

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT  
SCREENING REPORT  
FOR  
PROPOSED VARIATION No. 3  
OF THE  
MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2019-2025**



**November 2021**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction and Legislative Requirements

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.

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

Under Article 7 (13K) of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011), Monaghan County Council is required to determine whether any Proposed Variation needs to be subject to SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on Proposed Variation No. 3. This report should be read in conjunction with the documents cited within, including the Proposed Variation and the AA Screening Reports.

## 1.2 Context and Reasons for Proposed Variation No. 3

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Monaghan County Council.

The proposed variation incorporates the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan, the purpose of which is to provide guidance on the regeneration options for the future development of the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan area. The proposed variation includes a new objective within the Monaghan Town Development Plan of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025,

Objective MPO 15 to, *'Ensure that all development proposals within the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan area have regard to the regeneration strategy and development objectives of the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan.'*

The Plan will provide a strategic framework to promote development in a coordinated and sustainable manner in this town centre area that has considerable development potential.

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

### 1.3 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities<sup>2</sup> were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether or not implementation of Proposed Variation No. 3 would be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the Council.

Submissions were received from the following:

- Environmental Protection Agency
- Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (Development Applications Unit)
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Geological Survey of Ireland)
- Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Inland Fisheries Ireland)
- Louth County Council
- Meath County Council

The issues raised in these submissions are presented and responded to in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1 Issues Raised in SEA Scoping Submissions and Responses**

Submission	Content of Submission and Planning Authority Response
<p><b>Environmental Protection Agency</b></p>	<p>For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a ‘self-service approach’ via our guidance document ‘SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources’. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority land use plans. In finalising your SEA screening determination, we suggest that you take this guidance document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Variation.</p> <p>Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist:  <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><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> Noted. The EPA’s online resources have been considered in the preparation of this report.</p> <p><b>Sustainable development:</b> In proposing and in implementing the Variation, Monaghan County Council should ensure that the Variation 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 Variation.</p> <p>In considering the Variation, Monaghan County Council 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>Monaghan County Council should also ensure that the Variation aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> The Proposed Variation is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development and is consistent with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes. Provisions have already been integrated into the existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 that address infrastructure and issues relating to climate adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p><b>State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2020:</b> In preparing the Variation and associated SEA screening, the recommendation, key issues and challenges described in our published State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) should be considered, as relevant and</p>

appropriate to the Variation. It should also be taken into account, in preparing the Variation.

**PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:** The cited state of the environmental report has been considered in the preparation of the Proposed Variation and SEA Screening.

**Available Guidance and Resources**, including:

- SEA process guidance and checklists
- Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA
- Topic specific SEA guidance (including Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA, 2020), Integrating climatic factors into SEA (EPA, 2019), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012))

**Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) WebTool:** This new tool was launched recently by the EPA. It is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. It is available at [www.enviromap.ie](http://www.enviromap.ie). The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners examine environmental considerations, anticipate potential land-use conflicts, and help identify suitable development locations while also protecting the environment.

**EPA SEA WebGIS Tool:** Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now publicly available at <https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA>. It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.

**EPA WFD Application:** Our WFD Application provides access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN <https://wfd.edenireland.ie/> and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the [www.catchments.ie](http://www.catchments.ie) website.

**PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:** The EPA's online resources have been considered in the preparation of this report, which will inform the Council's determination.

**Future amendments to the Variation:** Where changes to the Variation are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the Variation are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004).

**PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:** Any proposed changes to the Variation will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the SEA Regulations (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended.

**Appropriate Assessment:** You should ensure that the Variation complies with the requirement of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the Variation.

**PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:** Screening for Appropriate Assessment is being undertaken and key findings have been incorporated into the SEA (see Section 2.2).

**EPA AA GeoTool:** Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWA. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European site within the area.

<https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool>

**PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:** The EPA's online resources have been considered in the preparation of this report, which will inform the Council's determination.

	<p><b>Environmental Authorities:</b> Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making you SEA determination you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Protection Agency;</li> <li>- Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage</li> <li>- Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and</li> <li>- Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine.</li> <li>- Any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the areas of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan.</li> </ul> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> The cited environmental authorities have been consulted with in the preparation of this screening.</p> <p><b>SEA Determination:</b> 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, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.</p> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> A copy of the Council’s determination and associated SEA Screening Report will be circulated to environmental authorities and made available for public inspection in the Council’s offices and on the Council’s website.</p>
<p><b>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage</b></p>	<p>The Department highlights that Ireland is experiencing a biodiversity crisis. The EU Green Deal and Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 as well as the National Biodiversity Action plan 2017-2021 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2031 all acknowledge the need for radical change in our approach to rural and urban planning and development.</p> <p>No net loss of biodiversity arising from new projects, including urban based development, is a core goal of these plans.</p> <p>To that end, the Department recommends that the regeneration plans are revised to incorporate an objective to ensure no net loss of biodiversity arises from the proposed regeneration projects and the associated variations to the County Development Plan. The Department also highlights Monaghan County Development Plan – SO 5 and HCLSO In keeping with the National Heritage Plan and the National Biodiversity Plan the Monaghan CDP sets out strategies and actions for the conservation and management of our heritage. A key features of both plans is an enhanced role for local authorities in heritage management and awareness.</p> <p>The over-arching aim of the County development plan is to protect and enhance our natural and built heritage in an appropriate sustainable manner for the benefit of future generations. This is a challenging action to implement, but efforts must be made to address biodiversity wherever possible.</p> <p>Specifically, CDP HLP 5: To recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve their biological diversity and provide ecosystem services. These regeneration plans offer an opportunity to incorporate practical nature friendly solutions such as SuDS / Nature Based Water Management techniques into the plans (e.g. <a href="https://greenblue.com/gb/videos/webinar-practical-retrofit-of-suds-in-high-density-residential-areas/">https://greenblue.com/gb/videos/webinar-practical-retrofit-of-suds-in-high-density-residential-areas/</a>) as well as other biodiversity enhancing or risk mitigating measures.</p> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> The plans will be incorporated into the Development Plan as variations and all future proposals will be the subject of assessment / compliance with the Development Plan in its entirety, including those policies referenced by the above submission.</p>

