

MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-2031

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

Prepared for:
Monaghan County Council



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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this SEA Statement to Monaghan County Council for the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Monaghan County Council (MCC) have adopted the Monaghan County Development Plan (Plan or CDP) 2025 - 2031. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Plan. This SEA Statement provides information on the following:

1. How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan.
2. How the SEA Environmental Report and consultation submissions and observations on it have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan.
3. The reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
4. The measures decided concerning monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

The EPA in their Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring (2023) succinctly summarize the role SEA Statement have under the SEA process, as follows: *'SEA Statements have the potential to play a central role in summarising the effectiveness of the SEA process. They can capture how environmental considerations have shaped the plan/programme (e.g., through policy wordings, revisited zonings and other measures) and how the process has contributed to making the plan or programme more sustainable'*.

1.2 Legislative Context

SEA is required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive)¹. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*².

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'*.

¹ Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

² Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment - Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004).



Article 13I of S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011), requires that a competent authority provide information on the decision to approve a Development Plan that has been subject to SEA. Article 13I (1) requires that a statement is produced summarising, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme subject to SEA, reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and the monitoring measures to be implemented.



2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO THE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025 - 2031

2.1 SEA Scoping

The first stage of the SEA process was to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of the Plan. SEA Screening of an emerging Draft CDP was carried out and it was determined that the CDP should be subject to mandatory SEA under the S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011), given the CDP covers an area with a population that exceeds 10,000 persons.

The second stage of the SEA process was carrying out SEA Scoping. The purpose of SEA Scoping is to establish the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts of the Plan. An SEA Scoping Report was produced to document the scoping process. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the emerging Plan, including the need for the Plan, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the Environmental Components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process.

A copy of this report was made available to the statutory Environmental Authorities. Environmental Authorities made scoping submissions on the SEA Scoping Report. The SEA Scoping Report was finalized in light of these submissions. The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping consultation submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are to be dealt with by the SEA, the methods which will be used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues, as per the SEA Guidelines³. Summary detail on the scoping consultation submissions received from Environmental Authorities and how these were taken into account during the SEA process is presented in Table 2-1.

³ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18: "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	<p>The EPA provide advice on guidance documents and data sets to consider during the SEA. The EPA made specific reference to the need to follow their guidelines entitled '<i>SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources 2024</i>.' They advised the Plan should align with inter-related plans and programmes.</p> <p>Advice was also provided on the content of the environmental report and the structure by which it should follow. The EPA made specific reference to the need to follow their guidelines entitled '<i>SEA of Local Authority Land-Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources 2024</i>.'</p> <p>Comment was also provided on the need to consider the cumulative impacts of ammonia during the preparation of the County Development Plan.</p>	<p>An evaluation of Plan inter-relationships was undertaken in the SEA Environmental Report (ER) (see Appendix 1). The CDP is determined to be in harmony with all interrelated legislation, plans, and programmes relevant to planning and environmental matters.</p> <p>The SEA ER was undertaken in accordance with the guidelines referred to by the EPA. Environmental datasets referred to by the EPA were utilised during the preparation of the baseline environment evaluation presented in the SEA ER.</p> <p>The potential impact of ammonia emissions from the agricultural sector was considered during the SEA. A mitigation measure which requires that the effects of agriculture related air pollution on habitats and species be considered by the Planning Authority when deciding on planning applications for significantly scaled agriculture development proposals was integrated into the Plan under the SEA (HCLP 10).</p>
Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (NIEA) - Historic Environment Division (Northern Ireland)	<p>The Historic Environment Division (Northern Ireland) advised on the need to consider transboundary effects on cultural heritage. They made reference to several heritage assets which traverse the border. They provided advice on spatial data sets in their possession which would assist in the characterisation of the cultural heritage baseline. They recommended that SEOs be defined for cultural heritage that support the both the protection and enhancement of heritage assets. Finally, they advised on the need to consider impacts on settings surrounding heritage features.</p>	<p>These comments were considered during the SEA, as appropriate. Northern Irish spatial data sets relating to heritage were utilised during the baseline environment evaluation. A variety of mitigation measures were integrated into the CPD to support the protection of Northern Irish heritage features. SEOs CH1 and CH2 aim to protect, conserve and enhance Northern Irish heritage features. Northern Irish data sets will be utilised when monitoring effects of Plan implementation on heritage. Assessment of land use policy and objective impacts on heritage settings was undertaken under the SEA. The need to protect the settings of heritage features was defined in a variety of mitigation measures integrated into the Plan.</p>
Northern Ireland Environmental Agency (NIEA) - Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA)	<p>The Department provided the following comments on the SEA process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Emphasised the need to conclude there would be no impacts on the Northern Irish environment. Advised they are general content with the approach to the SEA. Advised on the need to consider Northern Irish spatial datasets. Advised on NI plans and programmes to consider during the assessment 	<p>The SEA and AA processes concluded that the implementation of the CDP would not lead to adverse effects on the Northern Irish Environment or the NI National Site Network.</p> <p>Northern Irish spatial data sets were used to inform the baseline environment evaluation. An evaluation of the potential effects of the CDP on the NI environment was undertaken. Mitigation measures were integrated into the Plan to support the protection of the receiving environment present in NI (e.g., WPO 9, HCLP 10).</p>



Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape and Visual Team requested that NI landscape and visual environment is considered within the assessment. Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit asked that air pollution impacts on nature sites in Northern Ireland are considered in the SEA and advised on the use of the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) which provides information on the impacts of air pollutants, such as Nox, ammonia emissions and the associated N deposition on sensitive habitats and species. Water Management Unit asked that potential impacts on NI receiving water environment are identified, considered and mitigated against. They also advised on inter-related plans and spatial sets in support of the SEA. 	Many of the mitigation measures defined that don't specifically reference NI were worded to include any and all environmental receptors, including those lying across the border. Overall, a robust level of environmental mitigation was integrated into the Plan to avoid and prevent adverse environmental effects. In light of the assessment and the SEA Consultation, SEOs have been defined in the CDP to ensure the appropriate protection of the NI environment, as evidenced by proposals to utilise NI data sets during SEA Monitoring of Plan implementation effects.
Louth County Council	Louth County Council acknowledged the invitation to comment on the Plan, however they had no specific comment to make in this instance.	No comment.
Meath County Council	Meath County Council provided comments on the importance of cooperation between adjoining Local Authorities in dealing with environmental matters and setting environmental protection standards.	This was noted by Monaghan County Council. The SEA and AA considered potential environmental effects beyond the borders of Co. Monaghan. A robust level of environmental mitigation was integrated into the Plan to avoid and prevent environmental impacts at source.
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)	<p>The Department provided comment on the importance of considering and integrating the latest quantitative data in an analysis of climatic factors in the SEA Environmental Report. They recommended that the Plan be assessed against climate goals and projections to achieve GHG emission reductions. Finally, they recommended referencing the following renewable energy related legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Directive (EU) 2023/2413 (the latest recast Renewable Energy Directive), and; Council Regulation (EU) 2022/2577 (laying down a framework to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy). 	An evaluation of the effects of CDP policy and objective on climate was undertaken, having appropriate regard to GHG emission reduction goals and projections. A variety of climate related mitigation measures were integrated into the Plan (e.g., CAO 6, EECSO 1 etc.) An evaluation of the Plan's inter-relationship with relevant Renewable Energy related legislation was carried out (see Appendix 1 of the SEA ER). The CDP is determined to be in harmony with this legislation. It should also be noted that an ambitious and extensive suite of climate related SEOs have been defined for the CDP.



2.2 Environmental Assessment and Mitigation

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report which was produced for the initial draft version of the Plan, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Plan were identified, evaluated and described in a SEA Environmental Report.

This report defined mitigation measures to prevent adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the Plan. The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to ameliorate the negative environments of the Plan and maximize potential positive effects of the plan:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the Plan.

2.2.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. Detail on how Plan alternatives and their environmental effects were considered during plan-making is provided in Section 3.

2.2.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the Plan

The Plan development process was carried out in parallel with the SEA, AA and SFRA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan development team. Environmental considerations that came to light during the SEA, AA and SFRA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan development process.

A strong level of embedded environmental mitigation was found to be present in early drafts of the Plan. As necessary, additional environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the Plan were developed and then integrated into the earlier iterations of the Plan. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the Plan.

Further additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined policies/objectives in the Plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during Plan implementation.

As necessary, additional environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the Plan were developed and then integrated into the earlier iterations of the Plan. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximising identified positive environmental effects of the Plan.

Environmental mitigation measures embedded in early iterations of the Plan to prevent, reduce and fully offset potential significant negative environmental effects, and to maximise potential environmental benefits and co-benefits of the Plan, are presented in Table 2-2.



Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures (additional policies/objectives) recommended to augment environmental protection and enhance objectives defined iterations of the Plan are presented in Table 2-3.

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to various previously defined objectives/policies in the Plan is presented in Table 2-4.

All recommendations have been fully integrated into the Plan.

Due to the inter-relationship between various environmental components, environmental mitigation measures defined for one component can also serve to benefit other environmental components. M

Table 2-2: Embedded Environmental Mitigation

Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
WPO 1	The protection of groundwater reserves in the Plan Area will have direct positive effects on population and human health, biodiversity, flora and fauna, water and soil. No interactions with other environmental receptors have been identified.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, W
WPO 2	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.	BFF, L, S, LU, W
WPO 3	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 Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including relevant transposing regulations and policy guidance and any superseding versions of same).	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, W
WPO 6	To support the application and implementation of a catchment planning and management approach to development and conservation, including the implementation of Sustainable Drainage System techniques (SuDS) for new development.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA
WPO 8	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.	BFF, L, S, LU, W
FRMO 4	To protect rivers, streams, riparian corridors, flood plains and wetlands from inappropriate development which will contribute to increased flood risk.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, W, MA
SWDO 1	To promote and encourage the use of Sustainable Drainage Systems and Green-Blue Infrastructure in new developments including the public realm and retrofitted in existing developed areas, in line with National Policy Objective 57 of the National Planning Framework.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, W, MA, CC
AQO 1	To promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air, to ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).	PHH, BFF, AQN, CC



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
HCLSO 1	To promote and encourage the conservation and preservation of the County's natural environment, cultural heritage and amenities in accordance with legislation, plans and policies developed to specifically address these areas and to ensure a rich cultural landscape, healthy environment and the full provision of ecosystems services in the county.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
HCLO 2	To contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated sites in compliance with relevant EU Directives and applicable National Legislation.	BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, CC
HCLP 1	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).	ALL
HCLO 6	To ensure the preservation of the County's landscapes, by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of the landscape as identified in the County Monaghan Landscape Character Assessment (2008), and any new or updated/subsequent versions, when considering planning applications.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
HCLP 2	To protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments in designated sensitive rural landscapes do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of the area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes shall be resisted.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
HCLP 4	To resist development in or adjacent to any Natura 2000 site (SPA or SAC) where it would result in the deterioration of that habitat or any species reliant on it. The onus will be on the developer to demonstrate that any such development will not adversely impact on the qualifying interest of such sites subject to the preparation of an appropriate assessment exercise under the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive.	BFF, L, CH, S, LU, W
HCLP 7	Any plan or projects that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 site will not be permitted.	BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, CC
SRP 1	To prohibit development that would disrupt or adversely affect a view from/along any scenic route as identified in Appendix 5 of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 - 2031.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W
GIO 4	To contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, wetlands, 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.	BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, CC
TWP 2	To preserve trees and/or groups of trees that have a significant amenity value, and to designate Tree Preservation Orders where appropriate.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
ISP 1	To ensure that development proposals do not lead to the spread of invasive species and to ensure that landscaping proposals do not include invasive species.	BFF, L, CH, S, W
BHO 1	To protect and conserve all structures included in the Record of Protected Structures and to encourage the sympathetic re-use and long-term viability of such structures without detracting from their special interest and character.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
BHO 2	To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Act 2000 (as amended).	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
BHP 1	To contribute towards the protection of architectural heritage by requiring that proposals for works shall be carried out in accordance with best practice, the	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	legislative provisions of the Act 2000 (as amended) in relation to architectural heritage, and the policy guidance contained in the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 (and any new or updated/superseding versions).	
ACO 3	To support and promote best practice conservation in works to structures and buildings within ACAs and to encourage the use of tradespeople and professionals trained in the use of traditional skills, materials and building techniques.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
PMP 3	To protect the setting of archaeological sites and monuments which are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places in Appendix 4 (and any subsequent additions by the National Monuments Service) from being adversely impacted upon, co-operating with all of the recommendations of statutory bodies in the achievement of this objective.	PHH, L, CH, MA
DLP 1	To ensure that any new development will not adversely affect the site, setting or views to and from historic houses, gardens and designed landscapes.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
DLP 2	To require that any proposals for new development in the vicinity of historic houses or demesnes landscapes are accompanied by an evaluation of the impact of the development on the landscape, designed views and vistas to /from such a site.	PHH, BFF, L, MA, TR
TISO 1	To promote and facilitate a sustainable, efficient, and integrated transport system and ease of movement throughout County Monaghan by enhancing the existing and delivering new transport infrastructure in terms of road transport, public transport, cycling and pedestrian facilities, and by promoting more compact urban forms close to existing facilities to encourage more sustainable movement patterns and to reduce carbon emissions.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
TO 4	To support the creation of an integrated and sustainable transport system to promote a choice of transport modes and low-carbon travel options, including public transport and transport sharing, cycling, and walking facilities, and through the provision of ancillary infrastructure that facilitates modal shift or improves user experiences.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
TO 5	To optimise use of the County's transport infrastructure through projects, maintenance strategies and traffic management solutions to manage traffic appropriately, improve road safety, support sustainable mobility, improve climate resilience and reduce the impact of climate change on transportation in the County.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
TO 7	To support transport options that provide for reductions in carbon emissions by facilitating the transition to lower emission fuels and energy sources, promoting public transport, walking, and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.	PHH, BFF, LU, AQN, MA, TR, CC,
TO 8	To identify and develop projects that can deliver climate resilience, subject to funding and resources.	PHH, BFF, AQN, MA, TR, CC, LU
ATP 2	To promote cycling and walking as an efficient, sustainable, healthy, recreational and viable commuting mode of transport.	PHH, AQN, CC
ATP 3	With reference to national, regional and local plans and strategies, develop over time an integrated network of high-quality Active Travel and recreational walking, wheeling and cycling routes with ancillary infrastructure that enhances and improves the user experience and comfort to create an environment where people are encouraged and supported to make a modal shift toward sustainable, low-carbon travel options for everyday journeys.	PHH, L, LU, AQN, BFF, S, W, MA, TR, CC
ATP 4	To encourage that all new developments are designed to integrate into an active travel network, linking with adjoining developments and institutions, providing cycle and pedestrian-friendly development layouts, infrastructure, and facilities. Pedestrian and cycling infrastructure shall be designed in accordance with DMURS and/or the NTA's Cycle Design Manual. The interface with the road network and connectivity to other local walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure will be	PHH, L, LU, AQN, BFF, S, W, MA, TR, CC



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	considered as part of the design, and where appropriate proposals shall be included to mitigate or improve connectivity to the network as part of the development. Such proposals may include the payment of a contribution toward the cost of any required mitigation or improvement works.	
PTO 1	To support, where possible, an integrated public transport service linking the villages and main towns in Monaghan that will assist in promoting the sustainable development of the county and service the needs of communities and businesses.	PHH, AQN, MA, TR, CC
PTO 2	To support and co-operate, where possible, with the NTA and Cavan Monaghan Transport Co-ordination Unit to further the continued operation and expansion of the Local Link bus service and facilitate the planning, delivery, and implementation of improvements to the transport network of the County.	PHH, AQN, MA, TR, CC
PTO 3	Provide ancillary public transport infrastructure that enhances and improves user experience and comfort, thereby creating an environment where people are encouraged and supported to make a modal shift toward sustainable, low-carbon travel options for everyday journeys.	PHH, AQN, MA, TR, CC
PTO 4	Support the creation of safe and appropriately located bus stops and ancillary facilities along the road network, and make provision for the safe and effective use of those facilities by passengers and bus service operators.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
PTO 5	Support the development of an integrated public transport service through the development of bus depots, bus parking or bus waiting areas in appropriate locations and where a need has been identified.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
PTO 6	Provide and support the development of Park and Ride facilities that support the dispersed population of County Monaghan to access public transport services.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
PTO 7	Provide Park and Share facilities that can safely and efficiently allow people to opt for low-carbon travel options.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
PTO 10	Where viable, to support the delivery (or development) of the infrastructure required to support cycle sharing or rental schemes.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
PTO 11	Support the development of mobility hubs that can support and integrate a range of transport modes and can connect with other complementary facilities such as bus services, Park and Ride and/or Park and Share facilities.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
CAO 3	To support and assist a shift to a low carbon society and a reduction in the dependence on fossil fuels in County Monaghan by implementing measures to deliver reduced energy use, energy efficiency, compact urban forms and sustainable transport patterns.	PHH, BFF, L, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
CAO 6	To support the implementation of the Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 in consultation and partnership with stakeholders including the Eastern & Midlands Climate Action Regional Office (CARO).	ALL
GIP 1	Development proposals located within or adjacent to areas of Green Infrastructure shall incorporate any important biodiversity features into the overall development in a sustainable manner.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
BHO 5	To encourage the retention, rehabilitation and reuse of older buildings that are not Protected Structures in recognition of their contribution both individually and collectively to the unique character, heritage and identity of local areas and the county.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
BHP 3	Planning permission for the demolition or inappropriate alteration of any protected structure shall not be granted except in exceptional circumstances and in accordance with Section 57(10)(b) of the Act 2000 (as amended).	PHH, L, CH, MA
BHP 4	To ensure that any new development proposed to or in the vicinity of a Protected Structure will complement and be sympathetic to the structure and its setting in terms of its design, scale, height, massing and use of materials and to resist any	PHH, L, CH, MA



