p>suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's. 'Promote changeover from septic tanks to public collection networks in all cases where this is feasible.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended.</li> <li>EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 5.99 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County..</p> <p><b>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO 5.121 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.122 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.123 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.124 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.125 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>CPO 5.126 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy.</p> <p>CPO 5.127 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with "Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects" (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.128 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>CPO 5.130 Ensure that all waste collectors and householder who use the services of authorised waste collectors are fully compliant with the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and the Waste Management (Collection Permits) Regulations 2007, as amended.</p>
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond.</li> <li>In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development 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.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</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>	<p><b>Air Quality - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.104 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 as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>CPO12.105 Support the collation of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring data in support of a regional air quality and greenhouse gas emission inventory.</p> <p>CPO12.106 Seek to ensure in tandem with the EPA, that all developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.</p> <p>CPO12.107 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible.</p> <p>CPO12.108 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p> <p><b>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>CPO12.109 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations.</p> <p>CPO12.110 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO12.111 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.112 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses.</p> <p>CPO12.113 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>CPO12.114 (a) Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals.</p>

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	<p>and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>○ Sectors including agriculture, residential heating, electricity, and infrastructure;</li> <li>○ Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure; and</li> <li>○ Decarbonising the tourism sector, improving low carbon travel, such as walking and cycling, and the circular economy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<p>(b) New/Replacement LED luminaries with warmer colours (i.e. CCT values at or below 2700K) be specified for future installations to avoid environmental impacts associated with blue-rich LED light.</p> <p><b>Climatic Factors</b></p> <p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions);</li> <li>• National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions);</li> <li>• Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSES;</li> <li>• Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and</li> <li>• Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p> <p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Midland Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provision of open space amenities;</li> <li>• Sustainable management of water;</li> <li>• Protection and management of biodiversity;</li> <li>• Protection of cultural heritage; and</li> <li>• Protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</li> </ul> <p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures to include the agricultural, construction, industry and transport sector.</p> <p>CPO 3.19 (i) Create an 'Implementation Plan' of adequate detail that will allow for continued monitoring of Local Authority actions, responsibilities and progress specifically related to Climate Action.</p> <p>(ii) Consider a variation of the development plan within a reasonable period of time, or to include such other mechanism, as may be appropriate, to ensure the Development Plan will be consistent with the approach to climate action recommended in the revised Development Plan Guidelines as adopted or any other relevant guidelines.</p> <p>Also refer to: Section <b>Error! Reference source not found.</b> "Error! Reference source not found."; the overall approach to compact development and sustainability provided by the Plan; and Chapter 4 Housing Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 5 Transport, Infrastructure, Energy</p>
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				and Communications - Climate Actions, Chapter 6 Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities – County Policy Objectives, Chapter 7: Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 8 Economic Development Climate Change Actions, Chapter 9 Rural Economy Climate Change Actions, Chapter 10 Tourism Climate Change Actions, Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Actions, Chapter 12 Natural Heritage and the Environment - Climate Change Actions, Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure Climate Change Actions and Chapter 14 Landscape Character Climate Change Actions.
<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><b>Architectural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.1 Promote and direct users to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) website (<a href="http://www.buildingsofireland.ie">www.buildingsofireland.ie</a>) wherever appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.2 Cooperate with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in assessing and celebrating historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens.</p> <p>CPO11.3 Implement the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024 and seek to update the Heritage Plan over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.4 Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing building stock.</p> <p>CPO11.5 Ensure that all development should be appropriate to its setting in the landscape or townscape and responds to and reinforces local character and heritage.</p> <p>CPO11.6 Encourage the enhancement, management, protection and the promotion of access to and understanding of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.7 Recognise and protect the unique historical, mythological and cultural significance of Ardagh Mountain. Developments which materially impinge on the character of the mountain will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO11.8 Provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.9 Ensure that proposals for development to structures included as part of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (DoEHLG) and any updated version, maintain and enhance the character of these structures.</p> <p>CPO11.10 Ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detracton from the monument or its setting.</p> <p>CPO11.11 Require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.</p> <p>CPO11.12 Refer any proposed development which may impact on the integrity and/or setting of any monuments, sites, objects or areas of archaeological, cultural, architectural, historical or heritage importance under the protection of this Development Plan and/or the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the relevant section of the DoAHG for observations/comment prior to a grant of permission/approval being obtained.</p> <p>CPO11.13 Ensure applications for housing developments shall include provision for the naming of estates in recognition of the cultural heritage of the area in which they are situated.</p> <p><b>Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Policies - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.14 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.15 For the purposes of the RPS, identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.16 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO11.17 Ensure the protection of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Controlling development which would alter the character of Protected Structures and proposed Protected Structures.</li> <li>• Monitoring the condition of Protected Structures and proposed protected structures to identify those endangered by neglect, vandalism or unauthorised development and taking appropriate action.</li> <li>• Preventing the endangerment of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership.</li> </ul> <p>CPO11.18 Consider the acquisition of Protected Structures, where possible and where economic constraints permit, if this is necessary to protect the structure.</p> <p>CPO11.19 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing older buildings/ buildings of architectural merit, where appropriate, in preference to their demolition and redevelopment. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.20 Facilitate contemporary and innovative design providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.21 Require applications for development where a Protected Structure or its setting is likely to be materially affected, to submit a detailed assessment of the building.</p> <p>CPO11.22 Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.23 Issue Declarations as to the type of works that would affect the character of a Protected Structure and therefore require planning permission.</p>

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ACA's in the County, within the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.28 Protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in County Longford and ensure the preservation of the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>CPO11.29 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to buildings of historic significance within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CPO11.30 Identify and designate new Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) as appropriate.</p> <p><b>Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Designed Landscapes Policies - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.31 Support the publication of a County Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, in order to promote the intrinsic character of those within the county.</p> <p>CPO11.32 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.33 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>CPO11.34 Require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals and ensure the on-going and future sustainability of the estate.</p> <p>CPO11.35 Continue the development, expansion and the protection of the (Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) in Longford town.</p> <p><b>Vernacular Architecture Policies – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.36 Encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.</p> <p>CPO11.37 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of County Longford and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.</p> <p>CPO11.38 Actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.39 Create and maintain and update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.</p> <p>CPO11.40 Ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract from the character of the historic building.</p> <p>CPO11.41 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.</p> <p><b>Industrial and Agricultural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.42 Create and maintain an inventory of Industrial and Agricultural Heritage assets within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.43 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.44 Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria.</p> <p>CPO11.45 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate, and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of interest.</p> <p><b>Financial support Incentives for Built Heritage and National Monument assets Policies - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is Policy Objective of the Council to</p> <p>CPO11.46 Ensure the protection and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage of County Longford by securing and promoting the provision of suitable funding initiatives where possible.</p> <p><b>Archaeological Heritage Policy – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.47 Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.48 Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County.</p> <p>CPO11.49 Protect the National Monuments and monuments protected under Preservation Orders in the County (see Table 11.1: National Monuments In County Longford, Table 11.2: Monuments Protected under Preservation Orders and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).</p>
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				<p>CPO11.50 Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest in the County (see Table 11.3: County Longford Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage).</p> <p>CPO11.51 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the County's rich archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives.</p> <p>CPO11.52 Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.53 Seek to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the archaeological heritage for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners.</p> <p>CPO11.54 Investigate and promote the provision of improved access to important archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.55 Presume in favour of the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and their settings, where appropriate, feasible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.56 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p> <p>CPO11.57 Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.</p> <p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<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 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 wider planning framework's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Landscape Character - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.1 Support and implement objectives contained in any Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>CPO14.2 Review in the context of a regional approach to landscape assessment, the County Landscape Character Assessment following publication of statutory guidelines for Planning Authorities on local Landscape Character Assessments, as outlined in the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025.</p> <p>CPO14.3 Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO14.4 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals. Any new development should respect and reinforce the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness.</p> <p>CPO14.5 Conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>CPO14.6 Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of an extensive number of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments and consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees or groups of trees of particular landscape value.</p> <p>CPO14.7 Require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals to be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity.</p> <p>CPO14.8 Preserve views and prospects as illustrated on the accompanying map as part of Appendix 9: Landscape Character and as listed in Tables 14.2 and 14.3.</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Drumlin Lakeland - County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO14.9 Support appropriate development in areas of population decline.</p> <p>CPO14.10 Encourage setting back of dwellings into fields retaining existing plot size and boundary treatment.</p> <p>CPO14.11 Permit hedgerow removal only where necessary for road safety and, where removal is required, encourage replacement with native hedgerow species</p> <p>CPO14.12 Encourage access to lakes and watercourses and development of tourist accommodation within or in the vicinity of settlements, while monitoring amenity development /restricting access in environmentally sensitive locations.</p> <p>CPO14.13 Restrict housing on lakeshores and within their visual areas.</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 2 – Northern Upland – County Policy Objectives</b></p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO14.14 Provide for the development of coherent countywide framework for large-scale utility infrastructure including identification and designation of permitted and restricted areas.</p> <p>CPO14.15 Investigate the concentration of heritage artefacts and features in the eastern section of this unit in terms of whether they may warrant the designation of a specific historic landscape to ensure heightened public awareness and their continued protection.</p> <p>CPO14.16 Facilitate co-ordination between Coillte/Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and natural Resources forestry strategies and development Plan Policy</p> <p>CPO14.17 Develop identity and character in new developments in towns and villages through the application of area specific design criteria laid out in design guide.</p> <p>CPO14.18 Protect views and prospects.</p> <p>CPO14.19 Preserve, maintain and enhance these important landscapes and protect the amenity value and visual integrity of the northern upland areas. Discourage inappropriate development in open countryside and prohibit developments which are likely to have material adverse visual impacts, either individually or cumulatively, on the character of these uplands. Ensure that new development will not materially interfere or detract from the scenic uplands and require that proposed developments demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impacts (including excessive bulk and inappropriate siting) and that visually prominent sites have been avoided to minimise visibility from scenic routes, lakes, walking</p>

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				<p>trails, public amenities, settlements and roads. In regard to the potential impacts of development on sensitive upland areas potential developments shall consider the difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation.</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 3 – Shannon Basin/Lough Ree – County Policy Objectives</b>  It is the County Policy Objective to:  CPO14.20 Restrict development in the vicinity of the lakes and maintain aquifer protection zone for 1km around boreholes at Carrowroe  CPO14.21 Effluent treatment systems in the vicinity of the lake to have nitrogen and phosphorous cleansing capabilities  CPO14.22 Prepare Village policy statement for Newtowncashel to include provision for the protection of scenic route  CPO14.23 Promote appropriate schemes for the control/eradication of invasive species</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 4 – Central Corridor – County Policy Objectives</b>  It is the County Policy Objective to:  CPO14.24 Restrict development in pressure areas  CPO14.25 Relax restrictions in areas of high capacity  CPO14.26 Install Groundwater protection scheme around potential groundwater supplies  CPO14.27 Identify and protect important areas of agricultural land from further fragmentation  CPO14.28 Encourage use of existing large-scale communications infrastructure for future proposed developments</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 5 – Inny Basin – County Policy Objectives</b>  It is the County Policy Objective to:  CPO14.29 Target growth to existing settlements  CPO14.30 Encourage provision of facilities to strengthen settlements  CPO14.31 Consider rural housing where appropriate and in accordance with normal planning criteria with the exception of high sensitivity areas in the vicinity of protected woodlands and riverbanks. Rural housing shall not be permitted in close proximity to the River Inny.</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 6 – Peatlands – County Policy Objectives</b>  It is the County Policy Objective to:  CPO14.32 Identify appropriate areas for development.  CPO14.33 Develop guidelines for screening and siting measures to facilitate development.  CPO14.34 Seek to identify opportunity to collaborate and/or partner with Bord na Mona.</p> <p><b>Landscape Unit 7 – Open Agricultural – County Policy Objectives</b>  It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to:  CPO 14.35 Fast track the formulation of Local Area Plans/ village policy statements throughout the county to create, preserve and enhance village character.  CPO14.36 Promote the development of adequate community and social facilities in smaller villages to maintain character, identity and pedestrian scale.</p> <p><b>Protected Views and Prospects – County Policy Objectives</b>  It is the County Policy Objective to:  CPO14.37 Preserve the views and prospects listed in Table 14.2 and 14.3 and detailed in Appendix 9: Landscape Character with accompanying maps and to protect these views from development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p><b>Landscape Character Climate Change Actions</b>  Longford County Council shall:  A12.1 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation.  A12.2 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Longford.  A12.3 Discourage and ban the use of glyphosate weedkillers in public spaces in favour of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar.  A12.4 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased.  A12.5 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022.  A12.6 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands.  A12.7 Discourage fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels within Longford’s functional area.  A12.8 Engage the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities.  A12.9 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible.  A12.10 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Midlands Climate Action Region.</p>
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## 2.4 Criteria under Annex II of the SEA Directive<sup>8</sup>

### 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***

There is a collective recognition amongst key stakeholders in Longford that the development of a County Outdoor Recreation Plan provides an opportunity for a more collaborative approach towards unlocking the positive impacts of outdoor recreation. The Longford Outdoor Recreation Plan's<sup>9</sup> Statement of Strategic Priorities is as follows: "To strengthen cooperation between the key stakeholders to improve infrastructure, enable greater access, broader participation and deeper appreciation of the great outdoors in County Longford." The Plan's Strategic Objectives are set out under headings as follow:

- Leadership and Collaboration - To create a more co-ordinated, cohesive approach across Longford to ensure best use of our resources.
- Environment - To protect Longford's environment and heritage through better planning and development of outdoor recreation.
- Access and Infrastructure - To protect and improve access to Longford's outdoors, for the benefit of all.
- Awareness and Engagement - To create awareness of Longford's outdoor recreation opportunities and how to enjoy them responsibly.
- Participation Opportunities - To increase and support the number of people active in the outdoors in Longford.
- Expertise - To improve the knowledge, skills, and expertise of Longford's stakeholders and partners.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

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

<sup>8</sup> Schedule 1 of the Regulations

<sup>9</sup> For more detail refer to the Plan document.