<p><b>Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Geological Survey Ireland)</b></p>	<p><b>Groundwater:</b> Geological Survey Ireland’s Groundwater and Geothermal Unit, provides advice, data and maps relating to groundwater distribution, quality and use, which is especially relevant for safe and secure drinking water supplies and healthy ecosystems. Proposed developments need to consider any potential impact on specific groundwater abstractions and on groundwater resources in general. We recommend using the groundwater maps on our Map Viewer which should include: wells; drinking water source protection areas; the national map suite – aquifer, groundwater vulnerability, groundwater recharge and subsoil permeability maps. For areas underlain by limestone, please refer to karst specific data layers (karst features, tracer test database; turlough water levels (gwlevel.ie). Background information is also provided in the Groundwater Body Descriptions. Please read all disclaimers carefully when using Geological Survey Ireland data.</p> <p><b>The Groundwater Data Viewer indicated an aquifer classed as a ‘Regionally Important Aquifer – Fissured bedrock’, underlies the proposed regeneration scheme. The Groundwater Vulnerability map indicates the area covered is variable, with areas of moderate to high vulnerability.</b></p> <p><b>Our records show that there is a groundwater drinking water abstraction (Monaghan Public Water Supply (PWS)) with a zone of contribution/source protection area extending to cover the site of the proposed regeneration scheme. Key to groundwater protection in general, and protection of specific drinking water supplies, is preventing ingress of road runoff to the aquifer.</b> Design of the regeneration project including creation of new streets, junctions, civic spaces, cycle paths, pedestrian linkages, and high quality public realm will need to be cognisant of the public water scheme and the interaction between surface water and groundwater as well as run-off. Appropriate design should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons to include mitigation measures as necessary, such as SUDs or other drainage mitigation measures. Any excavation/cuttings required should ensure that groundwater flow within the zones of contribution to the groundwater abstraction points is not disrupted, resulting in diminished yields.</p> <p>Note that there could be other groundwater abstractions in the locality for which Geological Survey Ireland has not undertaken studies, and a robust assessment should be undertaken by qualified and competent persons including a survey of all current wells and water abstractions within the vicinity.</p> <p><b>Given the nearby drinking water source (Public Water Scheme), the effects of any potential contamination as a result of the regeneration project would need to be assessed.</b></p> <p>The Groundwater Protection Response overview and link to the main report is here: <a href="https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geotherma-unit/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx">https://www.gsi.ie/en-ie/programmes-and-projects/groundwater-and-geotherma-unit/projects/protecting-drinking-water/what-is-drinking-water-protection/county-groundwater-protection-schemes/Pages/default.aspx</a>.</p> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> Provisions have already been integrated into the existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 that address issues relating to the issues raised, and no amendments are proposed in this regard.</p>
<p><b>Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Inland Fisheries Ireland)</b></p>	<p>The Shambles River, which is a tributary of the Monaghan Blackwater River, flows under Old Cross Square in the Regeneration area. The Shambles River contains fisheries habitat and supports stock of coarse fish and pike. The WFD Ecological status of the water body at this location Shambles_010 is Poor and At Risk of not achieving Good Status. Any proposals for the area that might impact on the aquatic habitat, should at very least include the protection of this habitat.</p>



	<p>In determining the likely significant effects of the Proposed Variation No. 3 some key issues for consideration regarding the conservation of fish and other species of fauna and flora, aquatic habitats and the biodiversity of inland ecosystems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Water quality</li> <li>- Surface water hydrology</li> <li>- Fish spawning and nursery areas</li> <li>- Passage of migratory fish</li> <li>- Areas of natural heritage importance including geological heritage sites</li> <li>- Biological diversity</li> <li>- Ecosystem structure and functioning</li> <li>- Sport and commercial fishing and angling</li> <li>- Amenity and recreational areas</li> </ul> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> Provisions have already been integrated into the existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 that address issues relating to the issues raised, and no amendments are proposed in this regard.</p>
<b>Louth County Council</b>	<p>Observation: Acknowledges that the proposed variation will facilitate sustainable compact urban development, and as such is in accordance with National, Regional and County policies and guidance including the National Planning Framework Ireland 2040, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.</p> <p><b>PLANNING AUTHORITY RESPONSE:</b> Noted</p>
<b>Meath County Council</b>	No comments

## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether Proposed Variation No. 3 would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.4).

### 2.2 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk 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>3</sup>, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be significant, potentially significant or uncertain then AA must be undertaken.

The Proposed Variation is being subject to a screening process in order to establish whether or not AA must be undertaken. The Screening for AA identifies that implementation of the objectives proposed in respect of the Proposed Variation, individually or in combination with other plans and projects, will not have a likely significant effect on European Sites. Therefore, at this stage, AA is not required. Any proposed changes to the Proposed Variation will be subject to further Screening for AA.

As the land use zoning objectives contained in the existing Monaghan Development Plan 2019-2025 are not being affected by Proposed Variation No. 3, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is not required to be undertaken on the Proposed Variation.

### 2.3 SEA Screening Analysis

Table 2.3 examines whether each relevant part of the Proposed Variation 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 identifies measures in force under the existing Monaghan County Development Plan that any projects under the Plan as varied will be required to comply with. The examination takes account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.4).

The full range of environmental effects, including cumulative effects, are considered by this assessment. These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed in Appendix I). The Development Plan as varied will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local) that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA. The Development Plan and associated Proposed Variation are consistent with such plans, programmes and legislation and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions. In this regard, Appendix I includes statutory provisions, plans, policies and strategies that set the context within which the County Development Plan and associated Proposed Variation are framed.

<sup>3</sup> Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>SEO</b>
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>B1</b> To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species <sup>4</sup>
	<b>B2</b> To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
	<b>B3</b> To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites <sup>5</sup> and Area of Special Scientific Interest and to ensure the appropriate protection of listed species
	<b>B4</b> To sustain 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
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH1</b> To protect populations and human health from exposure to incompatible landuses
<b>Soil</b>	<b>S1</b> To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource
<b>Water</b>	<b>W1</b> To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters
	<b>W2</b> To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water
	<b>W3</b> To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) <sup>6</sup>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>M1</b> To serve new development with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment
	<b>M2</b> To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
	<b>M3</b> To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C1</b> To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH1</b> To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR) and/or their context
	<b>CH2</b> To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures, Architectural Conservation Areas, listed buildings and conservation areas (Northern Ireland) and their context
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L1</b> To minimise significant adverse visual impacts within and adjacent to the County, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans

<sup>4</sup> 'Annexed habitats and species refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.

<sup>5</sup> The Planning and Development Act 2010 defines a 'wildlife site' as: (a) an area proposed as a natural heritage area and the subject of a notice made under section 16(1) of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, (b) an area designated as or proposed to be designated as a natural heritage area by a natural heritage area order made under section 18 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000, (c) a nature reserve established or proposed to be established under an establishment order made under section 15 (amended by section 26 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) of the Wildlife Act 1976, (d) a nature reserve recognised or proposed to be recognised under a recognition 5 order made under section 16 (amended by section 27 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) of the Wildlife Act 1976, or (e) a refuge for fauna or flora designated 10 or proposed to be designated under a designation order made under section 17 (amended by section 28 of the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000) of the Wildlife Act 1976.

<sup>6</sup> Corresponding guidance from UK Department for Communities and Local Government: National Planning Policy Framework and associated planning practice guidance on Flood risk and coastal change (March 2014)

**Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols**

<b>Symbol</b>	<b>Main Interactions Identified</b>
+	Potential beneficial environmental effects are present already and would be further contributed towards.
-	Potentially adverse environmental effects are present already, would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated so as not to result in significant residual effects <sup>7</sup> .
+/-	Potential environmental effects either: are beneficial, present already and would be further contributed towards; or are potentially adverse, present already, would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated so as not to be significant <sup>8</sup> .
0	The proposed variation will form part of the Plan but does not introduce any new policies or sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing: MCDP and associated SEA and AA; and the wider planning and environmental assessment framework, including the National Planning Framework, the Northern & Western Regional Assembly Regional & Spatial Economic Strategy and associated SEAs and AAs.