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	development which is likely to impact on the building's special interest and/or any views of such buildings and their setting.	
ACP 1	To resist development that would adversely affect the character and appearance of the ACA. New development or alterations to existing building(s) in an ACA shall reflect the historic architecture in terms of scale, design and materials used. Regard shall be had to any objectives contained in the character appraisals (where applicable).	PHH, L, CH, MA
PMPO 1	To safeguard and enhance archaeological monuments, town defences, medieval structures, historic graveyards, industrial heritage, battlefields, national monuments, and heritage sites that offer tangible historical evidence.	PHH, CH, MA, TR
PMP 2	To protect archaeological sites and monuments which are listed in the Record of Monument and Places in Appendix 4 (and any subsequent additions by the National Monuments Service) and to require their preservation in situ (or at a minimum preservation by record) through the planning process.	PHH, L, CH, MA
NPO 1	To promote the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.	PHH, BFF, AQN
BHO 4	To support and promote best practice conservation in works to Protected Structures and to encourage the use of tradespeople and professionals trained in the use of traditional skills, materials and building techniques.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
LP 1	To control lighting in urban and rural areas and in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity and habitats and species of importance.	PHH, BFF, CC
LP 3	To require that lighting fixtures should provide only the amount of light necessary and should be designed 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.	PHH, BFF, AQN, CC
ACO 2	To prepare character appraisals for each of the designated ACAs in the County to guide new development proposals and environmental improvements by identifying the character of each ACA and designing objectives to ensure that their distinctiveness and special interest are preserved and enhanced.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
EECSO 1	To afford a high level of environmental protection in County Monaghan through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the provision of quality environmental services which adhere to the precautionary principle. the adoption and application of the principles of sustainable development the promotion of reduced energy consumption, energy efficiency and renewable energy to deliver a low carbon future for County Monaghan, and the implementation of measures to reduce the human causes of climate change and to consider its effects when formulating development plan policies. 	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, CC
AQO 2	To contribute towards compliance with air quality legislation, greenhouse gas emission targets, management of noise levels, and reductions in energy usage.	PHH, BFF, AQN, CC
HCLO 3	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.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, CC
HCLO 4	To support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan 2020 - 2030, Heritage Ireland 2030, the All – Ireland Pollination Plan 2021 - 2025 and the National Peatlands Strategy and any new or updated/subsequent versions.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, CC
WPO 4	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.	PHH, BFF, S, W



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
WPO 7	To encourage collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including government departments, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Irish Farmers Association with the aim of facilitating sustainable development related to intensive farming.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, CC
WMO 4	To encourage best environmental practice in all agricultural, industry, business and local authority activities.	ALL
AGFO 2	To control, through the development management process and the relevant environmental legislation, effluent spreading on land in order to protect ground and surface water sources in the County. Developers are required to comply with relevant Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Guidelines and the Nitrates Regulations in this regard.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, W
HCLO 1	To implement in partnership with all relevant stakeholders the objectives and actions detailed within the Monaghan Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan 2020 – 2025 and any new or updated/subsequent versions.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
BHO 3	The Council aims to conserve the built fabric of the Ulster Canal, Great Northern Railway, historic mills and other industrial heritage structures throughout the county and planning permission will be required for their removal or alteration.	PHH, L, CH, MA, TR
FRMO 1	To fully implement and support, in conjunction with the Office of Public Works, the provisions of the EU Flood Risk Directive, The Flood Risk Regulations, The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and any updated legislation or guidelines issued during this plan period.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, W, MA
TMO 17	To work in conjunction with adjoining local authorities to extend and design new walking and cycling routes that will promote sustainable tourism development and enhance access and links to the great outdoors of Monaghan.	PHH, BFF, W
HCLO 11	To support the implementation of a the Sliabh Beagh Masterplan in conjunction with stakeholders, to improve the conservation status of habitats and species on Sliabh Beagh.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
PMP 1	Development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site will only be acceptable where it is sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to have an adverse impact upon an archaeological monument or site or its setting shall be resisted.	PHH, L, CH, LU, MA, TR
PMPO 5	To contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection of archaeological heritage, in particular by implementing the relevant provisions of the Act 2000 (as amended) and the National Monuments Act, 1930 (as amended).	PHH, CH, MA, TR
TO 1	To support the delivery of EU, national, regional and local plans, strategies and policies in relation to supporting development and transport objectives and climate actions by developing transport plans and projects, protecting identified transport projects from development that could prejudice their future delivery, and protect existing transport routes from development that could reduce their efficiency or contribution to those plans or policies.	ALL
ISO 1	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.	BFF
TO 4	To support the creation of an integrated and sustainable transport system to promote a choice of transport modes and low-carbon travel options, including public transport and transport sharing, cycling, and walking facilities, and through	ALL



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
	the provision of ancillary infrastructure that facilitates modal shift or improves user experiences.	
TO 5	To optimise use of the County's transport infrastructure through projects, maintenance strategies and traffic management solutions to manage traffic appropriately, improve road safety, support sustainable mobility, improve climate resilience and reduce the impact of climate change on transportation in the County.	ALL
TO 6	To protect, improve and invest in our national, regional, and local roads and to safeguard the strategic transport links to and from urban centres which are identified as key economic drivers in the region.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
TP 5	To develop and implement strategies and projects to optimise the operation and maintenance of the Regional and Local Road network in line with available resources and priorities, including improvement works, road resurfacing and surface maintenance, bridge replacements, upgrades and repairs, signage, road markings, footpaths, public lighting, and traffic management facilities to improve road safety and traffic management, with a focus on critical infrastructure routes, strategic routes or roads carrying higher volumes of traffic.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR
TP 6	Subject to funding and resources, design and implement projects and traffic management solutions to manage traffic appropriately, improve road safety, support sustainable mobility, improve climate resilience and reduce the impact of climate change on transportation in the County.	ALL
NRP 1	To work in association with TII to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the national road network, and to prevent or restrict activities or development that reduces the quality, capacity or durability of the national road network, or to seek financial contribution toward the cost of mitigating the impact of that development.	PHH, LU, MA, TR
NRP 7	Access and road design details on national roads shall comply with TII design standards. Any development with the potential to impact on the carrying capacity and/or safety of any National Primary or National Secondary Road shall include proposals to avoid, remedy or mitigate the impact on the National Road Network. Such proposals may include the payment of a contribution toward the cost of any required mitigation works.	PHH, LU, MA, TR
HCLO 7	To co-operate with adjoining local authorities north and south of the Border, to ensure that the natural environment is maintained in a sustainable manner, to encourage a collaborative and consistent policy approach with adjoining areas on matters of environmental and landscape protection, and to identify threats to the integrity of such sites through a transboundary approach.	BFF, L, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, TR, CC
HCLO 8	To contribute towards the protection of County and local level landscape designations from incompatible developments.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, LU, W, TR
WWO 1	To support and co-operate with Uisce Éireann, as appropriate, to deliver a sustainable water supply in line with the objectives set out in the Core Strategy.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, MA, TR
WWO 2	To co-operate with Uisce Éireann in order to identify, prioritise and advance the delivery of water and waste water projects throughout the County during the Development Plan period.	PHH, BFF, L, CH, S, AQN, W, MA, TR
WWP 1	To only permit development in instances where there is sufficient capacity in the public water and wastewater infrastructure.	PHH, BFF, S, LU, AQN, W, MA, TR, CC
WMO 8	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 Environmental Protection Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste).	PHH, BFF, CH, S, LU, AQN, W, CC



Objective/Policy Reference	Objective/Policy	Related Environmental Components
RTO 4	To support the vitality and viability of existing town and village centres and facilitate a competitive and healthy retail environment by ensuring that future growth in retail floorspace responds to the identified retail hierarchy.	PHH, MA, TR
RTO 5	To promote and encourage the enhancement of retail floorspaces and town centre functions, in order to reduce retail expenditure leakage out of the County and to sustain competitiveness of retail centres in the County.	PHH, MA, TR
TO 3	To promote sustainable land use planning to facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public and active transport throughout the County.	ALL