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

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

The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

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

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

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

The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

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

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

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

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the existing planning framework contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse. As identified in the Plan, in order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. This includes provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

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

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

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

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In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

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

## **PART 2**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**  
The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).
- b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**  
The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).
- c) intensive land-use.**  
The Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses provided under Part 1 above and the assessment provided under Section 2.3).

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

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



## Section 3 Conclusion

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan or programme, or strategy, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of this report is to inform: whether the Draft Outdoor Recreation Plan would, or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations<sup>10</sup>; and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

This Screening for SEA Report has examined the Longford Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025-2030 to be adopted, including against relevant criteria set out in Annex II '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' of the SEA Directive [Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended]. Taking into account this examination, the findings of which are provided in this report, it is advised that the Plan would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

The Plan is situated alongside the hierarchy of statutory documents that forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents throughout the implementation of the Plan, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection, and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, and does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

The Plan does not provide consent or establish a framework for granting consent and will not contribute towards a framework for granting consent. The Plan is not binding on consent-related decisions. The Plan does not introduce rules, limits, or other criteria to be used in development management. The Plan solely will set out recommendations that may be considered for integration into the relevant parts of the decision-making and consent-granting framework – in particular the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027.

In order to be realised, the types of projects referred to in the Plan will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier environmental assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework. Implementation of the Plan shall comply with such existing measures from the County Development Plan 2021-2027 that are already in force.

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

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

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<sup>10</sup> European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended

# Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc. European Level	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Additional information/lower-level objectives, etc.	Relevance to the Proposed Variation
<b>SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission.</li> <li>Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects.</li> <li>Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme.</li> <li>Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive.</li> <li>Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.</li> <li>Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA.</li> <li>For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III.</li> <li>The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor.</li> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.</li> <li>Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest.</li> <li>Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species.</li> <li>Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range.</li> <li>Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present.</li> <li>Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats.</li> <li>Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation.</li> <li>The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1.</li> <li>Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas).</li> <li>Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes.</li> <li>Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)</b>	It aims to reduce water pollution from nitrates used for agricultural purposes and prevent any further pollution. It forms an integral part of the water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC) of the European Union and is closely linked to other EU policies that address air quality, climate change and agriculture.	<p>EU Member States must do the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Designate as vulnerable zones all those draining into waters that are or could be affected by high nitrate levels and eutrophication. The designation is reviewed and possibly revised at least every 4 years to take account of any changes that have occurred.</li> <li>• Establish mandatory action programmes for these areas, taking into account available scientific and technical data and overall environmental conditions.</li> <li>• Monitor the effectiveness of the action programmes.</li> <li>• Test the nitrate concentration in fresh ground and surface water at sampling stations, at least monthly and more frequently during flooding.</li> <li>• Carry out a comprehensive monitoring programme and submit – every 4 years – a detailed report on the directive's implementation. The report includes information on nitrate-vulnerable zones, results of water monitoring and a summary of the relevant aspects of codes of good agricultural practices and action programmes.</li> <li>• Draw up a code of good agricultural practices, which farmers apply on a voluntary basis. It sets out various good practices, such as when fertiliser use is inappropriate.</li> <li>• Provide training and information for farmers, where appropriate.</li> </ul> <p>The European Commission provides a report every 4 years on the basis of the national information it has received.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Environmental Quality Standards Directive (EQSD) (2008/105/EC)</b>	It sets out environmental quality standards (EQSs) for the presence in surface water of certain substances or groups of substances identified as priority pollutants because of the significant risk they pose to or via the aquatic environment. These standards are in line with the strategy and objectives of the European Union (EU)'s water framework directive (Directive 2000/60/EC). It repeals Directives 82/176/EEC, 83/513/EEC, 84/156/EEC, 84/491/EEC and 86/280/EEC with effect from 22 December 2012.	<p>The directive sets EQSs for priority substances and eight other pollutants. These substances include: the metals cadmium, lead, mercury and nickel, and their compounds; benzene; polyaromatic hydrocarbons; and several pesticides. Several of these priority substances are classed as hazardous.</p> <p>The EQSs in Directive 2008/105/EC are limits on the concentration of the priority substances and eight other pollutants in water (or biota), i.e. thresholds which must not be exceeded if a good chemical status is to be met. There are two types of water standard.</p> <p>A threshold for the average concentration of the substance concerned calculated from measurements over a 1-year period. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against long-term exposure to pollutants in the aquatic environment. A maximum allowable concentration of the substance concerned, i.e. the maximum for any single measurement. The purpose of this standard is to ensure protection against short-term exposure, i.e. pollution peaks.</p> <p>The EQSs are different for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• inland surface waters (rivers and lakes);</li> <li>• other surface waters (transitional, coastal and territorial waters).</li> </ul> <p>EU Member States must ensure compliance with the EQSs. They must also take measures to ensure that the concentrations of substances that tend to accumulate in sediment and/or biota do not increase significantly.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Industrial Emissions (Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control) –IED Directive (2010/75/EU)</b>	<p>It is aimed at achieving significant benefits to the environment and human health by reducing harmful industrial emissions across the EU, in particular through better application of Best Available Techniques (BAT).</p> <p>The IED is based on the following principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• an integrated approach (focusing on the installation being permitted rather than separately on different environmental media such as air, water or soil);</li> <li>• best available techniques;</li> <li>• flexibility;</li> <li>• inspections;</li> <li>• public participation.</li> </ul> <p>The IED combines seven separate existing Directives related to industrial emissions:</p> <p>With effect from 7 January 2014:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 78/176/EEC of 20 February 1978 on waste from the titanium dioxide industry;</li> <li>• Directive 82/883/EEC on the surveillance and monitoring of titanium dioxide waste;</li> <li>• Directive 92/112/EEC on the reduction of titanium dioxide industrial waste;</li> <li>• Directive 1999/13/EC on reducing emissions of volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• Directive 2000/76/EC on waste incineration (Waste Incineration Directive);</li> <li>• Directive 2008/1/EC concerning integrated pollution prevention and control (IPPC Directive);</li> </ul> <p>With effect from 1st January 2016:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Directive 2001/80/EC on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants from large combustion plants (LCP Directive).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The IED aspires to reduce and, as far as possible, eliminate pollution arising from industrial activities. It seeks to achieve this by providing a general framework for the control of the industries with the highest pollution potential in order to prevent the shifting of pollution from one environmental medium (or industry) to another. The overall intention is to provide an integrated approach to the prevention and control of emissions into the various environmental media such as, air, water and soil while striking a commercial balance for businesses.</li> <li>• The IED aims to increase the effectiveness of the legislation by supporting Member States in implementing BAT-based permitting. The IED aims to improve and clarify the concept and use of BAT and increases transparency by requiring that the use of flexibility must be justified and documented leading to a more coherent and EU-wide application of BAT.</li> <li>• The IED also strengthens existing minimum requirements in certain sectors (such as large combustion plants, waste incineration, etc.) so as to ensure the achievement of objectives of the Commission's Thematic Strategy on Air Pollution.</li> <li>• The IED aims to further increase the effectiveness of the legislation by strengthening provisions on environmental improvement and enforcement, while stimulating innovation. The IED introduces minimum requirements as regards the environmental inspections of installations, the review and update of permits, and reporting on compliance. It also provides incentives for the development and promotion of environment-friendly technologies.</li> <li>• The IED aims to cut all identified unnecessary administrative burdens and simplify current legislation. The IED tackles the shortcomings of current EU legislation on industrial emissions by overhauling the seven existing pieces of legislation on industrial emissions. This has improved the clarity and coherence of the legislation and should reduce the administrative burden through combined requirements on granting permits and streamlined reporting.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b></p>	<p>The Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment.</p>	<p>This Directive is limited to the essential requirements with which machinery for pesticide application must comply before being placed on the market and/or put into service, while the European standardisation organisations are responsible for drawing up harmonised standards providing detailed specifications for the various categories of such machinery in order to enable manufacturers to comply with those requirements.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Renewable Energy Directive (RED) 2023/2413</b></p> <p>- amending Directive (EU) 2018/2001, Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 and Directive 98/70/EC as regards the promotion of energy from renewable sources, and repealing Council Directive (EU) 2015/652</p>	<p>The Renewable Energy Directive is the legal framework for the development of clean energy across all sectors of the EU economy, supporting cooperation between EU countries towards this goal. The revised Directive introduces stronger measures to ensure that all possibilities for the further development and uptake of renewables are fully utilised. This will be key to achieving the EU's objective of climate neutrality by 2050 and to strengthen Europe's security of energy supply. In addition to double the existing share of renewable energy sources, a strong policy framework will facilitate electrification in different sectors, with new increased sector-specific targets for renewables in heating and cooling, transport, industry, buildings and district heating/cooling, but also with a framework promoting electric vehicles and smart recharging.</p>	<p>The revised Directive sets an overall renewable energy target of at least 42.5% binding at EU level by 2030 - but aiming for 45%. The amended RED contains revised targets for renewable energy consumption in transport, of 29% energy share (known as the 'RES-T') or a 14.5% GHG reduction by 2030.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288 (COD))</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption.</li> <li>The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor.</li> <li>Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive;</li> <li>Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014;</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels;</li> <li>Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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