<sup>7</sup> Including by the measures identified on Table 2.4

<sup>8</sup> Including by the measures identified on Table 2.4

Table 2.3 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Variation No. 3

Recommended Change to Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 (Proposed Variation No. 3)	SEO Codes (see Table 2.2) for Main Interactions																
No.	B1	B2	B3	B4	PHH1	S1	W1	W2	W3	M1	M2	M3	C1	CH1	CH2	L1	SEA Screening Comments
<p>The variation incorporates the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan, the purpose of which is to provide guidance on the regeneration options for the future development of the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan area. The proposed variation includes a new objective within the Monaghan Town Development Plan, Objective MPO 15 to, <i>'Ensure that all development proposals within the Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan area have regard to the regeneration strategy and development objectives of the Dublin Street</i></p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<p>The Plan will provide a strategic framework to promote development in a coordinated and sustainable manner in this town centre area that has considerable development potential.</p> <p>The Plan has been prepared in the context of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, which has been subject to SEA and AA as relevant and appropriate, with mitigation measures integrated into it (including those identified at Table 2.4).</p> <p>The proposed variation will form part of the Plan but does not introduce any sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing: MCDP and associated SEA and AA; and the wider planning and environmental assessment framework, including the NPF, NWRA RSES and associated SEAs and AAs.</p> <p>Any amendments to the Proposed Variation following public display, or any further Proposed Variations would need subject to SEA and AA as appropriate.</p>

<p><i>North Regeneration Plan.'</i> Reason: To provide a strategic framework to promote development in a coordinated and sustainable manner in this town centre area that has considerable development potential.</p>																			<p>Taking into account all of the above, it is determined SEA is not required for the Proposed Variation.</p> <p>Table 2.4 identifies environmental protection and management measures in force under the existing Monaghan County Development Plan that any projects under the Plan as varied will be required to comply with as relevant.</p>
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**Table 2.4 Existing Environmental Requirements/Mitigation Measures – both taken from the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 SEA ER 2019**

<b>Environmental Component</b>	<b>Mitigating Measures,</b>
All	<p><b>including Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</b>  <b>HLP14</b> To 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>
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<p>Refer also to measures under soil, water and material assets below.</p> <p><b>Appropriate Assessment</b>  <b>Section 15.29</b>  <b>Policy AAP1:</b> All projects and plans arising from this plan will be screened for the need to undertake Appropriate Assessment under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. A plan or project will only be authorised after the competent authority has ascertained, based on scientific evidence, Screening for Appropriate Assessment, and a Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment where necessary, that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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>2. 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 the Natura 2000 network; or</li> <li>3. 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 of 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 the Natura 2000 network.</li> </ol> <p><b>Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management</b>  <b>HLP14</b> To 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><b>National Parks and Wildlife Service and Integrated Management Plans</b></p> <p><b>Section 6.8</b></p> <p>Article 6(1) of the Habitats Directive requires that Member States establish the necessary conservation measures for European sites involving, if need be, appropriate management plans specifically designed for the sites or integrated into other development plans. The NPWS's current priority is to identify site specific conservation objectives; management plans may be considered after this is done. Where Integrated Management Plans are being prepared for European sites (or parts thereof), the NPWS shall be engaged with in order to ensure that plans are fully integrated with the Plan and other plans and programmes, with the intention that such plans are practical, achievable and sustainable and have regard to all relevant ecological, cultural, social and economic considerations, including those of local communities.</p> <p><b>Biodiversity Action Plan</b></p> <p><b>HLP2</b> To adopt and implement in partnership with all relevant stakeholders the objectives and actions detailed in the Biodiversity Action Plan and any relevant action plan.</p> <p><b>Designated Sites Legislation</b></p> <p><b>HLP3</b> To contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated sites in compliance with relevant EU Directives and applicable National Legislation.</p> <p><b>Protection of European Sites</b></p> <p><b>HLP4</b> No projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on Natura 2000 sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects<sup>9</sup>).</p> <p><b>Ecological Corridors</b></p> <p><b>GIP6</b> To contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, rivers, streams, other landscape features and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>Green Infrastructure</b></p> <p><b>GIP7</b> To 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: - Provision of open space amenities - Sustainable management of water - Protection and management of biodiversity - Protection of cultural heritage - Protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</p> <p><b>Protection of Riparian Zone and Waterbodies and Watercourses</b></p> <p><b>WPP16</b> To protect waterbodies and watercourses 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.</p> <p><b>Drainage or Reclamation of Wetlands</b></p> <p><b>WLP3</b> To 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</p>
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	<p>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 would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p><b>Light Sensitive Species</b>  <b>LP3</b> To require that lighting fixtures should provide only the amount of light necessary for personal safety and should be designed so as to avoid creating glare or emitting light above a horizontal plane. Lighting fixtures should also have minimum environmental impact and protect light sensitive species such as bats.</p> <p><b>Non-designated habitats and biological diversity</b>  <b>HLP5</b> To recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve the biological diversity.</p> <p><b>Non-native invasive species</b>  <b>ISP2</b> To support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service’s efforts to seek to control and manage the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water. Where the presence of non-native invasive species is identified at the site of any proposed development or where the proposed activity has an elevated risk of resulting in the presence of these species, details of how these species will be managed and controlled will be required.</p> <p><b>National Peatlands Strategy</b>  <b>HLP6</b> To support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Peatlands Strategy.</p> <p><b>Increases in Visitor Numbers to Semi-Natural Areas</b>  <b>TMP15</b> To seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that new any projects, such as greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.</p>
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<p>Refer also to measures under soil, water and material assets below.</p> <p><b>Human Health</b>  <b>DM2</b> To assess proposals for development in terms of, inter alia, potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape. Where proposed developments would be likely to have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, mitigation measures shall be followed order to eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p><b>Major Accidents Directive</b>  <b>WMP 10</b> To have regard to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive, relating to the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances, and the recommendations of the Health and Safety Authority in the assessment of all planning applications located within the consultation distance of such sites.</p> <p><b>Radon Policy</b>  <b>CEMP2:</b> To 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>

Soil	Refer also to measures under Water below.
	<p><b>Geological Interest</b></p> <p><b>GEP1</b> To promote awareness of and access to sites of geological interest in consultation with landowners (where appropriate).</p> <p><b>GEP2</b> Where a proposed development is likely to impact on the setting or integrity of a CGS listed in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 the Geological Survey of Ireland shall be consulted.</p> <p><b>GEP3</b> Protect from inappropriate development and maintain the integrity and conservation value of those features in areas of geological interest that are listed in the plan or any sites proposed by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and the Gaeltacht or Geological Survey of Ireland during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p><b>GEP4</b> To contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest.</p>
	<p><b>Contamination and Remediation</b></p> <p><b>Section 8.29</b></p> <p>Monaghan County Council will 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. 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>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 on innovative ecological restoration techniques. These include 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>Prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will be required to carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the proposed landuses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation</li> <li>• How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Waste Management Regulations and Closed Landfills</b></p> <p><b>WMP8</b> To 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>
Water	Refer also to measures under soil above and material assets below.
	<p><b>Water Framework Directive and associated legislation</b></p> <p><b>WPP17</b> To contribute towards the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, groundwater and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities</p>