Table 2-3: Additional Environmental Mitigation Measures

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Related Environmental Component
NO 2	Ensure development design considers noise alleviation measures, where appropriate, to reduce noise and vibration impacts on surrounding amenities, particularly residential amenity and other noise sensitive locations (e.g., places of worship, healthcare facilities).	AQN, PHH, BFF
ATIP 14	Ensure that traffic noise levels are considered as part of new developments along major roads in accordance with best practice guidelines.	AQN, PHH, BFF
ATIP 15	Apply the provisions of the County Noise Action Plan to protect the designated 'Quiet Areas' within the Plan Area from increased exposure to noise.	AQN, PHH, BFF
HCLO 17	Promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species in new developments and as part of the Council's own landscaping works.	BFF
HCLO 16	To consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service, where appropriate, and take account of their views and any licensing requirements, when undertaking, approving or authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.	BFF
CAO 15	To encourage innovation in architecture to ensure that developments deliver high-quality, climate-resilient urban design contributing to place-making and urban regeneration and enhances the Plan Area's existing character and distinctiveness.	MA
ATP13	Amenity and active travel infrastructure proposals are to be designed in consideration of the EPA Research Report, 'Connecting with Nature for Health and Wellbeing' (2020).	MA, PHH, L
PAP2/SAP 2	To conserve and enhance existing Primary and Secondary Amenity Areas and design management strategies to absorb further tourism and recreational uses without damage to their unique character.	L, PHH
CAO 14	Promote the use of construction materials that have low to zero embodied energy and CO2 emissions.	CC



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Related Environmental Component
HCLO 18	A Construction Environmental Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented for all development projects, where appropriate, that may give rise to significant, adverse construction related environmental effects.	ALL
ATIP 16	A Construction Traffic Management Plan shall be prepared and implemented for all development projects, where appropriate, that may give rise to significant, adverse traffic impacts during their construction phase.	MA, PHH
ATIP 17	A Mobility Management Plan shall be prepared for all major development in the county, where appropriate.	MA, PHH, CC
HCLO 15	To consult with, as appropriate, the Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could have a potential impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.	W, BFF
WPO 9	To protect drinking water from the effects of development, in collaboration with relevant statutory authorities, including Uisce Eireann and Northern Ireland Water Ltd.	W, PHH
HCLP 10	The effects of agriculture related air pollution on habitats and species shall be considered by the Planning Authority when deciding on planning applications for significantly scaled agriculture development proposals. Where necessary, Applicants shall be asked to provide appropriate supporting air dispersion modelling and ecological assessment - completed in accordance with relevant guidelines - confirming proposals will not generate adverse effects on protected species or designated sites in Ireland or Northern Ireland.	BFF, W, S
TBC	Ensure development taking place in the Plan area does have not an adverse effect on heritage features situated in Northern Ireland, such as heritage features that traverse the border, including earthworks, canals, railways and routeways and those which share intervening views and historic landscape settings.	CH

Table 2-4: Amendments to Pre-existing Plan Policies/Objectives

Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
SO 7	To prepare and implement a Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs, which will act as a blueprint for its evolution and sustainable development as an exemplar recreational and amenity facility.	To prepare and implement a Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs, which will act as a blueprint for its evolution and sustainable development as an exemplar recreational and amenity facility - having due regard to constraints and sensitivities associated with the area and relevant environmental protection requirements.	ALL



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
HSO 3	To encourage and promote the re-use of vacant units for residential use subject to compatibility with existing and proposed surrounding uses.	To encourage and promote the re-use of vacant units for residential use subject to compatibility with existing and proposed surrounding uses - whilst also having due regard to the need to not adversely affect: surrounding residential amenity, protected bat species, European sites, and areas of biodiversity value; and the need to appropriately conserve built heritage.	BFF, PHH, CH
RTO 6	To encourage reuse of derelict sites and vacant town centre commercial premises for alternative uses and adapt a flexible approach to reoccupation, particularly where this can complement the existing service base.	To encourage reuse of derelict sites and vacant town centre commercial premises for appropriate and acceptable alternative uses, and adapt a flexible approach to reoccupation, particularly where this can complement the existing service base - whilst also having due regard to the need to not adversely affect: surrounding residential amenity, protected bat species, European sites, and areas of biodiversity value; and the need to appropriately conserve built heritage.	BFF, PHH, CH
EDP 3	Proposals for industrial and commercial development shall be designed to a high standard in accordance with the specific provisions set out in Chapter 15, Development Management Standards of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031, to provide quality environments with adequate allowance where necessary for landscaping, machinery parking and circulation, and the appropriate disposal of foul and surface water.	Proposals for industrial and commercial development shall be designed to a high standard in accordance with the specific provisions set out in Chapter 15, Development Management Standards of the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031, to provide quality environments with adequate allowance where necessary for landscaping, machinery, access, parking and circulation, and the appropriate disposal of foul and surface water.	PHH, MA
AGFP 1	Agricultural developments shall be designed to a high standard in accordance with the specific provisions set out in Chapter 15, Development Management Standards of the County Development Plan 2025-2031, to provide quality environments with adequate allowance where necessary for landscaping, machinery parking and circulation and the appropriate disposal of foul and surface water.	Agricultural developments shall be designed to a high standard in accordance with the specific provisions set out in Chapter 15, Development Management Standards of the County Development Plan 2025-2031, to provide quality environments with adequate allowance where necessary for landscaping, machinery, parking, access and circulation and the appropriate disposal of foul and surface water.	PHH, MA
TMO 3	To support potential tourist and amenity attractions of scale in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and other relevant authorities.	To support potential tourist and amenity attractions of scale in partnership with Fáilte Ireland and other relevant authorities - having due regard to the existing character, sense of place, distinctive features and environmental constraints and sensitivities of the Plan Area.	ALL
CFO 15	To promote and facilitate the development of walkways, cycleways and recreational routes in appropriate locations throughout the County, in accordance with the objectives of the County Walking and Cycling Strategy 2021-2026 and any updated or subsequent strategy document.	To promote and facilitate the sustainable development of walkways, cycleways and recreational routes in appropriate locations throughout the County, in accordance with the objectives of the County Walking and Cycling Strategy 2021-2026 and any updated or subsequent strategy document - having due regard to relevant environmental considerations,	ALL



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
		including the need to protect and enhance biodiversity, prevent habitat fragmentation, and maintain and enhance ecological connectivity.	
CFO 16	To promote and encourage the development of walks and cycle ways in accordance with the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP), Department of Transport, 2022 and to protect established routes from development which would adversely impact upon them.	To promote and encourage the sustainable development of walks and cycle ways in accordance with the National Sustainable Mobility Policy (SMP), Department of Transport, 2022 and to protect established routes from development which would adversely impact upon them.	ALL
GIP 2	Any development which impacts on the integrity of existing Green Infrastructure shall be resisted, an exception to this may be where compensatory features can be provided.	Any development which impacts on the integrity of existing Green Infrastructure shall be resisted, an exception to this may be where compensatory features comprising native species can be provided.	BFF
TWP 1	To minimise loss of tree(s) and hedgerow associated with any development proposal and encourage the retention of existing mature trees, hedgerows and woodlands in new developments. Where removal is unavoidable consideration should be given to transplanting trees and/or providing compensatory planting on the site.	To minimise loss of tree(s) and hedgerow associated with any development proposal and encourage the retention of existing mature trees, hedgerows and woodlands in new developments. Where removal is unavoidable consideration should be given to transplanting and/or providing compensatory planting of native tree species on the site.	BFF
TO 3	To promote sustainable land use planning to facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public and active transport throughout the County.	To promote sustainable land use planning, having due regard to existing constraints and environmental sensitivities and relevant environmental protection requirements, to facilitate transportation efficiency, economic returns on transport investment, minimisation of environmental impacts and a general shift towards the greater use of public and active transport throughout the County.	ALL
TP 5	To develop and implement strategies and projects to optimise the operation and maintenance of the Regional and Local Road network in line with available resources and priorities, including improvement works, road resurfacing and surface maintenance, bridge replacements, upgrades and repairs, signage, road markings, footpaths, public lighting, and traffic management facilities to improve road safety and traffic management, with a focus on critical infrastructure routes, strategic routes or roads carrying higher volumes of traffic.	To develop and implement strategies and projects to optimise the operation and maintenance of the Regional and Local Road network in line with available resources and priorities, including improvement works, road resurfacing and surface maintenance, bridge replacements, upgrades and repairs, signage, road markings, footpaths, public lighting, and traffic management facilities to improve road safety and traffic management, with a focus on critical infrastructure routes, strategic routes or roads carrying higher volumes of traffic, and in accordance with all relevant environmental protection requirements, including conservation requirements.	ALL
LRP 1	To prioritise improvement works at locations where road safety and traffic	To prioritise improvement works at locations where road safety and traffic management issues	ALL