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<b>EU Effort Sharing Regulation (ESR) 2018 (as amended in 2023)</b>	<p>The ESR establishes binding annual greenhouse gas emission targets for Member States from 2021 to 2030. It is part of a set of policies and measures to reduce the EU's emissions by at least 55% by 2030, compared to 1990 levels. This is a crucial milestone to deliver the European Green Deal and achieve climate neutrality by 2050. The ESR is also part of the Energy Union strategy and the EU's implementation of the Paris Agreement.</p>	<p>The national targets concern emissions from the following sectors: domestic transport (excluding aviation), buildings, agriculture, small industry, and waste. These sectors account for almost 60% of emissions in the EU. The ESR assigns each Member State with an emission reduction target for 2030, a set of annual emission allocations for each year from 2021 to 2030, and flexibilities to deal with annual fluctuations in greenhouse gas emissions due to weather or economic conditions. The amended legislation increases the emissions reduction target for the targeted sectors including transport, from 29% to 40% by 2030, compared to 2005 levels.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>The Energy Union Strategy (COM/2015/080) (2015) and the EU "Clean energy for all Europeans" package (2019)</b>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy aims at building an energy union that gives EU consumers - households and businesses - secure, sustainable, competitive and affordable energy. Since its launch in 2015, the EC has published several packages of measures and regular progress reports, which monitor the implementation of this key priority, to ensure that the energy union strategy is achieved.</p> <p>The package aims to help to decarbonise EU's energy system in line with the European Green Deal objectives. The ESR transforms the targets of the Clean Energy Package into binding annual climate targets for each Member State for the period 2021–2030. The "Clean energy for all Europeans" package – marked a significant step towards implementing the Energy Union Strategy.</p>	<p>The Energy Union Strategy builds five closely related and mutually reinforcing dimensions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Security, solidarity and trust - diversifying Europe's sources of energy and ensuring energy security through solidarity and cooperation between EU countries.</li> <li>• A fully integrated internal energy market - enabling the free flow of energy through the EU through adequate infrastructure and without technical or regulatory barriers.</li> <li>• Energy efficiency - improved energy efficiency will reduce dependence on energy imports, lower emissions, and drive jobs and growth.</li> <li>• Climate action, decarbonising the economy - the EU is committed to a quick ratification of the Paris Agreement and to retaining its leadership in the area of renewable energy.</li> <li>• Research, innovation and competitiveness - supporting breakthroughs in low-carbon and clean energy technologies by prioritising research and innovation to drive the energy transition and improve competitiveness.</li> </ul> <p>Based on Commission proposals published in 2016, the Clean Energy package consists of 8 new laws. Following political agreement by the EU Council and the European Parliament (finalised in May 2019) and the entry into force of the different EU rules, EU countries have 1-2 years to convert the new directives into national law.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe 2024/EC</b>  <b>recast: Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe Directive 2008/50/EC and Fourth Daughter Directive 2004/107/EC</b>	<p>This new directive simplifies EU rules on ambient air quality by merging the two existing EU directives into one. Its goal is to bring quality standards in line with the World Health Organization (WHO) recommendations.</p> <p>The new directive introduces stricter limits on key air pollutants, aligning EU standards more closely with World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines.</p>	<p>Air quality is assessed using common methods and criteria across the EU, and the revised directive brings further improvements to air quality monitoring and modelling.</p> <p>The revised directive will also ensure early action, with air quality roadmaps that need to be prepared ahead of 2030 if there is a risk that the new standards will not be attained by that date. The air quality standards will be reviewed regularly in line with latest scientific evidence to assess whether they continue to be appropriate.</p> <p>The revised directive prioritises the health of EU citizens: it sets new air quality standards for pollutants to be reached by 2030 which are more closely aligned with the WHO air quality guidelines. Those pollutants include, among others, particulate matter PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>, nitrogen dioxide and sulphur dioxide, all known to cause respiratory problems. Member states may request that the 2030 deadline be postponed if specific conditions are met.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU (2018) Clean Air Policy Package</b>	<p>Aims to substantially reduce air pollution across the EU.</p>	<p>The proposed strategy sets out objectives for reducing the health and environmental impacts of air pollution by 2030, and contains legislative proposals to implement stricter standards for emissions and air pollution.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Emissions Ceilings (NEC) Directive 2016/2284/EU on the reduction of certain atmospheric pollutants</b>	<p>It aims to reduce the health risks and environmental impact of air pollution by establishing national emission reduction commitments. The Directive also aligns emission reduction commitments under EU law with international commitments (following the revision of the Gothenburg Protocol in 2012). The legislation was proposed as part of the EU's 2013 Clean Air Policy Package, which included a Clean Air Programme for Europe.</p>	<p>The Directive covers 5 air pollutants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sulphur dioxide;</li> <li>• nitrogen oxides;</li> <li>• non-methane volatile organic compounds;</li> <li>• ammonia; and</li> <li>• fine particulate matter.</li> </ul> <p>The Directive sets emission reduction commitments per pollutant for each EU country to be attained by 2020 and 2030. The emission reduction commitments for each pollutant that will apply each year from 2020 to 2029 are the same as those which the EU countries are already committed to under the revised Gothenburg protocol. New stricter reductions have been agreed from 2030 onwards.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>UNECE Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution (1979)</b>	The first international treaty to deal with air pollution on a broad regional basis. The Convention entered into force in 1983, laying down the general principles of international cooperation for air pollution abatement and setting up an institutional framework which has since brought together research and policy.	The Convention has substantially contributed to the development of international environmental law and has created the essential framework for controlling and reducing the damage to human health and the environment caused by transboundary air pollution.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Directive on arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and PAH in ambient air (2004/107/EC), as amended</b>	Directive 2004/107/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 15 December 2004 relating to arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.	The objective of this Directive is to establish a target value for the concentration of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and benzo(a)pyrene in ambient air so as to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects of arsenic, cadmium, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons on human health and the environment as a whole. It determines common methods and criteria for the assessment of concentrations of arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air as well as of the deposition of such substances.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Medium Combustion Plants (MCP) Directive (2015/2193)</b>	Directive (EU) 2015/2193 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the limitation of emissions of certain pollutants into the air from medium combustion plants.	This Directive lays down rules to control emissions of sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ) and dust into the air from medium combustion plants, as well as to monitor emissions of carbon monoxide (CO). The aim is to reduce emissions to air and the potential risks to human health and the environment from such emissions. As regards the scope, Article 2 identifies the types of combustion plants to which these rules apply. Emission limits values are set out in Annex II.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive 2023/1791 on energy efficiency and amending Regulation (EU) 2023/955 (recast)</b>	The revised Energy Efficiency Directive significantly raises the EU's ambition on energy efficiency. It establishes 'energy efficiency first' as a fundamental principle of EU energy policy, giving it legal-standing for the first time. The Commission has published a series of recommendations, including guidelines for EU countries related to the revised directive, to help countries transpose its different elements into national law.	The revised Directive: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>raises the EU energy efficiency target, making it binding for EU countries to collectively ensure an additional 11.7% reduction in energy consumption by 2030, compared to the projections of the EU reference scenario 2020;</li> <li>more than doubles the annual energy savings obligation (Article 8) by 2028, this is one of the key policy instruments of the directive to meet the headline target and to drive energy savings in end-use sectors, such as buildings, industry and transport;</li> <li>puts a stronger focus on alleviating energy poverty, it aims at empowering consumers through stronger requirements for EU countries to raise awareness and provide information on energy efficiency;</li> <li>it includes improved regulations to identify and remove barriers related to split incentives for energy efficiency renovations between tenants and owners or among multiple owners;</li> <li>introduces an obligation for the monitoring and reporting of the energy performance of data centres;</li> <li>expands the scope of energy audit obligations to include all those companies, regardless of their size, which are consuming energy above a certain threshold;</li> <li>mandates EU countries to report on energy efficiency investments, including energy performance contracts, as part of the Governance Regulation, ensuring transparency and accountability;</li> <li>establishes project development assistance mechanisms at national, regional, and local levels to support energy efficiency investments and facilitate the attainment of the EU's ambitious energy efficiency targets.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b>	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise reduction from source.	The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels;</li> <li>Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and</li> <li>Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise.</li> </ul> The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks</li> <li>Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</li> <li>Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above.</li> <li>Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats.</li> <li>Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain "good status" of water bodies.</li> <li>Promote sustainable water usage.</li> <li>The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive</li> <li>Sampling Drinking Water Directive</li> <li>Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive</li> <li>Shellfish Directive</li> <li>Freshwater Fish Directive</li> <li>Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive</li> <li>Dangerous Substances Directive</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive.</li> <li>Achieve "good status" for all waters.</li> <li>Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts.</li> <li>Involve the public and streamline legislation.</li> <li>Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas.</li> <li>Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas.</li> <li>Recover costs for water services.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect, control and conserve groundwater.</li> <li>Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater.</li> <li>Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive.</li> <li>Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Drinking Water Directive</b>  <b>- Directive (EU) 2020/2184 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2020 on the quality of water intended for human consumption (recast)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean, and to improve access to water intended for human consumption.</li> </ul>	For purposes of the Directive, 'water intended for human consumption' means: a) all water, either in its original state or after treatment, intended for drinking, cooking, food preparation or other domestic purposes in both public and private premises, regardless of its origin and whether it is supplied from a distribution network, supplied from a tanker or put into bottles or containers, including spring waters; b) all water used in any food business for the manufacture, processing, preservation or marketing of products or substances intended for human consumption.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive</b>  <b>- Directive (EU) 2024/3019 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 concerning urban wastewater treatment (recast)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect the environment and human health from adverse effects of urban wastewater discharges while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving energy efficiency in the sector.</li> </ul>	The Directive establishes a detailed framework covering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Requirements for collection and treatment of urban wastewater in agglomerations above 1,000 population equivalent (p.m.)</li> <li>Standards for secondary, tertiary and new quaternary treatment of wastewater</li> <li>Extended producer responsibility for pharmaceutical and cosmetic companies to cover costs of removing micropollutants</li> <li>Energy neutrality targets for treatment plants</li> <li>Requirements for monitoring, reporting and public access to information</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Water Reuse Regulation (2020/741)</b>	The purpose of this Regulation is to facilitate the uptake of water reuse whenever it is appropriate and cost-efficient, thereby creating an enabling framework for those Member States who wish or need to practise water reuse.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation (EU) 2020/741 of the European Parliament and of the Council on minimum requirements for water reuse. This Regulation lays down minimum requirements for water quality and monitoring and provisions on risk management, for the safe use of reclaimed water in the context of integrated water management.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b>	The overall aim of the ELD is to prevent and fully remedy damaged natural resources and their services to the condition that would have existed if no damage had occurred.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the operator has been at fault or negligent.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures.</li> <li>Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7.</li> <li>The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive.</li> <li>The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator.</li> <li>The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met.</li> <li>The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sewage Sludge Directive</b>  <b>(Council Directive 86/278/EEC of 12 June 1986 on the protection of the environment, and in particular of the soil, when sewage sludge is used in agriculture)</b>	The purpose of this Directive is to regulate the use of sewage sludge in agriculture in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man, thereby encouraging the correct use of such sewage sludge. Member States shall prohibit the use of sludge where the concentration of one or more heavy metals in the soil exceeds the limit values which they lay down in accordance with Annex I A and shall take the necessary steps to ensure that those limit values are not exceeded as a result of the use of sludge. The aims of the Sewage Sludge Directive are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect humans, animals, plants and the environment by ensuring that heavy metals in soil and sludge do not exceed set limits</li> <li>to increase the amount of sewage sludge used in agriculture</li> </ul>	The Directive also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>sets limits for the concentration of seven heavy metals in sewage sludge intended for agricultural use and in sludge-treated soils (cadmium, copper, nickel, lead, zinc, mercury, chromium)</li> <li>bans the use of sewage sludge that results in concentrations of these heavy metals in soil exceeding these limit values</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bathing Waters Directive</b>  <b>(Directive 2006/7/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the management of bathing water quality and repealing Directive 76/160/EEC)</b>	With a view to preserving, protecting and improving human health and the environment, within the legal framework of Directive 2000/60/EC, the present Directive establishes provisions for: (a) the monitoring and classification of bathing water quality; (b) the management of bathing water quality; and (c) the provision of information to the public on bathing water quality. Member States are required to annually identify all bathing waters and define the length of the bathing season.  The EU aims to protect the environment and the health of Europeans by attaining good bathing water quality throughout the EU. More specifically, it aims to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>provide better and earlier information to citizens about the quality of their bathing waters, including logos</li> <li>move from simple sampling and monitoring of bathing waters to bathing quality management</li> <li>integrate into other EU measures protecting the quality of all our waters (rivers, lakes, ground waters and coastal waters) through the Water Framework Directive</li> </ul>	The Bathing Water Directive requires Member States to monitor and assess bathing water. It ensures timely information is given to the public during the bathing season and requires Member States to disseminate information on bathing water quality actively and promptly. In particular, notices banning or advising against bathing should be rapidly and easily identifiable. The Directive applies to all surface waters that can be used for bathing, except for swimming pools and spa pools, confined waters subject to treatment or used for therapeutic purposes and confined waters artificially separated from surface water and groundwater. Decision establishing a symbol for information to the public on bathing water classification and any bathing prohibition. View the symbols for informing the public on bathing water prohibition, advice against bathing and bathing water classification.  