	<p>Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same). To also support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques for new development.</p> <p><b>River Basin Management Plan</b>  <b>WPP16</b> To support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan, and associated Programmes of Measures, or any such plans that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Proposals for development should not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands. Also, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EU's Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 which provides guidance on exemptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><b>Catchment-sensitive farming practices</b>  <b>WPP18</b> To encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p><b>Surface Water Drainage and Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDs)</b>  <b>SDP2</b> To ensure that new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems as appropriate to minimise the effect of a development on flooding and pollution of existing waterways.</p> <p>As integrated through Strategic Flood Risk Assessment:</p>
	<p><b>WPP15</b> To protect waterbodies and watercourses 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.</p> <p><b>CCP4</b> To ensure new development is appropriately located, so as not to be exposed to risk of flooding</p> <p><b>FMP1</b> To fully implement and support in conjunction with the OPW the provisions of the EU Flood Risk Directive, The Flood Risk Regulations, The Planning System and Flood Risk Management- Guidelines for Planning Authorities and any updated legislation or guidelines issued during this plan period.</p> <p><b>FMP2</b> To restrict development in areas susceptible to flooding except where;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The proposed development can be justified on strategic grounds.</li> <li>• The flood risk can be managed to an acceptable degree and without increasing flood risk beyond the site itself.</li> <li>• Appropriate and detailed mitigation measures can be implemented to remove/minimise flood effects.</li> </ul> <p><b>FMP3</b> Development proposals on land identified as being at risk of flooding shall be accompanied by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2009. Such assessments shall be carried out by competent professionals with hydrological experience and identify the risk and extent of any proposed mitigation measures.</p>

	<p><b>FMP4</b> All applications in areas prone to flooding shall be subject to the justification test set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.</p> <p><b>FMP5</b> To protect the capacity of rivers, streams, riparian corridors, flood plains and wetlands from inappropriate development which will contribute to increased flood risk. Development on or within a floodplain will not be permitted.</p> <p><b>SDP1</b> To require best practice in the design, construction and operation of expanding and new developments to ensure minimum effects on the aquatic environment. Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems designed to ensure both water quality protection and flood minimisation should be included in developments for commercial, industrial, residential, intensive agricultural, public and institutional premises with significant roof or hard surface areas and multiple residential developments. For guidance refer to Monaghan County Councils Storm Water Technical Guidance Document 2017.</p> <p><b>SDP2</b> To ensure that new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure and promote the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems as appropriate to minimise the effect of a development on flooding and pollution of existing waterways.</p> <p><b>SDP3</b> To require that planning applications are accompanied by a comprehensive SUD’s assessment that addresses run-off quantity, run-off quality and its impact on the existing habitat and water quality.</p> <p><b>SDP4</b> To ensure that all storm water discharges shall be restricted onsite attenuation and or other measures to the pre-development levels (green field) in all new developments. All attenuated storage volumes must take in to consideration climate change. Guidance is available from The Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study Technical Document, Volume 5.</p> <p><b>SDP5</b> To require all run off from new developments in towns/villages to be restricted to the pre development levels(green field) by storm water attenuation on site and use of SUDs (sustainable urban drainage systems), as a measure to assist in flood avoidance. For guidance refer to Monaghan County Councils Storm Water Technical Guidance Document 2017.</p> <p><b>FLP1</b> To require that planning applications within areas of at risk of flooding follow the sequential approach and justification test set out in the DECLG The Flooding System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p> <p><b>FLP2</b> To require that site specific Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) is prepared in areas at risk of flooding even for developments appropriate to that particular flood zone. The detail of such an assessment will depend on the level of risk and scale of development and it must be demonstrated that any mitigation measures proposed will not exacerbate flood risk in the wider area.</p> <p><b>FLP3</b> To require that planning applications on lands identified within groundwater and pluvial PFRA areas are accompanied by a site specific FRA that corresponds with Chapter 5 of the 2009 Guidelines. Such assessments shall be prepared by suitably qualified experts with hydrological experience and shall quantify the risk and the effects of any necessary mitigation together with the measures needed or proposed to manage residual risks.</p>
Material Assets	<p>Refer also to measures under soil above and material assets below.</p> <p><b>Irish Water / Water Services Provisions</b></p> <p><b>WWP1</b> To collaborate with, support and co-operate with Irish Water, as relevant and appropriate, to deliver a sustainable water supply in line with the objectives set out in the Core Strategy.</p> <p><b>WWP2</b> To liaise with Irish Water to establish source management and protection zones around drinking water supply sources and advance appropriate management and maintenance measures for these sources (both ground and surface water).</p>

	<p><b>WWP3</b> To co-operate with and advise Irish Water in order to identify, prioritise and advance the delivery of water and waste water projects throughout the County during the Development Plan period and to only permit development in instances where there is sufficient capacity in the public water and wastewater infrastructure.</p> <p><b>WWP4</b> To implement in conjunction with Irish Water, EPA and statutory requirements in compliance with the provision of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations and the Wastewater Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p><b>WWP5</b> To implement in conjunction with Irish Water, EPA and statutory requirements in compliance with the provisions of the EU (Drinking Water) Regulations, the Drinking Water Regulations (SI No 122 of 2014).</p> <p><b>WWP6</b> To, in conjunction with Irish Water, undertake recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List.</p> <p><b>WWP7</b> To co-operate with the Federation of Group Water Schemes to improve the quality and capacity of water supply to areas served by group water schemes.</p>
	<p><b>Construction and Demolition</b></p> <p><b>WMP4</b> To require that all construction projects are carried out in accordance with Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects.</p>
	<p><b>Waste Hierarchy</b></p> <p><b>WMP7</b> To support the minimisation of waste creation and promote a practice of reduce, reuse and recycle where possible and to safeguard the environment by seeking to ensure that residual waste is disposed of appropriately.</p>
	<p><b>Waste Management Regulations</b></p> <p><b>WMP8</b> To 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>Contaminated Material</b></p> <p><b>WMP9</b> To require that treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit) and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste). 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 and be in accordance with Section 8.29.</p> <p><b>AGP2 Specific Intensive Agriculture /Poultry &amp; Pig Farming</b></p> <p>The following additional information to Policy AG01 will be required for assessing applications for intensive poultry units or similar specialised agri-developments the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and/or Appropriate Assessment depending on the size of the unit.</li> <li>• Details of the scale and intensity of existing operations in the vicinity of the site, including the cumulative impact of similar type developments within close proximity of the site.</li> <li>• Methods for waste management including frequency and location of disposal relative to the proposed unit.</li> <li>• Details of air pollution arising from the units and effluent storage, transportation and spreading.</li> <li>• Proximity of development to aquifers and water courses.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential impact of the proposal on the residential amenity of adjoining occupiers must be considered. A unit shall not be developed at a distance of less than 100 metres from a dwelling within the rural area (i.e. outside of a designated settlement) unless the third party has given written consent, witnessed by a solicitor or a peace commissioner.</li> <li>• Details of associated activities such as cleaning, ventilation and heating should be provided.</li> <li>• A comprehensive landscaping plan,</li> <li>• A statement outlining why a particular location on the landholding was deemed more appropriate to alternative options. If the Planning Authority consider a more appropriate location is available on the landholding the application may not receive favourable consideration,</li> <li>• Traffic management plans and traffic assessment associated with the proposed development may be required for large proposals.</li> </ul>
Air and Climatic Factors	<p><b>Air Quality</b>  <b>AQP1</b> Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air.</p>
	<p><b>Air Quality, Greenhouse Gases, Noise and Energy</b>  <b>AQP2</b> To contribute toward compliance with air quality legislation; greenhouse gas emission targets; management of noise levels; and reductions in energy usage.</p>
	<p><b>Climate Adaptation and Mitigation</b>  <b>CCP10</b> Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the National Mitigation Plan, National Adaptation Framework and relevant Sectoral Adaptation Plan(s).</p>
	<p><b>Green Infrastructure</b>  <b>GIP7</b> To 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</li> <li>- Protection of protected landscape sensitivities.</li> </ul>
Cultural Heritage	<p><b>Archaeological Heritage</b>  <b>BHP2</b> To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).</p>
	<p><b>Protection of Archaeological Sites, including Underwater Archaeological Sites</b></p>