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
	management issues can be addressed, including specific works at junctions, at bridges, signage, road markings, footpaths, public lighting, and traffic management facilities, subject to available resources.	can be addressed, including specific works at junctions, at bridges, signage, road markings, footpaths, public lighting, and traffic management facilities, subject to available resources, and in accordance with all relevant environmental protection requirements, including conservation requirements.	
ATIP 3	To support the development of infrastructure for Renewable Transport Fuel	To support the development of infrastructure for Renewable Transport Fuel - having due regard for the need for interoperability, requirements of Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Regulations and all relevant health and safety considerations.	PHH, AQN, CC
WSP 1	To prepare an annual Winter Maintenance Plan to maintain a clearly defined network of priority traffic routes in a passable manner in adverse winter conditions, subject to resource availability.	To prepare an annual Winter Maintenance Plan to maintain a clearly defined network of priority traffic routes in a passable manner in adverse winter conditions, subject to resource availability. Best available methods should be adopted to ensure Winter Maintenance activities do not generate significant adverse environmental effects.	ALL
WWO 2	To co-operate with Uisce Éireann in order to identify, prioritise and advance the delivery of water and waste water projects throughout the County during the Development Plan period.	To co-operate with Uisce Éireann in order to identify, prioritise and advance the delivery of appropriately designed water and waste water projects at appropriate locations, having due regard to the existing constraints and environmental sensitivities and relevant protections, throughout the County during the Development Plan period.	ALL
REO 2	To prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for the County over the lifetime of this plan and subject to the availability of resources.	To prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy for the County over the lifetime of this plan and subject to the availability of resources. Such a Strategy shall be shaped and informed by environmental considerations, constraints and sensitivities relevant to the Plan Area - including biodiversity, European sites, and landscape and visual amenity related designations.	ALL
WMP 1	All proposals relating to management and disposal of Construction and Demolition Waste must adhere to the Environmental Protection Agency Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects 2024, and any subsequent revisions.	All proposals relating to management and disposal of Construction and Demolition Materials and Waste must adhere to the Environmental Protection Agency Best Practice Guidelines for the preparation of Resource & Waste Management Plans for Construction & Demolition Projects 2024, and any subsequent revisions.	MA
SSO 12	To designate development envelopes around the towns and Tier 4 villages in order to manage development in a sustainable manner and restrict urban sprawl and the merging of distinctive areas.	To designate development envelopes around the towns and Tier 4 villages in order to manage development in a sustainable manner and restrict urban sprawl and the merging of distinctive areas - having due regard to environmental constraints and sensitivities.	ALL
URO 5	To support the preparation and implementation of Town Centre First	To support the preparation and implementation of Town Centre First Plans in accordance with the Town Centre First Policy - having due regard to	BFF, CH, L



Objective / Policy Reference	Objective / Policy	Amendment	Related Environmental Components
	Plans in accordance with the Town Centre First Policy.	the protection of biodiversity and protected species, and the need to conserve/enhance built heritage (including protected structures and historic fabric) and townscape/streetscape.	
TCO 5	To ensure that sufficient parking is available for town centre uses.	To ensure that sufficient parking is available for town centre uses - having due regard to demand management strategies aimed at reducing congestion.	MA
ISO 7	To ensure that, where appropriate, adequate space is provided in all new developments for off street car parking and the provision of loading space within the curtilage of new developments.	To ensure that, where appropriate, adequate space is provided in all new developments for off street car parking and the provision of loading space within the curtilage of new developments.- having due regard to demand management strategies aimed at reducing congestion.	MA
CMO 79	To facilitate the provision of a Park and Ride facility at an appropriate location subject to planning criteria, within the lifetime of the plan.	To facilitate the provision of a Park and Ride facility at an appropriate location subject to relevant planning and environmental criteria, within the lifetime of the plan.	ALL
CMO 17	To investigate the potential to develop and expand facilities at Lisanisk Lake during the lifetime of the plan.	To investigate the potential to develop and expand facilities at Lisanisk Lake in a sensitive manner with appropriate planning and environmental considerations during the lifetime of the plan.	ALL
MTO 14	To support festivals and events and to encourage the delivery of increased bed nights in suitable locations in Monaghan Town.	To support sustainable and well-planned festivals and events and to encourage the delivery of increased bed nights in suitable locations in Monaghan Town.	ALL
CBO 10	To prepare and implement a Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs which will act as a blueprint for its evolution as an exemplar recreational and amenity facility.	To prepare and implement a Masterplan and Development Framework for Lough Muckno and its environs, which will act as a blueprint for its evolution and sustainable development as an exemplar recreational and amenity facility - having due regard to constraints and sensitivities associated with the area and relevant environmental protection requirements.	ALL

2.3 Appropriate Assessment

The environmental assessment for the Plan undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled 'Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.' (2012).

The methodology employed facilitated the integration of SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes relating to biodiversity impact assessment to ensure the effective and streamlined assessment of biodiversity impacts. The plan-making, SEA and AA processes - including scoping, baseline evaluation, impact assessment and mitigation/monitoring measure development processes - were carried out concurrently to facilitate holistic and complete assessment of biodiversity impacts. The effective communication and integration of scientific knowledge and analysis between assessments took place. The SEA was suitably informed by the analysis and conclusions in AA.



2.4 Consultation on the SEA Environmental Report

A draft version of the SEA Environmental Report accompanied a draft version of the Plan on public display as part of the statutory public consultation required for the Plan. A draft version of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) produced under the AA process for the Draft Plan also accompanied the Draft Plan on public display. Environmental Authorities, relevant interested stakeholder and members of the public were notified of the Draft Plan being placed on display and the opportunity to make consultation submissions in relation to the Draft Plan. Members of public were made aware of the Draft Plan and associated environmental reports through a notification published by the local authority on its website. Environmental Authorities and interested stakeholders were notified through notification correspondence.

Various parties made consultation submissions and observations on the Draft Plan and associated environmental reports. Detail on submissions received relevant to SEA and AA issues and documentation, responses to these submissions, and any changes made to SEA Environmental Report (ER) and NIR documents on foot of these submissions, is provided in Table 2-5.

MCC made Material Alterations to the Draft Plan on foot of the consultation undertaken. A further period of prescribed consultation was then undertaken. Detail on submissions received during this further consultation relevant to SEA and AA issues and documentation, responses to these submissions, and any changes made to SEA Environmental Report (ER) and NIR documents on foot of these submissions, is provided in Table 2-6.

Updates were made to the SEA and AA documentation where relevant following on from receipt and consideration of the consultation submissions.



Table 2-5: Responses to Submissions received during Consultation on Draft Plan

Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans.	Noted. A summary of key interacting plans, policies and strategies and its relevance to the Monaghan County Development Plan have been provided in Appendix 1 of the SEA.	None.	None.
	As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'.	The SEA process ensured that the Plan is aligned with higher-level plans, programmes and strategies, and accords with the relevant objectives and policy commitments contained within those plans. The National Planning Framework and the Northern and Western Regional and Economic Strategy were particularly pertinent to the Monaghan CDP.		
	This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority Land Use Plans. We suggest that you take this guidance document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations, in finalising and implementing the Plan. Monaghan County Council should also ensure that the Plan 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.			