The implementation of the Bathing Water Directive is supported by a broad EU framework of water legislation, including the Water Framework Directive, the Environmental Quality Standards Directive, the Groundwater Directive, the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (2009/128/EC)</b></p> <p><b>Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on the sustainable use of plant protection products and amending Regulation (EU) 2021/2115</b></p>	<p>The Sustainable Use of Pesticides Directive (SUD) establishes a framework for European Community action to achieve the sustainable use of pesticides by setting minimum rules to reduce the risks to human health and the environment that are associated with pesticide use.</p> <p>The Directive aims to achieve a sustainable use of pesticides in the EU by reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment and promoting the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and of alternative approaches or techniques, such as non-chemical alternatives to pesticides. EU countries have drawn up National Action Plans to implement the range of actions set out in the Directive.</p>	<p>The main actions relate to training of users, advisors and distributors of pesticides, inspection of pesticide application equipment, the prohibition of aerial spraying, limitation of pesticide use in sensitive areas, and information and awareness raising about pesticide risks. EU countries must also promote Integrated Pest Management, for which, general principles are laid down in Annex III to the Directive.</p> <p>The European Commission has adopted a proposal for a new Regulation on the Sustainable Use of Plant Protection Products, including EU wide targets to reduce by 50% the use and risk of chemical pesticides by 2030, in line with the EU's Farm to Fork and Biodiversity strategies. The proposal, adopted on 22 June 2022, is part of a package of measures to reduce the environmental footprint of the EU's food system and help mitigate the economic losses that we are already suffering due to climate change and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>The proposal transforms the existing Directive into a Regulation which will be directly binding and uniformly applicable to all Member States. It overhauls the existing rules on the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (see Directive 2009/128/EC) to bring them in line with the ambitions set in the EU Green Deal, Biodiversity and Farm to Fork strategies. The proposals must be approved by Member States in the Council and the European Parliament, under the normal legislative procedure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) (1962)</b></p> <p><b>CAP 2023-2027</b></p>	<p>The CAP is a partnership between society and agriculture that ensures a stable supply of food, safeguards farmers' income, protects the environment and keeps rural areas vibrant. It aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• support farmers and improve agricultural productivity, ensuring a stable supply of affordable food;</li> <li>• safeguard European Union farmers to make a reasonable living;</li> <li>• help tackle climate change and the sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• maintain rural areas and landscapes across the EU;</li> <li>• keep the rural economy alive by promoting jobs in farming, agri-food industries and associated sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>The CAP 2023-2027 entered into force on 1 January 2023. Support for farmers and rural stakeholders across the 27 EU countries is based on the CAP 2023-2027 legal framework and the choices detailed in the CAP Strategic Plans, approved by the Commission. The approved Plans are designed to make a significant contribution to the ambitions of the European Green Deal, Farm to Fork Strategy and Biodiversity Strategy.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006), as amended</b></p>	<p>The purpose of this Regulation is to ensure a high level of protection of human health and the environment, including the promotion of alternative methods for assessment of hazards of substances, as well as the free circulation of substances on the internal market while enhancing competitiveness and innovation.</p>	<p>This Regulation lays down provisions on hazardous substances and mixtures and specification of hazard classes; general obligations of manufacturers, importers and downstream users to classify, label and package the substances and mixtures; identification and examination of available information on substances and mixtures; evaluation of hazard information and decision on classification; establishment of a classification and labelling inventory in the form of a database; and the manufacture, placing on the market and use of chemical substances and preparations, pursuant to the precautionary principle.</p> <p>The Regulation sets forth the framework concerning the registration of such substances and preparations as well as the granting of authorizations. Furthermore, it sets up the European Chemicals Agency for the purposes of managing and carrying out the technical, scientific and administrative aspects of this Regulation. This Regulation sets out eight annexes attached. Annex I sets out the criteria for classification and labelling requirements for hazardous substances and mixtures. Annex II lays down special rules for labelling and packaging of certain classified substances and mixtures.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>UN Sustainable Development Goals</b></p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which reflect the need for all countries to urgently act as a global partnership.</p>	<p>Sustainable transport is mainstreamed across several SDGs and targets, especially those related to food security, health, energy, economic growth, infrastructure, and cities and human settlements.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Commission's "Forging a climate-resilient Europe - the new EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change" (2021)</b></p>	<p>The Strategy sets out how the European Union can adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change and become climate resilient by 2050.</p>	<p>The Strategy has four principal objectives: to make adaptation smarter, swifter and more systemic, and to step up international action on adaptation to climate change.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>European Environment Agency's European Climate Risk Assessment (2024)</b>	This assessment identifies 36 climate risks with potentially severe consequences across Europe.	The risks are evaluated in the contexts of risk severity, policy horizon (lead time and decision horizon), policy readiness and risk ownership. It further identifies priorities for EU policy action, based on a structured risk assessment united with qualitative aspects, such as considering social justice.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>UN Kyoto Protocol (2<sup>nd</sup> Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)</b>	The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol. At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C and in line with recommendations of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) take steps “to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C above preindustrial levels”.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II).</li> <li>EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP.</li> </ul> <p>Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Green Deal (2019) and “Fit for 55” legislation (2021)</b>	The European Green Deal provides a roadmap for making the EU's economy sustainable by turning climate and environmental challenges into opportunities across all policy areas and making the transition just and inclusive for all. The “Fit for 55” legislative package is a central part of the European Green Deal.	<p>The European Green Deal covers all sectors of the economy, notably transport, energy, agriculture, buildings, and industries such as steel, cement, ICT, textiles and chemicals. It outlines investments needed and financing tools available, and explains how to ensure a just and inclusive transition.</p> <p>The 'Fit for 55' package responds to the requirements in the EU Climate Law to reduce Europe's net greenhouse gas emissions by at least 55% by 2030. It was updated when the Commission proposed increased ambition on renewable energy and energy efficiency in the Repower EU plan to respond to Russia's invasion of Ukraine and boost Europe's energy security. The final legislative package is expected to reduce EU net greenhouse gas emissions by 57% by 2030. For transport, the package is primarily focused on reducing fossil fuel dependency and increasing the availability of, and infrastructure for, renewable alternatives.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Leaders Pledge for Nature 2020</b>	Political leaders (including Taoiseach Michael Martin) participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 75 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030.	<p>As part of the UN Decade of Action to achieve sustainable development, the leaders commit to achieve the vision of Living in Harmony with Nature by 2050 by undertaking ten actions, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Putting biodiversity, climate, and the environment at the heart of COVID-19 recovery strategies and investments as well as national and international development and cooperation;</li> <li>Developing and implementing an ambitious and transformational post-2020 global biodiversity framework for adoption at the 15th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 15) to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in Kunming, China, as a key instrument to reach the SDGs;</li> <li>Raising ambition and aligning domestic climate policies with the Paris Agreement on climate change, with enhanced nationally determined contributions (NDCs) and long-term strategies consistent with the temperature goals of the Paris Agreement, and the objective of net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by mid-century, and strengthen climate resilience of economies and ecosystems; and</li> <li>Mainstream biodiversity into relevant sectoral and cross-sectoral policies at all levels, including in food production, agriculture, fisheries and forestry, energy, tourism, infrastructure and extractive industries, and trade and supply chains, as well as into key international agreements and processes.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Europe 2020: European 2020 Strategy for Growth and Employment</b>	<p>The Europe 2020 Strategy aims to ensure that the economic revival of the European Union following the economic and financial crisis is supported by a series of reforms in order to build solid foundations for growth and job creation by 2020. While addressing the structural weaknesses of the EU's economy and economic and social issues, the strategy also takes account of the longer-term challenges of globalisation, pressure on resources and ageing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Europe 2020 Strategy should enable the EU to achieve growth that is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>smart, through the development of knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>sustainable, based on a greener, more resource efficient and more competitive economy;</li> <li>inclusive, aimed at strengthening employment and social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The EU has set itself five major targets for this ambition to be achieved by 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>increasing the employment rate of the population aged 20-64 to at least 75 %;</li> <li>investing 3 % of gross domestic product in research and development;</li> <li>reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 20 %, increasing the share of renewable energies to 20 % and increasing energy efficiency by 20 %;</li> <li>reducing the school drop-out rate to less than 10 % and increasing the proportion of tertiary degrees to at least 40 %;</li> <li>reducing the number of people threatened by poverty or social exclusion by 20 million.</li> </ul> </li> <li>The Europe 2020 Strategy targets are also supported by 7 flagship initiatives at European level and in EU countries: the Innovation Union; Youth on the move; the Digital Agenda for Europe; a Resource-efficient Europe; an industrial policy for the globalisation era; the agenda for new skills and jobs; and the European Platform against Poverty.</li> <li>At European level, the single market, the EU budget and the European external policy are additional levers in achieving the targets of the Europe 2020 strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 - Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)</b>	<p>The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.</p> <p>Aims to build resilience to future threats such as the impacts of climate change, forest fires, food insecurity, disease outbreaks and protecting wildlife and fighting illegal wildlife trade.</p>	<p>The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea;</li> <li>Launching an EU nature restoration plan;</li> <li>Introducing measures to enable the necessary transformative stage; and</li> <li>Introducing measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy (2013)</b>	<p>Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas.</li> <li>Supporting EU-level GI projects.</li> <li>Improving access to finance for GI projects.</li> <li>Improving information and promoting innovation.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta, 1992)</b>	<p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>ICOMOS (2011) Principles for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage Sites, Structures, Areas and Landscapes ('Dublin Principles')</b>	<p>It is aimed to assist in the documentation, protection, conservation and appreciation of industrial heritage as part of the heritage of human societies around the World.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(I) Document and understand industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes and their values;</li> <li>(II) Ensure effective protection and conservation of the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes;</li> <li>(III) Conserve and maintain the industrial heritage structures, sites, areas and landscapes; and</li> <li>(IV) Present and communicate the heritage dimensions and values of industrial structures, sites, areas and landscapes to raise public and corporate awareness, and support training and research.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada, 1995)</b>	The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties.</li> <li>The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro, 2005)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time.</li> <li>A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage.</li> <li>Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal.</li> <li>Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society.</li> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Landscape Convention (Florence, 2000)</b>	The European Landscape Convention introduced a Europe-wide concept centring on the quality of landscape protection, management and planning and covering the entire territory, not just outstanding landscapes. Through its ground-breaking approach and its broader scope, it complements the Council of Europe's and UNESCO's heritage conventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes.</li> <li>Organise European co-operation on landscape issues.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</b>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital</li> <li>to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy</li> <li>to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing</li> </ul>	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better implementation of legislation.</li> <li>Better information by improving the knowledge base.</li> <li>More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy.</li> <li>Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies.</li> </ul> <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To make the Union's cities more sustainable.</li> <li>To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats) (1979)</b>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats</li> <li>to promote cooperation between states</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</li> <li>Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucas.</li> <li>Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies.</li> <li>Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon.</li> <li>Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations.</li> <li>Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	The Bali Road Map includes the Bali Action Plan, which charts the course for a new negotiating process designed to tackle climate change. The Bali Action Plan is a comprehensive process to enable the full, effective and sustained implementation of the Convention through long-term cooperative action, now, up to and beyond 2012, in order to reach an agreed outcome and adopt a decision.	The Bali Action Plan is divided into five main categories: shared vision, mitigation, adaptation, technology and financing. The shared vision refers to a long-term vision for action on climate change, including a long-term goal for emission reductions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010, which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mitigation</li> <li>• Transparency of actions</li> <li>• Technology</li> <li>• Finance</li> <li>• Adaptation</li> <li>• Forests</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	Among the many decisions taken, governments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthened their resolve and set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015, which will come into effect in 2020.</li> <li>• Streamlined the negotiations, completing the work under the Bali Action Plan to concentrate on the new work towards a 2015 agreement under a single negotiating stream in the Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action.</li> <li>• Emphasized the need to increase their ambition to cut greenhouse gases and to help vulnerable countries to adapt.