	<p><b>PMP6</b> To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, archaeological objects and underwater archaeological sites that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.</p>
	<p><b>Consultation</b>  <b>PMP7</b> To consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites.</p>
	<p><b>Architectural Heritage</b>  <b>BHP3</b> To contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage by complying, as appropriate, with the legislative provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any updated/superseding document).</p>
Landscape	<p><b>Landscape Designations</b>  <b>HLP6</b> To contribute towards the protection of County and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments. Proposals for development that have the potential to significantly adversely impact upon these designations shall be accompanied by an assessment of the potential landscape and visual impacts of the proposed development. This shall demonstrate that landscape impacts have been anticipated and avoided to a level consistent with the sensitivity of the landscape and the nature of the designation.</p>
	<p><b>National Landscape Strategy</b>  <b>HLP7</b> Support, as appropriate, any relevant recommendations contained in the National Landscape Strategy for Ireland.</p>

<sup>9</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be:

- a) no alternative solution available,
- b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and
- c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

## 2.4 Schedule 2A

### PART 1

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

The Dublin Street North Regeneration Plan is proposed to be adopted, as a variation, to the county development plan. The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 sets out the overall statutory spatial framework for development locations and land use in County Monaghan and sets out the most appropriate locations for new developments, projects and activities. The County Development Plan is set in a context of national and regional strategies and guidelines, which sets out the strategic framework for sustainable development for the county and its towns that is consistent with the long-term strategic aims set out in the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern and Western Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (NWRSES).

The proposed variation will form part of the County Development Plan but does not introduce any sources for effects that were not already considered by the existing MCDP and associated SEA and AA; and the wider planning and environmental assessment framework, including the NPF, NWRSES and associated SEAs and AAs.

Any amendments to the Proposed Variation following public display, or any further Proposed Variations would need subject to SEA and AA as appropriate.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the degree to which Proposed Variation No. 3 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 set a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Proposed Variation is to the existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025. The County Development Plan is influenced by higher-level legislation, plans and programmes and influences lower-tier plans, which includes the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Northern & Western Regional Assembly Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy (NWRSES). Any future development under the County Development Plan would have to comply with the various provisions of the existing Plan that relate to sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment (refer to Table 2.4).

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Variation No. 3 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 influence other plans, the Proposed Variation 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 existing Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, to which the Proposed Variation relates, has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the existing Plan and found that the Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.



Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the relevance of Proposed Variation No. 3 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Variation 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 or programme**

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 Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, it contributes towards amelioration.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to Proposed Variation No. 3 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, the Proposed Variation 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 or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection)**

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 to which Proposed Variation No. 3 relates includes various provisions that would contribute towards the implementation of European legislation on the environment. Some of these provisions are provided within Table 2.4.

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from relevance of Proposed Variation No. 3 and the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Variation 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the Proposed Variation 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.3).

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

The Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.3).

**c) intensive land-use.**

The Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan 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 Proposed Variation would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various parts of the Plan provided under Section 2.3).

## **Section 3      Conclusion**

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan, or variation to a plan, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of the report is to provide the findings of the evaluation of the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025.

This SEA Screening Report has examined the Proposed Variation, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI No. 201 of 2011).

The Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 provides for sustainable development and proper planning within the administrative area of Monaghan County Council. The Proposed Variation will further contribute towards sustainable development and proper planning by providing for a strategic framework to promote development in a coordinated and sustainable manner in this town centre location.

Taking into account the findings of this screening exercise, SEA is not required to be undertaken on the Proposed Variation.

This SEA Screening Report for Proposed Variation No. 3 to the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025 is referred to Monaghan County Council for SEA Screening Determination.

# 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, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>European Level</b>			
<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made.</li> </ul>	
<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.</li> </ul>	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year;</li> <li>set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk; and</li> <li>set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to</li> </ul>	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>an integrated approach;</li> <li>best available techniques;</li> <li>flexibility; and</li> <li>public participation.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions.		framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management or National Action Plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU.</li> <li>It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets.</li> <li>All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets.</li> <li>The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables.</li> <li>EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans.</li> <li>Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When biofuels are produced on existing agricultural land, the demand for food and feed crops remains, and may lead to someone producing more food and feed somewhere else. This can imply land use change (by changing e.g. forest into agricultural land), which implies that a substantial amount of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are released into the atmosphere.</li> <li>The Directive seeks to make biofuels used in the EU more sustainable and will help us to reduce further Greenhouse Gas emissions and encourage greater market penetration of advanced biofuels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of Indirect Land Use Change Directive 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 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014.</li> <li>Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-Indirect Land Use Change Directive) 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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements.	the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)</b>	<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Union Biodiversity Strategy to 2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to halt or reverse biodiversity loss and speed up the EU's transition towards a resource efficient and green economy.</li> <li>Halting the loss of biodiversity and the degradation of ecosystem services in the EU by 2020, and restoring them in so far as feasible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outlines six targets and twenty actions to aid European Union in halting the loss to biodiversity and eco-system services.</li> <li>The six targets cover: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity.</li> <li>Maintaining, enhancing and protecting for ecosystems, and green infrastructure.</li> <li>Ensuring sustainable agriculture, and forestry.</li> <li>Sustainable management of fish stocks.</li> <li>Reducing invasive alien species.</li> <li>Addressing the global need to contribute towards averting global biodiversity loss.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
<b>EU Green Infrastructure Strategy</b>	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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>	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>	<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> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020.</li> <li>Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels.</li> <li>Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%.</li> <li>Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency.</li> </ul>	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps.</li> <li>Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU.</li> <li>Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020.</li> <li>Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries.</li> <li>Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable</li> </ul>	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS).</li> <li>New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners,</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory



Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
	energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario.	<p>diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU.</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC)</b></p> <p><b>(EU Air Framework Directive)</b></p> <p><b>Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive).</li> <li>• Sets new air quality objectives for PM2.5 (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives.</li> <li>• Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values.</li> <li>• Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM10) or up to five years (NO2, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission.</li> <li>• The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole.</li> <li>• Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria.</li> <li>• Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures.</li> <li>• Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public.</li> <li>• Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases.</li> <li>• Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <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> <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<p><b>Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)</b></p>	<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</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans,

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<p>covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<p>programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption.</li> <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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I.</li> <li>Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a).</li> <li>Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

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		<p>available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause.</li> <li>• Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action.</li> <li>• Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health.</li> <li>• Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial.</li> </ul>	<p>framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors.</li> <li>• The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment.</li> <li>• Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges.</li> <li>• Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the 'polluter-pays' principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.</li> </ul>	<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> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 that are not of significant relevance to the SEA for the Guidelines. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs.</li> </ul>	
<b>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<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> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned.</li> </ul>	
<b>European Landscape Convention 2000</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</li> </ul>	<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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; and</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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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)</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; and</li> <li>to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species.</li> </ul>	<p>The Parties</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognise the intrinsic value of nature</li> <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 Caucus.</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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>Bali Road Map (2007)</b>	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and</li> <li>• To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities.</li> </ul>	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building blocks: mitigation; adaptation; technology; and financing.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Cancun Agreements (2010)</b>	<p>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:</p> <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>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Doha Climate Gateway (2012)</b>	<p>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.</p>	<p>The following actions were committed to by governments at this conference:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020);</li> <li>• Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets;</li> <li>• Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt;</li> <li>• Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and</li> <li>• Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>EU Common Agricultural Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and</li> <li>• To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future;</li> <li>• Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources;</li> <li>• Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

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			framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances.</li> </ul>	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration,</li> <li>Evaluation,</li> <li>Authorisation; and</li> <li>Restriction of chemicals.</li> </ul> <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Stockholm Convention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from Persistent Organic Pollutant (POPs).</li> </ul>	<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>To target additional POPs</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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Ramsar Convention</b>	<p>The Convention’s mission is “the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world”.</p>	<p>Under the “three pillars” of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <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; and</li> <li>Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>OSPAR Convention</b>	<p>The OSPAR Convention is the most important outcome of a meeting of the Oslo and Paris Commissions meeting in Paris in 1992. The mission of OSPAR is to conserve marine ecosystems</p>	<p>OSPAR's work is organised under six strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity and Ecosystem Strategy</li> <li>Eutrophication Strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively</p>

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	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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.	contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European 2020 Strategy for Growth</b>	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe’s social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation;</li> <li>• Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy;</li> <li>• Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion.</li> </ul>	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed;</li> <li>2. 3% of the EU’s GDP should be invested in R&amp;D;</li> <li>3. the “20/20/20” climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right);</li> <li>4. the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree;</li> <li>5. 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty.</li> </ol>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA)</b>	CORSA is an emission mitigation approach for the global airline industry, and it aims to stabilize net CO <sub>2</sub> emissions from international civil aviation at 2020 levels.	CORSA comprises of three implementation phases: the pilot phase (2021-2023), a first phase (2024-2026) and a second phase (2027-2035): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 2021 until 2026, only flights between states that volunteer to participate in the pilot and/or first phase will be subject to offsetting requirements.</li> <li>• From 2027, all international flights will be subject to offsetting requirements.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Level</b>			
<b>Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, (replacing the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020) and the National Development Plan (2018-2027)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The National Planning Framework is the Government’s high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between.</li> <li>• The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment</li> </ul>	The National Planning Framework published alongside the National Development Plan yields ten National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <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. Sustainable Mobility</li> <li>5. A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills</li> <li>6. High-Quality International Connectivity</li> <li>7. Enhanced Amenity and Heritage</li> </ol>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.



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	<p>decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.</p>	<p>8. Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society  9. Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources  10. Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services</p> <p>The NDP and NPF includes a variety of roads provisions, including those relating to the N2 Clontibret to the Border and N2 Ardee to south of Castleblaney.</p>	
<p><b>Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (in preparation)</b></p>	<p>The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term;</li> <li>2. Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and,</li> <li>3. Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040.</li> </ol>	<p>In preparation</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.</li> </ul>	<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</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage.	
<b>European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Combined, the Regulations transpose the requirements of the SEA Directive.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011, as amended)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Waste Management Act 1996, as amended</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations 2009 (S.I 296 of 2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels.</li> </ul>	<p>Actions:</p> <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</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of

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		<p>Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<p>the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>These Regulations, which give effect to Irelands 3<sup>rd</sup> Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources</li> </ul>	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited;</li> <li>Limits on the land application of fertilisers;</li> <li>Storage requirements for livestock manure; and</li> <li>Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>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:</p> <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> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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 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>	
<b>The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</li> <li>The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs;</li> <li>Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals;</li> <li>Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and</li> <li>Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>€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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost efficient manner for consumers.</li> </ul>	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increasing on and offshore wind,</li> <li>Building a sustainable bioenergy sector,</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fostering R&amp;D in renewables such as wave &amp; tidal,</li> <li>Growing sustainable transport; and</li> <li>Building out robust and efficient networks.</li> </ul>	the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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; and</li> <li>An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development (2014)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Policy Position provides a high-level policy direction for the adoption and implementation by Government of plans to enable the State to move to a low carbon economy by 2050.</li> <li>Statutory authority for the plans is set out in the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</li> </ul>	<p>National climate policy in Ireland:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognises the threat of climate change for humanity;</li> <li>Anticipates and supports mobilisation of a comprehensive international response to climate change, and global transition to a low-carbon future;</li> <li>Recognises the challenges and opportunities of the broad transition agenda for society; and</li> <li>Aims, as a fundamental national objective, to achieve transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by 2050.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Clean Air Strategy (in preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Clean Air Strategy will provide 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having a National Strategy will provide 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 will consider 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 will be a strong theme of the Strategy.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Eirgrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eirgrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; <i>"Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to uprate the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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			framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The objective of the 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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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;</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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Water Resources Plan (in preparation)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Water Resources Plan 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.</li> <li>The objective of the Plan 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.</li> </ul>	<p>The key objectives of the plan 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>Identify, develop and assess options to help meet potential shortfalls in water supplies</li> <li>Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)</b>	<p>Vision: <i>“Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU.”</i></p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014-2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development;</li> <li>Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability; and</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of aquaculture products.</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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></li> </ul>	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <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; and</li> <li>Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible.	
<b>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (EPA) 2014-2020</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published.</li> </ul> <p>Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally;</li> <li>To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste;</li> <li>To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export;</li> <li>To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management.</li> </ul>	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prevention</li> <li>Collection</li> <li>Self-sufficiency</li> <li>Regulation</li> <li>Legacy issues</li> <li>North-south cooperation</li> <li>Guidance and awareness</li> <li>Implementation</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025 (Health Service Executive)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The vision is: <i>“A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone’s responsibility.”</i></li> </ul>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life.</li> <li>Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities.</li> <li>Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing.</li> <li>Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>