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Content of the Environmental Report</p> <p>The SEA Regulations set out the information to be contained in an Environmental Report.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SEA had due regard to the relevant provisions of the SEA Regulations and has presented the findings of the assessment in alignment with regulations. Table 3-2 in Section 3.4.4 SEA Environmental Report Checklist presents the relevant section of the SEA Environmental Report (ER) against the corresponding requirement of information to be included in the Environmental Report, with due regard to the SEA Directive and transposing national legislation.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>Environmental baseline</p> <p>In October 2024, the EPA published the latest iteration of our 4-yearly State of the Environment Report (SOER 2024). The information in the SOER report should be considered and integrated as appropriate, in finalising the SEA and implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Baseline information from the EPA's State of the Environment Report (SOER 2024) – which was published in October 2024 – was considered and integrated into Section 4 – The Environmental Baseline, of the SEA ER, as appropriate.</p>	Baseline information from the EPA's State of the Environment Report (SOER 2024) – which was published in October 2024 – was considered and integrated into Section 4 – The Environmental Baseline, of the SEA ER, as appropriate.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Assessment of Environmental Effects</p> <p>You should assess and document the full range of likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, including the potential for cumulative effects in combination with other relevant Plans/ Programmes and Projects.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A detailed evaluation of environmental effects associated with the Monaghan CDP was carried out. The full range of likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan was identified. This evaluation considered all potential direct and indirect, cumulative, synergistic, short-, medium- and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>Impact of ammonia emissions to air</p> <p>In preparing the Plan and associated SEA, the potential impacts of ammonia emissions to air should be taken into account. The potential impacts on Natura 2000 sites from intensive pig and poultry installations are ammonia emissions to air and resultant nitrogen deposition. When above critical levels, ammonia adversely impacts biodiversity through eutrophication, acidification or direct toxic effect. Nitrogen deposition has been identified as one of the leading causes of global biodiversity decline, alongside changing land use practices and climate change. Associated with this, Ireland has been served with an infringement notice by the European Commission because of non-compliance with ammonia reduction commitments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The potential impact of ammonia emissions from agricultural and food and drink related activity was considered within the environmental assessment undertaken. A variety of mitigation measures were defined to prevent adverse effects associated with agricultural development and land use.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	In Ireland there is a significant concentration of licensed intensive agriculture sites in Counties Cavan and Monaghan. Over 70% of all EPA-licensed poultry farms are in County Monaghan. Owing to the density of intensive agriculture and the presence of Natura 2000 sites in the same region, the planning, development and permitting of intensive agriculture sites in this area needs to be carefully examined and managed to ensure that the sensitive Natura 2000 sites are protected.	Policy HCLP 10 was specifically defined to ensure the protection of Natura 2000 sites from the impact of ammonia emissions from agricultural installations.		
	<p>Assessment of Alternatives</p> <p>You should describe the alternatives considered and how the selection and assessment of these has led to the selection of the preferred alternative. You should assess the alternatives against the 'Strategic Environmental Objectives' identified in the SEA ER.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The assessment of Alternatives has been presented in Section 6 of the SEA ER and resulted in the development of a Draft Plan that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternatives considered. The assessment of the Reasonable Alternatives was undertaken in accordance with guidelines defined in the following documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, DEHLG 2004. 	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA 2015. <p>All Reasonable Alternatives considered were assessed against defined SEOs.</p>		
	<p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Where you have identified the potential for likely significant effects, you should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these. You should ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A comprehensive suite of environmental mitigation was developed for the Plan. This mitigation has been presented in Section 8 of the SEA ER.</p> <p>It was recommended that Monaghan County Council include a clear commitment to implement these mitigation measures within the CDP, if this was not already the case.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Section 10 of the SEA ER contains a Monitoring Programme, which was developed in accordance with EPA guidelines "Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring" (2023).</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>If the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Plan, Monaghan County Council should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.</p> <p>Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf</p>	The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.		
	<p>Future Amendments to the Plan</p> <p>You should screen any future amendments to the Plan for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Plan.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <p>Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; • How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; • The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan. <p>You should send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>			



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	<p>Guidance on preparing SEA Statements is available on the EPA website at the following link: https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf.</p>			
	<p>Environmental Authorities</p> <p>Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. • any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan. 	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The prescribed environmental authorities were consulted with as part of the SEA consultation process.</p>	None.	None.



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Northern and Western Regional Assembly	<p>Chapter 6 – Heritage, Conservation and Landscape</p> <p>The Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Chapter is extensive, and covers Heritage and Biodiversity, Landscape Character Assessment, European Sites, NHAs, Areas of Amenity, Scenic Routes, Green Infrastructure, Architectural Heritage, Architectural Conservation Areas, (ACAs) Archaeological Heritage.</p> <p>Regional Policy in respect of Landscape, and heritage conservation is framed without a National LCA (Landscape Character Assessment), nonetheless, there are a number of key principles in the RSES which apply to Local Policy: The relevant Policy Objective is as follows:</p> <p>RPO 5.2 Protect manage and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of our Landscapes and seascapes.</p> <p>The NWRA supports co-operation and co-ordination between Local Authorities in determining landscape character along their borders. A targeted review should be undertaken to ensure consistency in classification and policy in adjoining areas of similar character. The NWRA will assist in collaboration and coordination. Following the completion of the National Landscape Character Assessment, and any associated statutory Guidelines, the NWRA shall prepare a Regional Landscape Character Assessment to promote improved landscape management and designation.</p> <p>In respect of Landscape Character Assessment, it is noted Monaghan County Council commissioned the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment of the County in 2008.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>This study was carried out in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Guidelines. This Landscape Character assessment would benefit from being updated albeit in the absence a National Landscape Character Assessment, and any associated statutory Guidelines. While there is no direct undertaking in the Draft CDP, to carry out a Landscape Character Assessment, HCLO 6 – references the 2008 LCA and any new or updated versions.</p> <p>HCLO 6 To ensure the preservation of the County's landscapes, by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of the landscape as identified in the County Monaghan Landscape Character Assessment (2008), and any new or updated/subsequent versions, when assessing development proposals.</p> <p>The plan provisions in respect of Biodiversity, protection of Natura 2000 sites and control of invasive species is generally consistent with the RSES Overarching Environmental Regional Policy Objectives. Similarly, the plan provisions in respect of Architectural and Archaeological Heritage are consistent with the RPOs in Chapter 5.7 of the RSES.</p>			
	<p>Chapter 8 Environment, Energy and Climate Change</p> <p>The Energy Section of the plan is brief, running to 5 pages. The Objective REO -2 proposes to prepare a Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) for the county over the lifetime of the plan. The preparation of an RES for Monaghan should be a priority, albeit the NWRA accept that a timeline for its delivery is somewhat influenced by the advancement of the Regional Renewable Electricity Strategy, as part of the review of the RSES as envisaged in the Draft NPF.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.



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	<p>The Plan should make provision for the plan to incorporate policy measures that are consistent with the RSES, RPO 4.16 – 4.21 Renewable Energy and Low Carbon Future and it should align with the RPO 4.27, 4.28 & 4.29, Agri-food and Bioeconomy.</p> <p>The Monaghan County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 is embedded in the Draft plan within Section 8.4 and complies with RPO 5.1 of the RSES.</p> <p>Section 8.7 of the Draft plan addresses Flood Risk Management. Monaghan County Council should continue to work with OPW and stakeholders to ensure compliance with RPO 3.11 and RPO 8.13.</p>			
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	<p>3.2 Appropriate Assessment Requirements</p> <p>Associated with the delivery of national road improvements is the requirement to adhere to relevant environmental regulations, including Appropriate Assessment. It is acknowledged that the Draft Plan addresses this requirement in Chapter 6 'Heritage, Conservation and Landscape'. Notwithstanding, TII respectfully recommends the Council considers the wording of a number of associated Policies and Objectives, generally across Chapter 6 and including Heritage Conservation and Landscape Policies HCLP 1, HCLP 4 and HCLP 7, for example.</p> <p>TII recommends the Council consider the wording of policies identified in the foregoing, to ensure conformance with Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive in the interests of clarity and to avoid any unintended consequences.</p>	<p>Noted. It was recommended that existing Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies pertaining to Appropriate Assessment (AA), and the protection of Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation and other designated sites were amended/augmented appropriately to ensure clarity and consistency.</p>	<p>Mitigatory policies pertaining to the protection of biodiversity and designated sites were amended.</p>	<p>Mitigatory policies pertaining to AA and the protection of designated sites were amended.</p>



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	<p>In that regard, TII refers to use of the text that refers to 'no projects...shall be permitted', 'resist development', 'any plan or project... will not be permitted', in the text associated with Heritage Conservation and Landscape Policy HCLP 1, HCLP 4 and HCLP 7, as examples, which appear to not accurately reflect the provisions of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive. TII would welcome clarification on this item.</p>			
	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>TII would welcome consideration by the Council of the following:</p> <p>In accordance with National Development Plan investment objectives, TII welcomes provision and safeguarding provided for the NDP N2 Clontibret to Border Scheme and N2 Ardee to South of Castleblayney Scheme included in the Draft Development Plan.</p> <p>In all instances, national road improvement schemes should be developed complementary to safeguarding the strategic function of the national road network and proposals impacting on the national road network should be developed in consultation with and subject to the agreement of TII.</p> <p>TII recommends that consideration should be given to reviewing text associated with Policies and Objectives included in Chapter 6 'Heritage, Conservation and Landscape' to ensure consistency with the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive in the interests of avoiding unintended consequences for the progression of national road scheme planning in the County undertaken in accordance with National Development Plan investment objectives.</p>	<p>Noted. It was recommended that existing Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Policies pertaining to Appropriate Assessment (AA), and the protection of Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Special Areas of Conservation and other designated sites were amended/augmented appropriately to ensure clarity and consistency.</p>	<p>Mitigatory policies pertaining to the protection of biodiversity and designated sites were amended.</p>	<p>Mitigatory policies pertaining to AA and the protection of designated sites were amended.</p>