</li> <li>• Launched a new commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, thereby ensuring that this treaty's important legal and accounting models remain in place and underlining the principle that developed countries lead mandated action to cut greenhouse gas emissions.</li> <li>• Made further progress towards establishing the financial and technology support and new institutions to enable clean energy investments and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) (2001)</b>	The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have harmful impacts on human health or on the environment. The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention</li> <li>• Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention</li> <li>• Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention</li> <li>• Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner</li> <li>• Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ramsar Convention (1971)</b>	The Convention's mission is <i>"the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world"</i> .	Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands;</li> <li>• Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management;</li> <li>• Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>OSPAR Convention (1992)</b>	The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems and safeguard human health in the North-East Atlantic by preventing and eliminating pollution; by protecting the marine environment from the adverse effects of human activities; and by contributing to the sustainable use of the seas.	OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>• Eutrophication Strategy</li> <li>• Hazardous Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Offshore Industry Strategy</li> <li>• Radioactive Substances Strategy</li> <li>• Strategy for the Joint Assessment and Monitoring Programme</li> </ul> These six strategies fit together to underpin the ecosystem approach. For each strategy a programme of work is designed and implemented annually.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p><b>National Level</b></p> <p><b>The National Planning Framework (first revision 2025) and associated National Development Plan Review (2025)</b></p>	<p>The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040.</p> <p>The new 2025 Framework is revised and updated to take account of changes that have occurred since it was published in 2018 and to build on the framework that is in place. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for the people, and to protect and enhance the environment.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework and the National Development Plan form a single vision for Ireland under Project Ireland 2040. The implementation of the National Planning Framework will continue to be fully supported by the Government's investment strategy for public capital investment and investment by the State sector in general, with the National Development Plan detailing key projects.</p>	<p>The ambition is to create a single vision, a shared set of goals for every community across the country. These goals are expressed in the Framework as National Strategic Outcomes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Compact Growth</li> <li>2. Enhanced Regional Accessibility</li> <li>3. Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities</li> <li>4. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>5. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>6. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenities and Heritage</li> <li>8. Transition to a Carbon Neutral and Climate-Resilient Society</li> <li>9. Sustainable Management of Environmental Resources</li> <li>10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</li> </ol>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</b></p>	<p>An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000; to amend certain other enactments; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas.</li> <li>• There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission.</li> <li>• Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects.</li> <li>• Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Planning and Development Act 2024</b></p>	<p>An Act to consolidate and revise the law relating to planning and development; to provide for proper planning and sustainable development in the interests of the common good; to provide for the licensing of events and control of funfairs; for those purposes to repeal and replace the Planning and Development Act 2000 and amend certain other enactments; for purposes unrelated to the foregoing, to amend the Residential Tenancies Act 2004, the Residential Tenancies (Amendment) Act 2019, the Land Development Agency Act 2021 and the National Asset Management Agency Act 2009; and to provide for matters connected therewith.</p>	<p>Key reforms included in the Act:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The introduction of statutory timelines for all consenting processes, to give confidence and certainty to applicants;</li> <li>• A significant reorganisation of An Bord Pleanála, to be known as An Comision Pleanála;</li> <li>• Greater mandatory alignment of all tiers of planning, improving consistency;</li> <li>• Improvements to the planning judicial review processes;</li> <li>• Clearer, more consistent policies and guidance;</li> <li>• Longer term, more strategic, ten-year plans for Local Authorities;</li> <li>• More agile local implementation, through the introduction of Urban and Priority Area Plans, including new bespoke plans for Gaeltacht and Island communities;</li> <li>• Creation of Urban Development Zones, which will facilitate a more plan-led approach to development, increasing certainty at the master-planning stage;</li> <li>• Provisions to deter abuse of planning processes through spurious planning submissions and appeals, as well as a ban on requesting payment for not opposing development and;</li> <li>• Ability to suspend the duration of a permission while subject to judicial review proceedings, so as not to lose any time available for completing the development.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011</b></p>	<p>The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment — commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning.</li> <li>• These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning.</li> <li>• Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011), as amended</b></p>	<p>These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites.</li> <li>• The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</li> <li>Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives.</li> <li>Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended</b>	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution.</li> <li>Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values.</li> <li>Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)</b>  <b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation.</li> <li>Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water.</li> <li>Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs.</li> <li>Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies.</li> <li>Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status of water body.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances.</li> <li>Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater.</li> <li>Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies.</li> <li>Outlines surface water quality standards.</li> <li>Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute for water pollution offences.</li> <li>Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters.</li> <li>Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution.</li> <li>Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices;</li> <li>Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects.</li> <li>Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Services Act 2007 (No. 30 of 2007)</b> <b>Water Services Act 2013 (No. 6 of 2013)</b> <b>Water Services (No. 2) Act 2013 (No. 50 of 2013)</b> <b>Water Services Act 2017 (No. 29 of 2017)</b> <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2022 (No. 39 of 2022)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides the water services infrastructure.</li> <li>Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services.</li> <li>Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply.</li> </ul> <p>Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</p>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring Uisce Éireann delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector.</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced.</li> <li>Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards</li> <li>Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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<b>Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024</b>	<p>This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.</p> <p>The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is Uisce Éireann investment plan for water and wastewater assets and infrastructure for the next 5 years. The Capital Investment Plan sets out where to prioritise investment to deliver the most urgently needed improvements in drinking water quality, leakage reduction, water availability, wastewater compliance, efficiencies and customer service.</p>	The Capital Investment Plan 2020-2024 is made up of investment in individual projects such as building new or upgrading existing water and wastewater treatment plants and upgrading existing networks, and national programmes where activities are being delivered in a consistent and efficient manner across the country. Some examples of these programmes are the Leakage Reduction Programme, the National Disinfection Programme, the Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme, and the National Certification Authorisation Programme.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's Forest Strategy 2023-2030 and associated Implementation Plan including the National Forestry Programme 2023-2027</b>	The Implementation Plan will facilitate the initial steps in the implementation of the Strategy on the road to achieving the Shared Vision for 2050. The Implementation Plan includes the new Forestry Programme (2023 – 2027), which will be the primary implementation mechanism for the Forest Strategy. The Plan also includes a list of actions that will be funded and enabled by mechanisms outside of the Forestry Programme.	The Forestry Programme 2023-2027 was created in alignment with Ireland's Forest Strategy and is designed to provide lasting benefits for many key areas including climate change, biodiversity, wood production, and employment alongside enhancing societal benefits. The Forestry Programme will provide incentives for farmers and other landowners and will provide farm families with the opportunity to increase and diversify their income streams.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Action Plan 2024: River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (3rd Cycle) (2024)</b>	The Water Action Plan 2024 is Ireland's third River Basin Management Plan and it outlines the measures the Government and other sectors are taking to improve water quality in Ireland's groundwater, rivers, lakes, estuarine and coastal waters, and provide sustainable management of our water resources (as specified under SDG 6). This Water Action Plan enhances and builds upon the work of the first and second-cycle plans. Where necessary, this plan addresses the shortcomings experienced during the implementation of previous plans.	The responses to shortcomings addressed include, for example, strengthen the incorporation of the integrated catchment management approach, improving the environmental ambition, improving the evidence base for 'targeting the right measures in the right place' and securing dedicated resources to deliver these, increasing environmental enforcement and compliance, and strengthening the governance structures.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027</b>	The main purpose of Ireland's National Water Quality Monitoring Programme 2022-2027 is to provide a comprehensive national overview of the ecological and chemical status of surface waters and the quantitative and chemical status of groundwaters. The information is used to track progress towards the achievement of the environmental objectives required by the Water Framework Directive, and those set out in the River Basin Management Plan.	The programme is comprised of 2,899 surface and groundwater bodies representing 60% of the total number of national water bodies, covering 2,429 river water bodies, 224 lakes, 80 transitional water bodies, 45 coastal waters, 16 canals and 121 groundwater bodies. The programme is operated by the Environmental Protection Agency, Marine Institute, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland, National Parks and Wildlife Service and Local Authorities.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan (NWRP) – Framework Plan (2021)</b>	<p>The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment.</p> <p>The preparation of the plan has been divided into two distinct phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. Phase 1 was carried out in 2021 and the NWRP Framework has been adopted. In Phase 2 of the NWRP, Uisce Éireann summarised the needs across the 539 individual water supplies and identified the solutions to address these needs. Due to the large number of supplies in Ireland, Phase 2 was delivered as four Regional Water Resources Plans:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: North West (RWRP NW)</li> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: South West (RWRP SW)</li> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: South East (RWRP SE)</li> <li>Regional Water Resources Plan: Eastern and Midlands (RWRP EM)</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions</li> <li>Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry</li> <li>Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources</li> <li>Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events</li> <li>Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development 2030</b>	The national plans are intended to inform investment priorities for aquaculture under Member States' operational programmes under the European Maritime, Fisheries and Aquaculture Fund. They are also intended to identify measures to reduce the administrative burden on operators, to secure sustainable development and growth of aquaculture through coordinated spatial planning, to enhance the competitiveness of the aquaculture sector and to promote a level playing field for EU operators by exploiting their competitive advantages. Ireland's National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development was finalised following public consultation earlier in 2022. The Plan was adopted by the European Commission in 2022.	The National Strategic Plan for Sustainable Aquaculture Development proposes 58 actions to be implemented over the period up to 2030.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Aquaculture Acts 1997 to 2006 (Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006), s. 1(3)) Fisheries (Amendment) Act 1997 (23/1997) Fisheries and Foreshore (Amendment) Act 1998 (54/1998), ss. 2, 3 and 4 Fisheries (Amendment) Act 2001 (40/2001) Sea-Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 (8/2006)</b>	The Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division ensures the efficient and effective management of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities.	The Strategic Objectives of the Aquaculture and Foreshore Management Division are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to develop and manage an efficient and effective regulatory framework in respect of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to secure a fair financial return from the State's foreshore estate in the context of Aquaculture licensing and Foreshore licensing in respect of Aquaculture and Sea Fishery related activities;</li> <li>to progressively reduce arrears in the clearing of licence applications.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Foreshore Acts 1933 to 2011</b>	The Foreshore Acts require that a lease or licence must be obtained from the Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government for the carrying out of works or placing structures or material on, or for the occupation of or removal of material from, State-owned foreshore, which represents the greater part of the foreshore. Construction of permanent structures on privately owned foreshore also required the prior permission of the Minister under the Foreshore Act.	Developments on the foreshore require planning permission in addition to a Foreshore Lease/Licence/Permission. All Foreshore Leases, Licences Permissions are without prejudice to the powers of the local planning authority. Applicants should, therefore, consult initially with the local planning authority regarding their proposal. In the case of developments on foreshore for, by or on behalf of a Local Authority where an EIS is required, applications should be made to An Bord Pleanála under Part XV, Planning and Development Act 2000.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) (2024)</b>	The NMPF details how marine activities will interact with each other in an ocean space that is under increasing spatial pressure, ensuring the sustainable use of Ireland's marine resources to 2040.  The NMPF has been prepared with an ecosystem-based approach and informed by best available knowledge.	The National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF) brings together all marine-based human activities for the first time, outlining the Government's vision, objectives and marine planning policies for each marine activity. The NMPF is intended as the marine equivalent to the National Planning Framework. This approach will enable the Government to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>set a clear direction for managing our seas</li> <li>clarify objectives and priorities</li> <li>direct decision makers, users and stakeholders towards strategic, plan-led, and efficient use of our marine resources</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Seafood Development Programme 2021-2027</b>	Based on the challenges identified for the seafood sector and coastal communities and the policy context, Ireland's Programme requires an ambitious vision to: "To support a resilient, climate smart, environmentally sustainable and profitable Irish seafood sector in order to maximise its contribution to jobs and growth and maintain the economic and social activities of our most vibrant and sustainable coastal communities".	The Programme details the vision and key missions to be achieved by the implementation of the programme. It also demonstrates how the strategic objectives of the EMFAF fund (specified in Regulation (EU) 2021/1139) will be employed in fulfilling the Programme.