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<p><b>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</b></p>	<p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.</li> <li>• 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> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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> </li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport– Department of Transport, Tourism And Sport</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This Framework 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.</li> </ul>	<p>The three priorities stated in Framework are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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);</li> <li>• Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and</li> <li>• Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network.</li> </ul> <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in Framework, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation contracts;</li> <li>• Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the Greater Dublin Area.</li> </ul>	
<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>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and forthcoming regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans (including transport)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Developing Resilience to Climate Change in the Irish Transport Sector (Climate Adaptation Plan for the Transport Sector 2017)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport has prepared a Transport Sectoral Adaptation Plan under the non-statutory National Climate Change Adaptation Framework, 2012.</li> <li>This first Adaptation Plan examines the impacts of climate change and weather related events, both those impacts that have been observed and those projected for the future, on key transport services and infrastructure within the Irish Transport Sector.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This Strategy supports action by promoting greater co-ordination and information sharing between Member States with the aim of ensuring that adaptation considerations are addressed in all relevant EU policies.</li> <li>It sets out a framework and mechanisms for developing preparedness in respect of current and future climate impacts across the EU.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Governments White Paper 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future' (2015 – 2030)</b>	<p>The White Paper sets out a vision and a framework to guide Irish energy policy between now and 2030. A complete energy policy update informed by the vision to transform Ireland into a low carbon society and economy by 2050.</p>	<p>2030 will represent a significant milestone, meaning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduced GHG emissions from the energy sector by between 80% and 95%</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with</p>

Legislation, Plan, Scheme etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensuring that secure supplies of competitive and affordable energy remain available to citizens and businesses.</li> </ul>	<p>other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the Member State’s national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.</li> </ul>	<p>Including Ireland’s 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Wildlife Act of 1976</b></p> <p><b>Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland’s National Biodiversity Plan</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland’s biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity.</li> <li>To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services.</li> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment.</li> <li>To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species.</li> <li>To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services.</li> </ul>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Broadband Plan (2012)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process.</li> <li>Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications.</li> <li>Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels.</li> <li>Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding.</li> <li>Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off.</li> <li>Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains.</li> <li>Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth.</li> <li>Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders.</li> <li>Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management.</li> </ul> <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 722 of 2003)</b>  <b>European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (SI 350 of 2014)</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 Central Energy Regulator the authority to regulate and supervise their actions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides for river basin management planning.</li> <li>Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published.</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> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (SI 272 of 2009)</b>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	
<b>European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (SI 9 of 2010)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality.</li> <li>• Sets groundwater quality standards.</li> <li>• Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.</li> </ul>	<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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Water Services Act 2007</b>  <b>Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012</b>  <b>Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013</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> <li>• Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and wastewater services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland.</li> </ul>	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring Irish Water 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 wastewater treatment, for compliance with</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		<p>the requirements of the EU Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting water conservation through Irish Water’s Capital Investment Plan, the Rural Water Programme and other measures.</li> <li>• Monitoring the on-going implementation of septic tanks inspection regime and the National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems.</li> <li>• Ensuring a fair funding model to deliver water services.</li> <li>• Overseeing the establishment of an economic regulation function under the Central Energy Regulator.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Irish Water’s Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2014-2016)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meet Customer Expectations.</li> <li>• Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply.</li> <li>• Provide Effective Management of Wastewater.</li> <li>• Protect and Enhance the Environment.</li> <li>• Support Social and Economic Growth.</li> <li>• Invest in the Future.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Food Harvest 2020</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food Harvest 2020 is a roadmap for the Irish food industry, as it seeks to innovate and expand in response to increased global demand for quality foods. It sets out a vision for the potential growth in agricultural output after the removal of milk quotas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeks for the improvement of all agricultural sectors at all levels in terms of sustainability, environmental consideration and marketing development.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan</b></p>	<p>Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment.</p>		<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively</p>

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<p><b>Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS)</b></p> <p><b>Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>	<p>contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Rural Development Programme</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> </ul>	<p>At a more detailed level, the programme also:</p> <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>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represents Ireland’s proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014-2020.</li> </ul>	<p>Measures include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Afforestation and Creation of Woodland</li> <li>NeighbourWood Scheme</li> <li>Forest Roads</li> <li>Reconstitution Scheme</li> <li>Woodland Improvement Scheme</li> <li>Native Woodland Conservation Scheme</li> <li>Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions</li> <li>Producer Groups</li> <li>Innovative Forest Technology</li> <li>Forest Genetic Reproductive Material</li> <li>Forest Management Plans</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p><b>River Basin Management Plan</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>River Basin Management Plans set out the measures planned to maintain and improve the status of waters.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Aim to protect and enhance all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive.</li> <li>Identify and manages water bodies.</li> <li>Establish a programme of measures for monitoring and improving water quality.</li> <li>Involve the public through consultations.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<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.	<p>Objectives of the Strategy:</p> <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> <li>• To provide a framework for determining and ensuring the most appropriate future use of cutover and cutaway bogs.</li> </ul> <p>To ensure that specific actions necessary for the achievement of its objectives are clearly identified and delivered by those involved in or responsible for peatlands management or for decisions affecting their management.</p>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	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.	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 – 2020</b>	<p>The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 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.</li> </ul>	<p>Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified:</p> <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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory



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			framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment) 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.	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport) 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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Food Wise 2025 (Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Marine)</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>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland.</li> <li>• Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020.</li> <li>• Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<b>National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<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; and</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>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Regional/ County/Local Level</b>			
<b>Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy 2020</b>	<p>The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Northern and Western Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.</p>	<p>The Northern and Western Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its nine constituent local authorities: Galway County Council, Galway City Council, Roscommon County Council, Leitrim County Council, Sligo County Council, Donegal County Council, Monaghan County Council, Mayo County Council and Galway County Council.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, 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 Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport</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>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Water Quality Management Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the quality of waters covered by the plan is maintained.</li> <li>Maintain and improve the quantity and quality of water included in the Plan scope.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of water bodies against quality standards.</li> <li>Outlines management programmes for water catchments.</li> <li>Purpose is to maintain and improve the quantity and quality of groundwater.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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<b>NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs</b>	<p>Aims:</p> <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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Groundwater Protection Schemes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Freshwater Pearl Mussel Basin Management Plans</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies the current status of the species and the reason for loss or decline</li> <li>Identifies measure required to improve or restore current status</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifies pressures on Freshwater Pearl Mussels for each of the designated populations in Ireland</li> <li>Outlines restoration measures required to ensure favourable conservation status</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NI Regional Landscape Character Assessment</b>	In recognising the importance of sustaining local identity, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has commissioned Landscape Character Assessments of Northern Ireland from environmental consultants, which resulted in the identification of distinct character areas within Northern Ireland	The Northern Ireland Regional Landscape Character Assessment provides a strategic overview of the landscape in Northern Ireland and subdivides the countryside into 26 Regional Landscape Character Areas based upon information on people and place and the combinations of nature, culture and perception which make each part of Northern Ireland unique.	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>NI Regional Seascape Character Assessment</b>	The aim of this study is to provide a strategic understanding of different areas of regional seascape character along the entire Northern Ireland coast, complementing similar assessments undertaken elsewhere in the UK. This will contribute to the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and map the different regional seascape character areas</li> <li>Describe the key features and characteristics of each seascape character area</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with