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	Reason: To ensure conformance with official policy provisions included in RPO 6.5/NPO 74/NSO 2.			
	<p>5.3 Renewable Energy Development</p> <p>Section 8.2 of the Draft Plan addresses energy and renewable energy technologies. Renewable Energy Objective REO 2 commits the Council to preparing a Renewable Energy Strategy. TII would welcome consultation on the preparation of the County Renewable Energy Strategy.</p> <p>TII appreciates that the availability of a safe, secure, and reliable supply of electricity is an essential requirement for Ireland's current and future economic wellbeing. The greening of energy generation via the transition from conventional fossil fuel power generation to sustainable forms of renewable energy supply such as wind and solar power is an essential development if Ireland is to meet its obligations to cut greenhouse gas emissions as we move towards a zero-carbon economy and TII fully supports Government policy in this regard.</p> <p>TII recommends that Solar Farm Renewable Energy Development proposals in the vicinity of the strategic national road network should be accompanied by glint and glare assessments and that such a requirement should be included as an Objective of the Development Plan prior to adoption.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Renewable Energy policy REP 1 defined in Chapter 15 – Development Management Standards, provides robust planning criteria for ensuring renewable energy development in the Plan area does not have any adverse visual/glint and glare impact on environmental receptors, including the public road network.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Recommendation</p> <p>TII would welcome consultation on the preparation of the County Renewable Energy Strategy.</p> <p>Applications for Solar Farm developments should be accompanied by glint and glare assessments and such a requirement should be included as a provision of the Development Plan prior to adoption.</p> <p>Reason: To ensure conformance with official policy provisions included in RPO 6.5/NPO 74 and NSO 2.</p>			
Meath County Council	<p>Nature Designations</p> <p>Ballyhoe Lough Proposed Natural Heritage area (Site Code 001594) is located on the Meath-Monaghan border.</p> <p>Chapter 8 'Cultural and Natural Heritage Strategy' of the Meath County Development Plan 2021 -2027 (as varied) lists all Natural Heritage Areas and Proposed Natural Heritage Areas, including Ballyhoe Lough and contains a number of policies and objectives to protect such Natural Heritage Areas from inappropriate forms of development.</p> <p>Meath County Council welcomes the inclusion of objective HCLO 10 in the Draft Plan. The Council looks forward to continued co-operation.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.



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Inland Fisheries Ireland	<p>Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) is a Statutory Body whose principal function is the protection, management and conservation of the inland fisheries resource. Protection of the aquatic environment and habitat is a vitally important element of IFI's work. In the context of the Dundalk Local Area Plan, the issues of water quality, fisheries habitat and angling tourism should be given due priority.</p> <p>“Fisheries” includes all inland fisheries recreational and commercial, sea angling and mollusc fisheries stipulated under the Fisheries Acts, the physical habitat upon which the fishery relies, the facilities and access, the quantity and quality of the water and the plant and animal life on which fish depend for shelter and food and the spawning areas wherein fish deposit their eggs. The protective role of IFI relates to all aspects of the aquatic environment and all factors that influence the biotic communities within waters, which in any way relate to the propagation of fish stocks.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p>The many rivers and lakes in County Monaghan contain valuable fisheries habitats, which support a wide variety of fish species from salmonids (Atlantic salmon and trout) to coarse fish and pike. It should be noted that while the many of the river systems in the county are not designated under the Habitats Directive, they hold species that are designated under that directive, i.e. Atlantic salmon, sea, river and brook lamprey (listed as Annex II Species under the European Habitats Directive).</p> <p>These fisheries habitats contribute significantly to the natural heritage, amenity, recreational and tourism value of the county.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A number of water protection related objectives (e.g. WPO 2, WPO 3, WPO 8) were defined in the Monaghan CDP which safeguards waterbodies and aquatic ecology. These objectives act as embedded environmental mitigation.</p>	None.	None.



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	<p>The Development Plan provides the opportunity to protect the quality of the aquatic environment through policies addressing water quality, the physical environment, hydrological processes and biodiversity.</p>			
	<p>Chapter 7 Transport and Infrastructure</p> <p>Provision of transport infrastructure should be planned and constructed in such a way as to protect and conserve the existing environment. Potential negative impacts of developments of this nature on aquatic habitats include impeding the passage of fish and other fauna and poor water quality.</p> <p>The impact of poorly designed river/stream crossing structures can be serious in terms of habitat loss and stream fragmentation. Prevention of the free passage of fish, e.g. salmon, trout and lamprey in particular can result in the loss of spawning habitat and impact on fish populations.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A number of objectives (e.g. WPO 2, WPO 3, WPO 8) were defined in the CDP that act as embedded environmental mitigation. These objectives protect waterbodies and aquatic ecology from poorly planned or inappropriate development.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>Chapter 8 Environment , Energy and Climate Change</p> <p>8.1 Water Resources and Quality:</p> <p>The Development Plan is an opportunity to promote policies and awareness of water conservation which may ultimately result in a reduction in water use. Water conservation and water use efficiency are central elements of any strategy to enhance water supply reliability, restore ecosystems, and respond to climate change and changing demographics. Significant increases in water conservation and water use efficiency will be required to ensure reliable water supplies in the future.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Monaghan CDP contains embedded environmental mitigation for water conservation and water use efficiency, including WPO 1, WPO 3, WPO 6 and WPO 8. These objectives are aimed at the protection of water resources from inappropriate development.</p>	None.	None.



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	<p>Best practice should be promoted in respect of water conservation in all developments through methods such as rain water harvesting.</p> <p>Another problem which is particular to summer months (when river/stream flows are often low) is wide scale unregulated water abstraction for crop irrigation. This practice may have significant ecological implications/impacts if large volumes of water are abstracted over a short period of time from small fish nursery or spawning streams.</p> <p>Such abstractions during dry weather or drought periods could have severe repercussions for aquatic habitats, fish stocks and accordingly the ecological status of watercourses in terms of the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p>	<p>The CDP additionally contains objectives for collaborating with Uisce Éireann to augment existing utilities capacities in the Plan Area and to only permit development in instances where sufficient capacity exists.</p>		
	<p>Water Protection Objectives:</p> <p>We welcome WPO 5 to prevent of river fragmentation and to encourage the connectivity or the re-connectivity where possible of fisheries waters and that IFI should be consulted on any such proposed developments.</p> <p>We welcome WPO 6 and suggest the inclusion of the recently published Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage guidance document Nature-based solutions for the management of rainwater and surface water run-off in urban areas. The document identifies the need for a significant change in the way to plan, design, build and maintain urban areas through the replacement of impermeable surfacing with nature-based planted areas designed to absorb, retain, store and treat urban runoff prior to discharge back to the environment.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>



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	<p>IFI would urge that both the public and private sectors would be encouraged to use this guidance from the earliest stages in the planning process. The aim of the guidance document is to reduce pollution and reduce flood risk as well as improving biodiversity and a greener more pleasant urban environment.</p>			
	<p>IFI welcomes WPO 8 regarding the inclusion of protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas. We recommend that the zone would be designed in accordance with IFI's guidance document Planning for watercourses in the urban environment, which can be accessed on IFI's website (www.https://www.fisheriesireland.ie). The immediate stream side zone should be minimum 10m wide to protect the river and vegetated with native riparian vegetation. The remainder of the riparian zone would prevent encroachment and would act as a sump/filter for nutrients and sediment. Incorporation of a suitably sized buffer zone can protect the aquatic habitat and can also provide an amenity and make space for high water flood events.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
National Environmental Health Service	<p>Reference is made to a Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA), though not referenced, which identified flooding as among the main potential threats to communities in County Monaghan (pg 200). Other threats identified in this CCRA could not be seen which raises questions about the extent to which health risks/threats were in the CCRA referred to.</p> <p>The NEHS recommends that health specific threats to public health area assessed (separately or within a wider Climate Change Risk Assessment) or captured in the final plan and a management plan is developed to address those threats.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The impacts of land use development on population and human health and climate were considered in the environmental assessment (presented in Appendix 3 of the SEA Environmental Report).</p>	None.	None.