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth: An Integrated Marine Plan for Ireland 2012</b>	Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth is an Integrated Marine Plan (IMP), setting out a roadmap for the Government's vision, high-level goals and integrated actions across policy, governance and business to enable our marine potential to be realised. Implementation of this Plan will see Ireland evolve an integrated system of policy and programme planning for our marine affairs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sustainable economic growth of marine/ maritime sectors;</li> <li>Increase the contribution to the national GDP;</li> <li>Deliver a business friendly yet robust governance, policy and planning framework;</li> <li>Protect and conserve our rich marine biodiversity and ecosystems;</li> <li>Manage our living and non-living resources in harmony with the ecosystem;</li> <li>Implement and comply with environmental legislation;</li> <li>Building on our maritime heritage, strengthen our maritime identity;</li> <li>Increase our awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits; and</li> <li>Engagement and participation by all.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 – 2022 and a Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Area Network</b>	The National Raised Bog Special Areas of Conservation Management Plan 2017 - 2022 sets out a roadmap for the long-term management, restoration and conservation of protected raised bogs in Ireland.	The Plan is part of the measures being implemented in response to the on-going infringement action against Ireland in relation to the implementation of the EU Habitats Directive, with regard to the regulation of turf cutting on the Special Areas of Conservation and on foot of the recommendation of Mr. Justice Quirke that a National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan be drawn up, arising from the Peatlands Forum (2012).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)</b>	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management.</li> <li>To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils.</li> <li>To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions.</li> <li>To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly.</li> <li>To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use.</li> <li>To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2022 (S.I. No. 113/2022)</b>	The purpose of these Regulations is to give effect to Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme pursuant to Council Directive 91/676/EEC concerning the protection of waters against pollution caused by nitrates from agricultural source.	Part 2 concerns farmyard management. The Part requires an occupier of a holding shall take all such steps, as far as is practicable for the purposes of minimising the amount of soiled water produced on the holding; livestock manure and other organic fertilisers, soiled water and effluents from dung steads, farmyard manure pits, silage pits or silage clamps arising or produced in a building or yard on a holding shall, prior to its application to land or other treatment, be collected and held in a manner that prevents the run-off or seepage, directly or indirectly, into groundwaters or surface waters of such substances. The Regulations provides for general obligations related to capacity of storage facilities and then distinguishes among requirements for storage facilities of: effluents and soiled water; pig manure; poultry manure; manure from deer, goats and sheep; manure from cattle. Part 3 concerns nutrient management. Part 4 is focused on the prevention of water pollution from fertilizers and certain activities; this includes the distances from a water body and other issues requirements as to manner of application of fertilizers, soiled water etc; periods when application of fertilizers is prohibited; limits on the amount of livestock manure to be applied. Part 5 regulates general duty of occupier, such as keeping of records, etc. Offences and related matters. Part 6 is functions of the public authorities: certificates, exemptions, etc.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) (Amendment) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 565 of 2014)</b>	These Regulations the European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013 so as to apply them to the regulation of sea-fishing activity in so far as the regulation of that activity is necessary to secure compliance with the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and the objectives of the Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries;</li> <li>Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required;</li> <li>Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation;</li> <li>Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan;</li> <li>Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan;</li> <li>Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment;</li> <li>Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities;</li> <li>Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and</li> <li>Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b>  <b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2023</b>	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.  The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2023 introduced a new public sector duty on biodiversity. The legislation provides that every public body, as listed in the Act, is obliged to have regard to the objectives and targets in the National Biodiversity Action Plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems</li> <li>Give statutory protection to NHAs</li> <li>Enhances wildlife species and their habitats</li> <li>Includes more species for protection</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's 4<sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030</b>	Ireland's 4 <sup>th</sup> National Biodiversity Action Plan sets the national biodiversity agenda for the period 2023-2030 and aims to deliver the transformative changes required to the ways in which we value and protect nature.	This National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 builds upon the achievements of the previous Plan. It will continue to implement actions within the framework of five strategic objectives, while addressing new and emerging issues:  Objective 1 - Adopt a Whole of Government, Whole of Society Approach to Biodiversity Objective 2 - Meet Urgent Conservation and Restoration Needs Objective 3 - Secure Nature's Contribution to People Objective 4 - Enhance the Evidence Base for Action on Biodiversity Objective 5 - Strengthen Ireland's Contribution to International Biodiversity	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025</b>	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly;</li> <li>Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them;</li> <li>Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers;</li> <li>Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and</li> <li>Collecting evidence to track change and measure success.</li> </ul>	This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective,</li> <li>The policy of the Government on climate change,</li> <li>Climate justice,</li> <li>Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any</li> <li>international agreement referred to in section 2; and</li> <li>The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Climate Action Plans</b>	<p>The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provided a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2024 builds upon the 2023 Plan by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>The Climate Action Plan 2025 is the third statutory annual update to the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>The Climate Action Plans list the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 lays out a roadmap of actions that are intended to lead to meeting the national climate objective of pursuing and achieving, by no later than the end of the year 2050, the transition to a climate resilient, biodiversity rich, environmentally sustainable and climate neutral economy. It aligns with legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings.</p> <p>Climate Action Plan 2025 builds upon the Climate Action Plan 2024 by refining and updating the measures and actions required to deliver the carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings and it should be read in conjunction with Climate Action Plan 2024. The Plan provides a roadmap for taking decisive action to halve Ireland's emissions by 2030 and achieve climate neutrality by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (Amendment) Act 2021.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2024 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans</b>	<p>NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions.</li> <li>Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change.</li> <li>Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	<p>The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.</p>	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Climate Action Policy Framework</li> <li>Decarbonising Electricity Generation</li> <li>Decarbonising the Built Environment</li> <li>Decarbonising Transport</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Climate Adaptation Sectoral Adaptation Plans</b>	<p>The Climate Act sets out the requirements for the preparation of Sectoral Adaptation Plans. The 12 priority sectors identified in the 2018 NAF were grouped into 9 such Plans and clustered into four themes covering natural and cultural capital, critical infrastructure, water resource and flood risk management, and public health. This approach aims to provide a structured and systematic approach to sectoral developments.</p>	<p>To support key national sectors in planning for climate change adaptation and according to the requirements of the National Adaptation Framework (2018), sectoral planning guidelines were developed as part of the Irish Climate Information Platform, Climate Ireland project. The guidelines aim to ensure that a coherent and consistent approach to adaptation planning is adopted at national and local levels. Since the guidelines' publication in May 2018, they have been successfully implemented by relevant Departments to develop Sectoral Adaptation Plans.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP) (2022)</b>	<p>It sets out a strategic framework to 2030 for active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport journeys to help Ireland meet its climate obligations. It is framed around three key principles that will guide the delivery of sustainable mobility policy over the coming decade. They are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Safe and green mobility;</li> <li>People focussed mobility; and</li> <li>Better integrated mobility.</li> </ul>	<p>The SMP includes an Action Plan covering the period 2022-2025 with 91 actions, supporting behavioural change across a wide range of interventions including, among other things, public transport infrastructure and services, active travel promotion and supports, road safety initiatives, legislative measures, research, and public engagement. The Policy also supports the implementation of large-scale transport projects including MetroLink and DART+ in Dublin, BusConnects in the five cities, the Connecting Ireland scheme in rural areas, and an Active Travel Infrastructure Programme providing high-quality cycling infrastructure across the country.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022-2025 and associated implementation plan</b>	It sets out a pathway for the delivery of EV charge point infrastructure, including the rollout of EV infrastructure as required under the EU's Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Regulation (AFIR), where a 300% increase in the amount of public recharging infrastructure is targeted for delivery.	The strategy takes a people-first approach, focusing on the different transport needs across the country and is being informed by the piloting of different technologies and charging options in Ireland. An Implementation Plan has also been developed in conjunction with the strategy to provide an initial set of actions and deliverables to support the strategy's delivery. This includes the development the National Road Network EV Charging Plan and the Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Renewable Transport Fuel Policy 2023-2025</b>	The Renewable Transport Fuel Policy, 2023 – 2025 sets out a pathway to incentivise the supply of renewable transport fuel through annual increases in the renewable transport fuel obligation rate to 2030.	The policy will underpin the shift to the Climate Action Plan 2023 (CAP 23) biofuel targets of at least B20 (biodiesel equivalent) in diesel and E10 (Ethanol) in petrol by 2030 (with an interim B12/E10 by 2025 target).	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Energy Security Framework (2022)</b>	National Energy Security Framework provides an overarching and comprehensive response to Ireland's energy security needs in the context of the war in Ukraine. The Framework outlines the structures which are in place within Government to monitor and manage our energy supplies. It sets out the plans which are in place to deal with energy security emergencies should they arise, and outlines out how these plans will be tested in light of the war in Ukraine.	The Framework sets out the government's action in response to these issues across three key themes: - managing the impact on consumers and businesses, with a specific focus on financially vulnerable residential consumers in the short-term - ensuring security of energy supply in the near term, with a focus on the period up to and including winter 2022/23 - reducing our dependency on imported fossil fuels, in the context of the phasing out of Russian energy imports across the EU	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP) 2021-2030 (updated 2024)</b>	National Energy and Climate Plans are the framework within which EU Member States must notify their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission and were established under Regulation (EU) 2018/1999 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the Governance of the Energy Union and Climate Action. Member States are required to develop NECPs on a ten-year rolling basis. The aim of the plans is to outline our energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and provide projections and ambitions towards 2050. Under the Regulation, Member States are also required to update their initial plans after 5 years, this is the first update of the initial NECP which was published in 2019. The NECP covers five dimensions of the Energy Union: - Decarbonisation - Energy Efficiency - Energy Security - Internal Energy Market - Research, Innovation and Competitiveness The NECP brings together the policies, targets, tools and associated material relating to our climate and energy obligations under various EU Regulations and Directives from across government bodies and departments into one document. It reflects our ambitions and provides certainty to investors and policymakers that we are committed to EU-wide targets and ambitions to move towards becoming a carbon-neutral society.	It outlines our department's energy and climate policies in detail for the period from 2021 to 2030 and looks onwards to 2050. The NECP collates the policies, measures and actions related to energy and climate outlined in a range of government plans: such as the Climate Action Plan, the National Development Plan, and Project Ireland 2040, into one cohesive document. It also presents modelling that illustrates Ireland's current trajectories toward its three main European targets. The NECP reflects the ambitions set out in Climate Action Plan 2024. The NECP will act to identify gaps and areas that Ireland can improve on, which should be reflected in updated policies and measures in subsequent Climate Action Plans. The policies outlined in the NECP reflect the ambition of Climate Action Plan 2024.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Goals 2022-2024</b>	It is the second National Implementation Plan for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals reviews the progress made towards each of the 17 Goals.	The Plan sets out five strategic objectives and 51 actions, with 119 individual measures to increase Ireland's ambition and strengthen implementation structures to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It also incorporates 23 external actions from four other National Plans or Strategies which contribute to and are complementary to the objectives of this Plan and which have been included for coherence and reporting purposes. Strategic Objective 1: To embed the SDG framework into the work of Government Departments to achieve greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Strategic Objective 2: To integrate the SDGs into Local Authority work to better support the localisation of the SDGs Strategic Objective 3: Greater partnerships for the Goals Strategic Objective 4: To further incorporate the principle of Leave No One Behind into Ireland's Agenda 2030 implementation and reporting mechanisms Strategic Objective 5: Strong reporting mechanisms	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040</b>	The PLUTO takes account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies.	The PLUTO seeks to: 1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; 2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, 3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland (NIFTI) (2021)</b>	The high-level strategic framework for prioritising future investment in the land transport network. This new framework is the Department of Transport's contribution to Project Ireland 2040, Government's long-term strategy for accommodating population growth in a sustainable manner and making Ireland a better country for all of its people. It has been developed to ensure that our transport sectoral strategy is underpinned by and supports the achievement of the spatial objectives and National Strategic Objectives set out in the National Planning Framework.	The framework establishes high-level investment priorities to efficiently and effectively address key transport challenges identified by the background analysis and to ensure that transport investment is aligned with and supports Government's overarching spatial and climate change objectives, as articulated in the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</b>	SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.	The three priorities stated in SFILT are: • Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); • Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and • Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.  In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for: • Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; • Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and • To the extent within the Authority's remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	• This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. • It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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