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	aims of the European Landscape Convention through promoting the protection, management and planning of the seascape, and to support the European cooperation in landscape issues.	Relate the description of each seascape character area to its neighbouring terrestrial landscape character areas (as described in the NI Landscape Character Assessment, 2000) and take account of boundaries identified in relation to neighbouring seascape areas for the British and Irish coastline.	other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The UK Marine Policy Statement (UK MPS)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote sustainable economic development</li> <li>• Enable the UK’s move towards a low-carbon economy, in order to mitigate the causes of climate change and ocean acidification and adapt to their effects</li> <li>• Ensure a sustainable marine environment which promotes healthy, functioning marine ecosystems and protects marine habitats, species and our heritage assets</li> </ul> <p>Contribution to the societal benefits of the marine area, including the sustainable use of marine resources to address local social and economic issues.</p>	The Marine Policy Statement (MPS) is the framework for preparing Marine Plans and taking decisions affecting the Marine environment. It will contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in the United Kingdom marine area.	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland</b>	The Marine Plan for Northern Ireland will inform and guide the regulation, management, use and protection of our marine area.	DAERA is currently developing marine plans for both the inshore and offshore regions, which will be published as a single document. A Sustainability Appraisal is also being undertaken to assist in the development of the Marine Plan.	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Monaghan County Development Plan 2019-2025, Cavan County Development Plan 2014-2020, Louth County Development Plan 2015-2021, Meath County Development Plan 2013-2019 / Draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outlines planning objectives for land use development and activities.</li> <li>• Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development integrating higher level provisions, including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy, at local level.</li> <li>• Sets out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority/local area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifies and provides for future infrastructure, development and zoning required.</li> <li>• Protects and enhances amenities and environment.</li> <li>• Guides planning authority in assessing proposals.</li> <li>• Aims to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development.</li> <li>• Aims to promote sustainable development.</li> <li>• Provides for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Monaghan County Council Corporate Plan 2020-2024</b>	The corporate Plan is the map for the council term 2015-2019. It sets out the direction and the actions required of all relevant stakeholders who will be involved directly or indirectly in growing and bringing the County to a better place in a defined period.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The organisation, managed through strong leadership, good governance and democratic accountability will fulfil its mission in an open, honest and transparent manner.</li> <li>• Promote and protect a clean safe environment in a manner which is viable and sustainable.</li> </ul>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide support to the Business Community to stimulate growth, encourage start-up's, maximise job creation and improve competitiveness.</li> <li>• Ensure that everyone in our Community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County.</li> <li>• Ensure that everyone in our Community has an opportunity to become actively engaged in shaping the future development of the County.</li> <li>• Ensure there is an appropriately resourced, skilled and motivated workforce to meet the priorities and objectives of the organisation.</li> <li>• Provide appropriate resources combined with agile information systems aligned to the organisation's strategy and requirements.</li> </ul> <p>Develop and implement sound financial, management and control systems to enable organisational and operational efficiency.</p>	framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>County Monaghan Tourism Strategy 2015-2020</b>	Monaghan County Council has developed this tourism strategy, in consultation with the tourism trade, key stakeholders and with the public with a view to identifying tourism opportunities and proposals which may have the potential to be implemented over the 2015 -2020 period, subject to the usual statutory consents and viability assessments.	The key objective throughout the whole process was to reach a consensus on how best County Monaghan might position itself in the coming years so as to maximize the economic benefits to be derived from tourism. In addition to delivering Key Local Authority projects, the tourism Unit will continue to act in a facilitation role, through advising and signposting projects promoters to appropriate sources of professional advice and guidance to potential sources of funding.	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
<b>Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) 2015-2021</b>	To deliver the actions set put in both the economic and community elements of this plan, Monaghan County Council and Monaghan LCDP will work closely with local business, community organisations, education facilities, public and private sector agencies and the voluntary sector.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and promote a positive image of County Monaghan as a place to live, invest and visit in order to maximise and sustain economic activity, entrepreneurial spirit and employment in the county. To support the development of a highly skilled and educated workforce by supporting individuals and communities to participate in a wide range of educational and lifelong learning opportunities that is complimentary to economic development in the county.</li> <li>• To support the development of social and economic infrastructure to enhance and sustain economic and community development in the county.</li> <li>• To continue to support and strengthen community &amp; voluntary activity and civic participation in the county.</li> </ul> <p>To promote the health and well-being of all people in Monaghan by ensuring equal opportunity to access, participate and engage in the</p>	Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		social, economic, cultural, sporting and educational opportunities available in the County. 6. To protect, enhance and maximise the potential of the natural, cultural and heritage resources of County Monaghan	
<b>Northern Ireland Local Development Plans including: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, Mid Ulster District Council, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council</b>	<p>The Council has responsibility for preparing its own Local Development Plans (LDPs). The LDP will guide the future use of land in the Council area and inform developers, members of the general public, communities, government, public bodies, representative organisations and other interests of the policy framework that is used to determine development proposals.</p> <p>The LDPs will take account of the Council's Community Plan providing a spatial expression to the community plan and thereby linking public and private sector investment through the land use planning system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• facilitate growth by coordinating public and private investment to encourage development where it can be of most benefit to our community</li> <li>• allocate sufficient land to meet the needs of the borough</li> <li>• provide an opportunity for all stakeholders, including the public, to have a say about where and how development within the local area should take place</li> <li>• deliver the spatial aspects of the councils' community plan</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Public Realm and Economic Plans including Ballybay Public Realm and Economic Plan 2019, Castleblayney Public Realm and Economic Plan 2019 and Carrickmacross Public Realm and Economic Plan 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Public Realm Plans set out the details of phased co-ordinated projects that will enhance and improve the way historic town centres function on a day-to-day basis.</li> <li>• Their goal is to provide long-term socio-economic, cultural and environmental benefits for residents, communities, businesses, and visitors.</li> </ul>	<p>Public Realm Planning involve:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• generating audits and appraisals to take stock of the heritage of historic towns;</li> <li>• determining which features in town centres are valued by communities;</li> <li>• establishing a shared vision for the future and</li> <li>• formulating five-year strategic plans to realise that vision.</li> </ul>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<b>Regional Waste Management Plans including Connacht-Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021</b>	<p>These plans (for the Connacht-Ulster, Southern, and Eastern-Midlands regions) give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.</p>	<p>To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Plan as varied needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>