

Chapter 15

LIKELY IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT OF IMPLEMENTING THE POLICIES OF THE PLAN



Introduction

15.0 Introduction

In July 2004 the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive 2001/42/EC was transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004). Associated Guidelines for Regional and Planning Authorities (Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment) were issued by the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in November 2004. The Guidelines stated that the Directive applied to plans for which formal preparatory action commenced on or after 21 July 2004.

As Monaghan County Council and the Town Councils of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Clones initiated formal preparatory work in respect of the preparation of development plans for their functional areas in October 2003, there is no requirement to carry out a formal SEA of the plans.

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (Part II, Section 10(5)(A)) does however require that a development plan shall contain 'information on the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan' and as such an environmental assessment of the strategic aims, principles and key policies in the Draft Plans has been undertaken.

15.1 Assessment of the Impact on the Environment

The following statement on the likely significant effects on

the environment of implementing the Monaghan County Development Plan 2007 - 2013 (incorporating the Development Plans for the towns of Monaghan, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney, Clones and Ballybay) is based on an assessment of the policies in the plan against the following criteria. The criteria are based on the requirements of the European Union Directive 2001/42/EC referred to above and are as follows;

- Human Beings / Social Needs
- Flora / Fauna
- Natural Environment (including soil, water, air, climate)
- Landscape and Visual Appraisal
- Material Assets / Resource Consumption
- Heritage (including architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage)

The environmental assessment of the policies contained in this document has been carried out on a chapter by chapter basis. The strategic objectives in each chapter have been outlined in the attached environmental assessment matrix, together with an assessment of the likely significant impact of the associated policies on the environment.

The impacts are assessed as to whether they will be positive, negative, neutral or uncertain. Policies are considered positive if they lead to the preservation or improvement of the environment; negative if they will lead to a degradation of the environment; neutral if they are unlikely to have a significant positive or negative impact; and uncertain if the impact on the nature and scale of the proposal.



15.2 Environmental Assessment Matrix

The likely significant impacts of the implementation of the policies contained within this document on the environment are assessed below.

Key ✓ Positive X Negative – Neutral ? Uncertain

Chapter No	Policy / Objective	Human Beings /Social Needs	Flora / Fauna	Natural Environment	Material Assets/Res'e Consumption	Heritage
1.0	Introduction					
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2.0	Vision Statement					
		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3.0	Settlement Strategy					
	County settlement strategy	✓	–	✓	✓	✓
	Settlement hierarchy	✓	–	✓	✓	✓
	Development in settlements	✓	–	✓	✓	✓
	Housing in rural areas	✓	–	?	?	✓
4.0	Environment & Heritage					
	Landscape	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Geology	–	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Areas of amenity	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Natural heritage	–	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Built heritage	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Water	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Noise	✓	–	–	–	–
	Air	✓	–	✓	–	–
5.0	Economic Activity					
	Agriculture	✓	–	–	–	?
	Forestry	✓	?	?	–	?
	Energy	✓	–	✓	✓	?
	Industry	✓	?	?	?	?
	Extractive industry	✓	?	?	?	?
	Retailing	✓	–	–	✓	–
	Tourism	✓	–	–	✓	✓

Key ✓ Positive X Negative – Neutral ? Uncertain

Chapter No	Policy / Objective	Human Beings /Social Needs	Flora / Fauna	Natural Environment	Material Assets/Res'e Consumption	Heritage
6.0	Infrastructure & Services					
	Roads	✓	–	?	✓	–
	Public transport	✓	–	✓	✓	?
	Water and waste water	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
	Flooding	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
	Waste	✓	✓	✓	✓	–
	Telecommunications	✓	–	?	✓	?
	Prevention of major accidents	✓	–	–	–	–
	Fire services	✓	–	–	–	–
7.0	Community Infrastructure					
	Arts & culture	✓	–	–	–	✓
	Childcare	✓	–	–	–	–
	Sports, recreation & amenity	✓	–	–	✓	✓
	Cycling & walking	✓	✓	–	✓	–
	Traveller accommodation	✓	–	–	✓	–
9.0	Monaghan Town Development Plan					
		✓	?	?	✓	✓
10.0	Carrickmacross Town Development Plan					
		✓	?	?	✓	✓
11.0	Castleblayney Town Development Plan					
		✓	?	?	✓	✓
12.0	Clones Town Development Plan					
		✓	?	?	✓	✓
13.0	Ballybay Town Development Plan					
		✓	?	?	✓	✓