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<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<p>Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland.</p> <p>Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.</p>	<p>Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020.</p> <p>Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Cycle Network Plan Report 2023 (Transport Infrastructure Ireland, on behalf of the Department of Transport)</b>	<p>The planned National Cycle Network, presented below, links cities and towns of over 5,000 people with a safe, connected and inviting cycle network. One of the most ambitious and wide-reaching infrastructure plans in the history of the State, the proposed cycle network of approximately 3,500km will connect more than 200 settlements and 2.8m people.</p> <p>The National Cycle Network will link to destinations such as transport hubs, centres of education, centres of employment, leisure, and tourist destinations with the intention of facilitating greater cycling and walking amongst students, leisure users, tourists, and commuters alike.</p> <p>The NCN Plan complements other networks and establishes a core spine of infrastructure to encourage further development of cycling projects in the future, thereby optimising the potential for people to cycle as part of their daily activities, such as travel to work or education.</p>	<p>As well as contributing to Ireland's commitments to sustainability and decarbonisation, successful implementation of the NCN Plan will provide many benefits for cyclists and communities across Ireland, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring delivery of a high-quality cycle network which will promote safety, comfort and increased participation in cycling.</li> <li>Improving sustainable connectivity nationally and providing links with other networks such as Cycle Connects, EU Rovel and Northern Ireland networks.</li> <li>Supporting both urban and rural economies through increased leisure and tourism cycling.</li> <li>Improving public health through well documented benefits of active travel.</li> <li>Guiding how local authorities prioritise exchequer-funded investments in cycle infrastructure.</li> <li>Making use of existing infrastructure wherever possible including greenways, road infrastructure,</li> <li>and declassified roads where safe and inviting cycle experiences can be provided.</li> <li>The NCN aligns with the NTA's CycleConnects programme of urban and county-level cycle networks, as well as other cycle routes and networks in various stages of development, including the EuroVelo routes, national and regional greenways, and the Strategic Plan for Greenways in Northern Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<p>This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable.</p> <p>By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors.</p>	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce overall travel demand</li> <li>Maximise the efficiency of the transport network</li> <li>Reduce reliance on fossil fuels</li> <li>Reduce transport emissions</li> <li>Improve accessibility to transport</li> </ul> <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland.</li> <li>Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Security of Supply</li> <li>Sustainability of Energy</li> <li>Competitiveness of Energy Supply</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand</li> <li>Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland</li> <li>Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation</li> <li>Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks</li> <li>Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production</li> <li>Being prepared for energy supply disruptions</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) (2010)</b>	<p>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC. National Renewable Energy Action Plan.</p>	<p>The areas of intervention identified by the NREAP are heat, transport and electricity. Section 4 provides an overview of all policies and measures to promote the use of energy from renewable resources, these are: Biofuels Mineral Oil Tax Relief (MOTR) Schemes to increase production and use of biofuel; Greener Homes Scheme, financial facilitates to wider deployment of renewable-energy heating technologies in the residential sector; Grant support for the planting of perennial biomass crops (willow and miscanthus) – contributes to biomass needs of renewable energy sector; a policy that facilitates renewables by providing for grid connections outside the gate process for certain small, renewable, low carbon generators; new local and central authorities; etc.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2017 – 2020)</b>	Article 24 of the EU Energy Efficiency Directive requires Member States to submit a National Energy Efficiency Action Plan (NEEAP) every three years. Ireland's 4th NEEAP was produced in early 2017.	It provides a comprehensive overview on the progress made towards the above targets the measures in place to ensure the targets are met the strategies and policies in place across the residential, commercial, transport and public sector.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	The National Broadband Plan is the Government's initiative to deliver high speed broadband services to all premises in Ireland. This will be delivered through investment by commercial enterprises coupled with intervention by the State in those parts of the country where private companies have no plans to invest.	The Plan sets out: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband.</li> <li>• Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered.</li> <li>• The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets.</li> <li>• A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Shaping Our Electricity Future 1.1 (EirGrid)</b>	The main objective of the Shaping Our Electricity Future Roadmap Version 1.1 is to outline how we can make the grid ready so that 80% of Ireland's and Northern Ireland's electricity can come from renewable sources, like the wind and sun, by 2030. These targets, and new limits to carbon emissions, are the product of updates to climate change policy across the island in 2022.	Key goals include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support the delivery of renewable electricity.</li> <li>• Find problems, gaps, opportunities, potential collaborations, or areas of duplication in the deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Help to find and resolve potential regulatory, administrative and/or legal barriers to the faster deployment of renewable electricity projects.</li> <li>• Increase alignment across the energy sector to support the delivery of renewable electricity generation projects.</li> <li>• Recommend appropriate investment conditions for electricity projects.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategic greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure;</li> <li>• Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity;</li> <li>• Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and</li> <li>• Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and</li> <li>• Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated.	This Strategy therefore addresses issues including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong;</li> <li>• Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements;</li> <li>• The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects;</li> <li>• Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms;</li> <li>• Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety;</li> <li>• Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and</li> <li>• Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.	The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)</b>	The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions.  Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i>	The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development;</li> <li>• Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</li> <li>• Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape;</li> <li>• Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996 (as amended)</b>	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</b>	The EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NWHMP) covers a six-year period from 2021 to 2027. This is the fourth National Hazardous Waste Management Plan and is made under Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996. It sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the prevention and management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous revised plan, and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous revised plan was published. The purpose of this plan is to protect the environment and human health in Ireland through best-practice management of hazardous wastes.	The Plan's objectives are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Support and drive priority prevention actions by industry and the public to reduce the generation of hazardous waste;</li> <li>2. Support the identification of adequate and appropriate collection infrastructure for all hazardous wastes with a view to mitigating environmental and health impacts;</li> <li>3. Endorse the proximity principle such that hazardous wastes are treated as close to the point of production as possible – including within Ireland, taking into account the need for specialised installations for certain types of waste.</li> <li>4. Support effective regulation of the movement and management of hazardous wastes in line with national policy priorities;</li> <li>5. Promotion of safe reuse and recycling pathways in support of the circular economy.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy (2024)</b>	The Regional Waste Management Planning Offices, under the auspices of the County and City Management Association National Oversight Group, have co-ordinated the preparation of this plan which is the first National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy. This Plan sets out a framework for the prevention and management of waste in Ireland for the period 2024 to 2030.	The Plan seeks to influence sustainable consumption and prevent the generation of waste, improve the capture of materials to optimise circularity and enable compliance with policy and legislation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.	The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025</b>	The Healthy Ireland Framework 2019-2025 is a roadmap for building a healthier Ireland.	It is based around four key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life</li> <li>to reduce health inequalities</li> <li>to protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing</li> <li>to create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>S.I. 232/2018 - European Union (National Emission Ceilings) Regulations 2018</b>	The Regulations require the Minister to ensure that emissions of the specified pollutants are limited in accordance with the ceilings set out in Schedule 2. Annex III part 2 includes a set of measures to reduce emissions from agriculture.	The Regulations provide that the Environment Protection Agency shall prepare an annual inventory report of emissions of 5 specified pollutants (Sulphur dioxide (SO <sub>2</sub> ), nitrogen oxides (NO <sub>x</sub> ), non-methane volatile organic compounds (NMVOC), ammonia (NH <sub>3</sub> ), and fine particulate matter (PM <sub>2.5</sub> ), and in certain years a report on projections of emissions.  The Regulations also require the preparation of a national air pollution control programme Referring, among other things, to the 1979 UNECE Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution), and the establishment of a network to monitor the negative impacts of air pollution upon ecosystems based on a network of monitoring sites that is representative of Ireland's freshwater, natural and semi-natural habitats and forest ecosystem types. The Programme shall contain elements on the use of nitrogen fertilizer and soil protection. In fulfilling the requirements of subparagraph (b) the Minister shall ensure coordination with other monitoring programmes established pursuant to Union legislation including Directive 2008/50/EC, Directive 2000/60/EC and Council Directive 92/43/EEC and, if appropriate, the LRTAP Convention and, where appropriate, make use of data collected under those programmes.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy 2023</b>	The Clean Air Strategy provides the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy provides a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation.</li> <li>The Strategy should also help tackle climate change.</li> <li>The Strategy considers a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture.</li> <li>In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this is a theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agri-Food Strategy 2030</b>	The Food Vision 2030 Strategy is a new ten year Strategy for the Irish agri-food sector (taken to include primary agriculture, food and drink processing and manufacturing, fisheries, aquaculture and fish processing, forestry and forestry processing and the equine sector).	The Strategy consists of 22 Goals, grouped into four high-level "Missions" for the sector to work toward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector</li> <li>Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Well-Being</li> <li>Food Which is Safe, Nutritious And Appealing, Trusted And Valued at Home and Abroad</li> <li>An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Agri-Food Sector, Driven by Technology And Talent</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Agricultural Schemes, including:  Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS), Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS), Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS) and Results-based Environment-Agri Pilot Scheme (REAP)</b>	Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. The REPS evolved to AEOS 1, 2 and 3 and currently the Green Low Carbon Agri-Environment (GLAS) Scheme is in place. The recently introduced REAP scheme in Ireland is a two year scheme in place for 2021 and 2022.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> <li>Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats.</li> <li>Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment.</li> <li>Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans.</li> <li>Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Rural Development Programme 2014-2022 (as amended)</b>	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas.	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation;</li> <li>• Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and</li> <li>• Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025</b>	The vision of this policy is for a thriving rural Ireland which is integral to our national economic, social, cultural and environmental wellbeing and development. Our Rural Future represents the Irish Government's blueprint for a post-COVID-19 recovery and development of rural Ireland over the next 5 years. It provides the framework to achieve the vision of transforming the quality of life and opportunity for people living in rural areas.	A set of policy measures aim to deliver wellbeing for all, and to support an aligned policy approach to rural development. It seeks to promote enhanced community participation, to prepare rural areas for technological, demographic and environmental change, and to address the diversity of challenges and opportunities facing rural areas, informed by analysis, data, and consultation.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)</b>	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 85% increase in exports to €19 billion.</li> <li>• 70% increase in value added to €13 billion.</li> <li>• 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion.</li> <li>• The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021</b>	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy Context</li> <li>• Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination</li> <li>• Enhancing the Visitor Experience</li> <li>• Research in the Irish Tourism Sector</li> <li>• Supporting Local Communities in Tourism</li> <li>• Wider Government Policy</li> <li>• International Context</li> <li>• Co-ordination Structures</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025</b>	Growing Tourism to 2025 is a policy framework for the development of tourism within the Country.  The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work.	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year</li> <li>• net of inflation excluding carrier receipts;</li> <li>• 250,000 people employed in tourism; and</li> <li>• 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan 2016-2020</b>	The Waterways Ireland Heritage Plan provides a strategic framework for the integration of built, natural and cultural heritage into the future management of waterways.  The overarching aim of the Plan is to: <i>"Identify and protect the unique waterways heritage and promote its sustainable use for the enjoyment of this and future generations".</i>	Four objectives of the Plan include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Objective 1: Fostering partnerships to continue building waterway heritage knowledge through storing information, undertaking research and developing best practice.</li> <li>• Objective 2: Promoting awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of our waterway heritage with a focus on community engagement.</li> <li>• Objective 3: Promoting the integrated management, conservation, protection and sustainable use of the inland navigable waterway asset.</li> <li>• Objective 4: To develop Waterways Ireland as a heritage organisation committed to achieving the aim of this plan.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Waterways Ireland "Reimagining Our Waterways" 10-Year Plan 2023</b>	<p>10-Year Plan is a visionary roadmap for reimagining historical waterways, greenways and blueways.</p> <p>Waterways Ireland's Vision is to be recognised as having enabled the creation of inspirational inland navigations and waterways experiences, through conservation and sustainable development for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>At the core of our 10-year plan is set of six strategic priorities. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organisation Development &amp; Governance</li> <li>• Sustainable Funding Model</li> <li>• Asset Portfolio Management</li> <li>• Participation and Reputation</li> <li>• Sustainable Development</li> <li>• Climate Action, Environment and Heritage</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Tourism Development and Innovation – A Strategy for Investment 2016-2022, (Fáilte Ireland, 2016)</b>	<p>This strategy sets out the framework and mechanism for the delivery of investment to cities, towns, villages, communities and businesses across the country. It identifies priorities to support innovation in the sector to retain and grow the country's competitiveness in the marketplace. Its ultimate aim is to strengthen the appeal of Ireland for international visitors.</p>	<p>The objectives of the Tourism Development and Innovation Strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To successfully and consistently deliver a world class visitor experience;</li> <li>• To support a tourism sector that is profitable and achieves sustainable levels of growth and delivers jobs;</li> <li>• To facilitate communities to play an enhanced role in developing tourism in their locality, thereby strengthening and enriching local communities; and</li> <li>• To recognise, value and enhance Ireland's natural environment as the cornerstone of Irish tourism.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998</b>	<p>The Housing (Traveller Accommodation) Act 1998 requires that each Housing Authority adopts a Traveller Accommodation Programme for its functional area.</p>	<p>This Act amended and extended the Housing Acts, 1966 to 1997, the Local Government (Planning and Development) Acts, 1963 to 1998, the Local Government Act, 1991, to make provision for the accommodation needs of travellers, to provide for the appointment of a national traveller accommodation consultative committee and local traveller accommodation consultative committees and to provide for related matters.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlement Guidelines (DHLGH, 2024)</b>	<p>The Guidelines set out policy and guidance in relation to the planning and development of urban and rural settlements, with a focus on sustainable residential development and the creation of compact settlements. They are accompanied by a companion non-statutory Design Manual that illustrates best practice examples of how the policies and objectives of the Guidelines can be applied.</p>	<p>The Guidelines build on and update previous guidance to take account of current Government policy and economic, social and environmental considerations. There is a renewed focus in the Guidelines on the renewal of existing settlements and on the interaction between residential density, housing standards and quality urban design and placemaking to support sustainable and compact growth.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</b>	<p>The Guidelines have five key policy objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring that retail development is plan-led;</li> <li>• Promoting city/town centre vitality through a sequential approach to development;</li> <li>• Securing competitiveness in the retail sector by actively enabling good quality development proposals to come forward in suitable locations;</li> <li>• Facilitating a shift towards increased access to retailing by public transport, cycling and walking in accordance with the Smarter Travel strategy; and</li> <li>• Delivering quality urban design outcomes.</li> </ul>	<p>The aim of the Guidelines is to ensure that the planning system continues to play a key role in supporting competitiveness in the retail sector for the benefit of the consumer in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development. In addition, the planning system must promote and support the vitality and viability of city and town centres thereby contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging a greater use of sustainable transport.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Architectural Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)</b>	<p>Part 1 of these guidelines includes the criteria to be applied when selecting proposed protected structures for inclusion in the RPS. It also offers guidance to planning authorities on issuing a declaration on a protected structure and on determining planning applications in relation to a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA.</p>	<p>Part 2 contains supplementary detailed guidance to support planning authorities in their role to protect the architectural heritage when a protected structure, a proposed protected structure or the exterior of a building within an ACA is the subject of development proposals and when a declaration is sought in relation to a protected structure.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>National Housing Strategy for Disabled People 2022-2027</b>	The primary objective of the strategy which is to facilitate disabled people to live independently with the appropriate choices and control over where, how and with whom they live, promoting their inclusion in the community.	This Strategy will build on the progress made under the previous strategy, The National Housing Strategy for People with a Disability (NHSPWD) 2011 – 2016 (extended to 2021). The Strategy promotes a whole of community approach to housing for disabled people when planning the provision of housing, including infrastructure, transport, education, and employment.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Derelict Sites Act (1990)</b>	An Act to make provision with respect to land to prevent it being or becoming a derelict site, to enable Local Authorities to require the taking of measures on derelict sites by the owners or occupiers and, in certain circumstances, to acquire derelict sites compulsorily, to establish registers of derelict sites, to enable the minister to give directions in relation to derelict sites, to provide for a derelict sites levy and to provide for other matters connected with the aforesaid and to repeal the Derelict Sites Act 1961.	Under the Act, local authorities can: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prosecute owners who do not comply with notices served</li> <li>Make compulsory land purchases</li> <li>Carry out necessary work themselves and charge the owners for the cost</li> </ul> All local authorities must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain derelict sites register</li> <li>Make the register available for public inspection - It can remove an entry from the Register when it is satisfied that improvement works have been carried out on the derelict site.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (as amended)</b>	An Act to make provision with respect to land in areas in which housing is required and in areas which are in need of renewal to prevent it lying idle or remaining vacant, to establish a register of vacant sites in those areas, to provide for vacant sites levy, to amend the Derelict Sites Act 1990, to amend Parts II, III and V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, to amend the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2009 and to provide for related matters.	This Revised Act is an administrative consolidation of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. It is prepared by the Law Reform Commission in accordance with its function under the Law Reform Commission Act 1975 (3/1975) to keep the law under review and to undertake revision and consolidation of statute law.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Housing for All - a New Housing Plan for Ireland</b>	The government's overall objective is that every citizen in the State should have access to good quality homes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>to purchase or rent at an affordable price</li> <li>built to a high standard and in the right place</li> <li>offering a high quality of life</li> </ul>	The policy has four pathways to achieving housing for all: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>supporting home ownership and increasing affordability</li> <li>eradicating homelessness, increasing social housing delivery and supporting social inclusion</li> <li>increasing new housing supply</li> <li>addressing vacancy and efficient use of existing stock</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Town Centre First Policy (2022)</b>	The Town Centre First Policy is a major cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into town centres. It advocates for a holistic, place-based approach to sustainable rural development. The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the business, service, social and. cultural.	The Policy contains 33 actions which will give towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, socialise and run a business. This will focus on charting the future direction of their towns, address issues of vacancy and dereliction and add vibrancy to the town centre.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>IDA's Adapt Intelligently: A Strategy for Sustainable Growth and Innovation 2025-29 and associated developments</b>	<p>IDA Ireland's strategy 2025-29 is an ambitious and positive approach to a fast-changing world. Drawing on the opportunities for growth arising from the structural forces that are reshaping the global economy, it sets an ambition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For Ireland to be a leading location for smart, sustainable manufacturing and intelligent, digitalised services</li> <li>To increase the number of companies undertaking cutting-edge research and innovation and the scope, scale and ambition of their Research, Development and Innovation activity</li> <li>To retain and enhance Ireland's position in key strategic value chains</li> <li>To grow the level of investment in sustainable business practices and processes and in developing new sustainability and energy-efficient technologies</li> <li>For Ireland to be a leading location for the world-class talent and skills needed to realise future growth opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p>In pursuit of the strategic objectives and targets, IDA Ireland will win 1,000 investments to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure €7bn in new Research, Development and Innovation investment</li> <li>Deliver 550 regional investments</li> <li>Reduce IDA Ireland client carbon emissions by 35%</li> <li>Create 75,000 jobs</li> <li>Upskill 40,000 people.</li> <li>This in turn will support IDA Ireland client spend in Ireland of €250bn over the lifetime of the strategy on wages, Irish goods and services, and capital investment, providing further opportunity and economic impact across local supply chains.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Regional/ City /Local Level</b>			
<b>Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031</b>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Wicklow County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Louth County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024</b>	<p>The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2016-2035, focused on improving public and sustainable transport. While the bulk of the Plan relates solely to the Greater Dublin Area, certain areas such as public transport services and activities related to small public service vehicles are dealt with on a national basis.</p>	<p>The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bus;</li> <li>Light Rail;</li> <li>Heavy Rai;</li> <li>Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment;</li> <li>Integrated Service Plan; and</li> <li>Integration and Accessibility.</li> </ul>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Local Transport Plans (LTPs)</b>	<p>Local Transport Plans (LTPs) are strategic documents that outline how a specific area will manage and improve its transportation system. They are developed by local authorities, often in collaboration with the National Transport Authority (NTA).</p>	<p>LTPs aim to address local transport needs, enhance accessibility, and promote sustainable travel modes like walking, cycling, and public transport.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan 2024-2030</b>	<p>The plan provides a pathway for the accelerated delivery of regional and local networks of public electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood areas, in line with both national and European ambitions for cleaner transportation. The plan ensures a cohesive and standardised approach. It will be led by local authorities, working together to develop regional and local strategies to promote a unified and efficient rollout of charging infrastructure and to facilitate the equitable transition to EVs.</p>	<p>The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan provides a way forward for equitably delivering charging infrastructure at a national and local level to support the national and international efforts to reduce transport-related carbon emissions through the shift to zero emission vehicles for all users. The plan lays out a pathway, adhering to the fundamental principles below set out in the Infrastructure Strategy, to sustainably deliver charging infrastructure at destination and neighbourhood locations.</p>	<p>Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<b>Local Neighbourhood and Destination Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategies</b>	The Regional and Local EV Charging Network Plan published for consultation by ZEVI (Zero Emission Vehicles Ireland) in 2024 sets out minimum charging capacity requirements for local authorities per geographical area.	By developing a comprehensive network of strategically located charging stations, the strategies are intended to support the growing number of EVs on Irish roads, ensuring that all areas are adequately served and help meet the climate action targets.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site</li> <li>To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest</li> <li>To describe the site and its management</li> <li>To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site</li> <li>To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives</li> </ul>	Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the County Longford Local Economic and Community Framework Plan 2023-2029</b>	The overarching vision for each LECP is: “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities.”	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Land Use Plans including those in force and emerging in County Longford and in the administrative areas of adjoining County Councils.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline planning objectives for land use development.</li> <li>Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies.</li> <li>Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>Protect and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>Guide planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>Aim to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Town Centre First Plans</b>	Town Centre First aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.	<p>Town Centre First (TFC) lays the foundation for each town to develop, at a local level, their own plan-led path forward. This will be expressed through a tailored TCF plan, which is underpinned by a clear diagnosis of local strengths and challenges.</p> <p>The TCF approach is centred on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration and communication – a collaborative process involving all relevant local stakeholders, represented by a collaborative Town Team, with good communication in respect of issues raised and the agreed direction.</li> <li>• Understanding the place – analysis and appraisal underpinned by a town audit/ data gathering -process.</li> <li>• Defining the place – shaping the plan around high-level objectives that are subsequently expressed through a series of actions.</li> <li>• Enabling the place– identifying a clear path to delivery of the Plan, cognisant that this will require actions of varying scale to be delivered by different partners.</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Local Authority Climate Action Charter 2019</b>	The Climate Action Charter is a key action in the Plan and will ensure every local authority embeds decarbonisation, sustainable development and climate resilience into every aspect of the work they do. This Plan will ensure to meet local authority's 2030 climate commitments, on a trajectory to be net-zero emissions by 2050.	The Charter commits Local Authorities to several actions that will ensure that they play a key leadership role locally and nationally in delivering effective climate action.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Longford Climate Action Plan 2024-2029</b>	This Climate Action Plan takes into full consideration international and national climate change policy and legislation as well as the most up-to-date knowledge on current levels of climate change and its impacts and projections for the future.	<p>The Climate Action Plan is set out as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sections 1-3 lay out the evidence-base used to inform on climate action within the jurisdiction of Longford County Council, including climate change risks and baseline emissions profiles.</li> <li>• Section 4 outlines the structure, function, and aspirations with respect to climate change of the County Council. It also details the climate actions currently underway.</li> <li>• Section 5 outlines the Council's framework for climate action, its Strategic Goals, Objectives, and Actions.</li> <li>• Section 6 focuses on Longford County Council's Decarbonisation Zone (DZ), Longford Town. It includes the Objectives and Climate Actions tailored specifically to the DZ.</li> <li>• Section 7 sets out the Council's approach to implementing actions and measuring progress</li> </ul>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Longford Noise Action Plan 2024-2028</b>	The Noise Action Plan is required under the Environmental Noise Directive ("END") (2002/49/EC) which was transported into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Noise) Regulations 2018 (S.I. 549/2018) and the European Communities (Environmental Noise) (Amendment) Regulations 2021 (S.I. 663/2021). The Regulations require Strategic Noise Maps and Noise Action Plans to be made or revised every five years.	The actions detailed in the Plan have been drawn up to assess noise exposure in priority areas, as indicated by strategic noise mapping located on the identified routes within the respective functional area of the Council.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030</b>	The Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 is designed to provide a structured approach to biodiversity conservation at the local authority level. It outlines the objectives, strategies, and actions needed to protect and enhance biodiversity within respective local authority areas.	<p>The aims of the Longford Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030 are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conserve, protect, and enhance biodiversity and habitats in Co. Longford.</li> <li>2. Enhance knowledge base on habitats and species present in Longford.</li> <li>3. Positively promote biodiversity in plans, and strategies for the County.</li> <li>4. Develop training and monitoring programmes to help track and protect biodiversity in the county.</li> <li>5. Promote biodiversity awareness and engagement in Co. Longford.</li> </ol>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

### Screening for SEA Report

<b>County Longford Heritage Plan 2025-2030</b>	A strategic plan for the protection and enhancement of the heritage of County Longford, prepared by the County Longford Heritage Forum.	<p>The Plan's Objectives are as follow:</p> <p>Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford.</p> <p>2. To develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford's heritage through research and innovation.</p> <p>3. Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county</p> <p>4. Promote heritage education and awareness.</p> <p>5. Support organisations and communities in promoting sustainable enjoyment of Longford's countryside, waterways and heritage.</p> <p>6. Implement the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans and strategies, including those relating to "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" including Destination Experience Development Plans and Regional Tourism Development Strategies</b>	Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</b>	These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.	These projects will contribute towards the development of the area to which the Plan relates and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.	Where new land use developments or activities occur as a result of this legislation, plan, programme, etc., individually or in combination with others, potential in-combination effects may arise. Implementation of the Plan to be varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.