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	<p>As referred to earlier those threats may be sudden onset (e.g. severe weather events such as floods, windstorms, heatwaves, etc.) but also slow onset (e.g. the gradual establishment of disease vectors such as mosquitos capable of disease transmission in Co. Monaghan and beyond.</p> <p>For example if mosquitos capable of transmitting dengue fever become established, approaches to drainage and the harvesting of rainwater will have to re-designed to help minimise the risk to the human population. This will fit the strategic objective to “increase climate resilience of the built environment”.</p>	<p>A variety of mitigatory policies/objectives were included in the CDP to promote climate mitigation/adaptation and prevent and minimize negative effects on public health due to climate change (e.g., FRMO 4, EEC SO 1, CAO 1, CAO 5, CAO 6 etc.)</p>		
	<p>Section 8.6 of the draft plan addresses the integration of climate action into the development placing initial emphasis on the importance of land use planning and going on to set out mitigation and adaptation measures that are to be embedded into various aspects of the council’s work. The aspects covered including building, transport and energy production to name just a few.</p> <p>All of the measures outlined have merit and are worthy of inclusion in the plan. The list of measures is not exhaustive and could be expanded greatly. No clear targets are set against baseline which would be helpful when assessing the impact of the plan at the end of 2031. In addition the adaptation measures to implement should be informed by a Climate Change Risk Assessment which should include an assessment of the risk to health.</p> <p>The NEHS recommends that the integration of climate change into the development plan could be strengthened by expanding the lists of mitigation and adaptation measures based upon assessments.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council prepared a Climate Change Risk Assessment separately to the CDP. The CCRA informed the Monaghan Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024 – 2029 (LACAP). The LACAP defines a wide variety of climate mitigation/adaptation actions for the Plan area and supports the achievement of Greenhouse Gas emission reduction and climate resilience in the County.</p>	None.	None.



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	<p>The adaptation measures should be informed by a comprehensive Climate Change Risk Assessment that includes threats to public health. For example the inclusion of green infrastructure to provide shade in urban areas in an excellent example of an adaptation measure but issues such as the risk posed by aeroallergens and the risk posed by vector borne diseases might also need to be considered.</p>	<p>The LACAP is a separate Plan to the CDP and was subject to its own SEA and AA. Human health and climate related Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) were defined for the LACAP.</p> <p>Objectives CAO 6 and CAO 7 of the CDP support implementation of the LACAP. Appropriate climate related SEOs were also established for the CDP.</p>		
	<p>Section 810, 8.11 and 8.11 address issue of public health importance, namely Lighting, Noise and Air Quality.</p> <p>In the area of lighting the consideration of light pollution is an important consideration for the protection of public health. A general principle with regard to lighting and avoiding the potential negative effects on people is getting the light right, in the right place and providing light at the right time.</p> <p>In the area of Noise this is again an important consideration for the protection of public health. Noise is widely regarded as the second biggest environmental determinant of health after air quality in Europe and therefore it is essential to minimise noise pollution at noise sensitive locations such as residential areas.</p> <p>In the area of Air Quality the plan highlights the need to curb emissions from traffic, the burning of fossil fuels for heating and the operation of businesses.</p>	<p>Noted. A variety of mitigation measures were defined to prevent light, noise and air pollution (e.g., LP 1, NPO 1, AQO 1, AQO 2, HCLP 10).</p>	None.	None.



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	<p>The NEHS recommends that the issues of Light, Noise and Air Quality area addressed from the perspective of protecting and promoting public health. In the context of air quality reference could be made to the latest health protection air quality standards namely the WHO Air Quality Guidelines 2021 and also make reference to the Irish Clean air Strategy published in April 2023.</p>			
	<p>Monitoring and Evaluation including Health Impact Assessment</p> <p>The NEHS recommends that sections of the plan set SMART indicators for helping to measure performance during the plan and to support an end of plan evaluation. SMART refers to Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timebound. Indicators using language such as support and encourage should be replaced with more specifics. For example to better assess the uptake of active travel into a town measurements could be taken at the start of the plan and at the end to help quantify the change over time.</p> <p>If the plan sets an objective to improve quality of life/well-being for the people of Monaghan Health Impacts Indicators should be set and maybe the plan should include the Health Impact Assessment at the end to determine if quality of life/well-being has improved during the lifetime of the plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SEA process defined relevant SEOs, targets and indicators for monitoring human health. This monitoring programme can be found in Section 10 of the SEA ER.</p>	None.	None.
Energia	<p>We would reiterate our comments from our submission on the Strategic Issues and Options Paper, and note that the “Interim Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Statutory Plans, Renewable Energy and Climate Change” provide that it is a specific planning policy requirement (under Section 28(1C) of the Planning Acts) that, in making a development plan, with policies or objectives that relate to wind energy developments, Council is obliged to carry out the following:</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A range of Renewable Energy and Climate Action related objectives were defined, contextualised and detailed in the Plan.</p>	Appendix 1 of the SEA ER was updated to include detail on the Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023).	Appendix 2 of the SEA ER was updated to include detail on the Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy (2023).



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	<p>“(1) Ensure that overall national policy on renewable energy as contained in documents such as the Government’s ‘White Paper on Energy Policy - Ireland’s Transition to a Low Carbon Future’, as well as the ‘National Renewable Energy Action Plan’, the ‘Strategy for Renewable Energy’ and the ‘National Mitigation Plan’, is acknowledged and documented in the relevant development plan;</p> <p>(2) Indicate how the implementation of the relevant development plan ... over its effective period will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation, and in particular wind energy production and the potential wind energy resource (in megawatts); and</p> <p>(3) Demonstrate detailed compliance with item number (2) above in any proposal by them to introduce or vary a mandatory setback distance or distances for wind turbines from specified land uses or classes of land use into their development plan or local area plan. Such a proposal shall be subject to environmental assessment requirements, for example under the SEA and Habitats Directives. It shall also be a material consideration in SEA, when taking into account likely significant effects on climatic factors, in addition to other factors such as landscape and air, if a mandatory setback or variation to a mandatory setback proposed by a planning authority in a development plan or local area plan would create a significant limitation or constraint on renewable energy projects, including wind turbines, within the administrative area of the plan.”</p>	<p>These objectives align with the broader plan, programme and policy context, and will contribute to realising overall national targets in these areas</p> <p>An evaluation of how the Plan inter-relates with the Government’s ‘White Paper Energy Policy – Ireland’s Transition to a Low Carbon Future’ ‘National Renewable Energy Action Plan,’ ‘Renewable Energy Ireland Strategy’ and the ‘National Mitigation Plan’ was completed and is documented in Appendix 1 of the SEA ER.</p> <p>Monaghan County Council proposed relying on wind energy development guidelines defined by the Government of Ireland when planning for wind energy development.</p>		



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DAERA	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report Process Comments</p> <p>The layout and content of the Environmental Report is well laid out and easy to follow.</p> <p>DAERA SEA Team is content that the environmental report and the process of consultation largely follow the SEA Directive.</p> <p>The Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report (SEA) and Natura Impact Statement for the Draft Monaghan County Council Development Plan 2025-2031 have been made available to designated authorities, transboundary bodies, and the public. DAERA is content that previous consultations, including the SEA scoping have been considered as part of the Environmental Report.</p> <p>A description of the current state of the environment and how this relates to the Draft Monaghan County Council Development Plan 2025-2031 is included within the environmental report. Appropriate environmental objectives / targets / indicators for each of the likely environmental receptors is addressed including an assessment of significant impacts mitigation and monitoring.</p> <p>DAERA request that should any changes which are likely to impact Northern Ireland be included, then DAERA should be reconsulted.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.



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	<p>Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p>NIEA Natural Environment Division works to ensure that Northern Ireland's special natural environment, including its flora and fauna and landscapes, is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of this and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>NED note that the Draft Monaghan County Council Development Plan 2025-2031 is limited to within Monaghan County and welcome the acknowledgement and consideration of transboundary environmental effects within the SEA.</p>			
	<p>NED notes that a Zone of Influence has been mentioned within the SEA, however no map or distance has been provided. This would have been useful to determine the extent of the Zone of Influence into Northern Ireland. NED also notes that only designated sites have been mentioned within Northern Ireland, it is important to note that impacts can extend beyond Monaghan County and outwith designated sites. NED does however note that given the level of mitigation and monitoring which will ensure the protection of priority habitats etc in Co. Monaghan that NED agrees with the conclusions detailed within Section 8.3 that "These environmental mitigation measures will also serve to prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative transboundary effects that may be transmitted from the County to Northern Ireland. It can be concluded that the Draft Plan will not have any likely, significant transboundary impacts."</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Zone of Influence of the CDP was conceptual in nature given the scale of the plan and varied depending on which environmental component was being considered. The zone of influence of the Plan was appropriately clarified in the SEA ER and NIR.</p> <p>Transboundary effects of the Plan were fully assessed and mitigated under the SEA and AA.</p>	<p>Zone of influence was clarified.</p>	<p>Zone of influence was clarified.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	NED notes that sensitivity mapping is detailed within Section 4.13. NED advise that sensitivity mapping is not used in Northern Ireland as part of the SEA process. However, NED does note that the EPA in Ireland does provide a user guide on the subject. NED notes that in Section 4.13 it does not appear to include layers such priority habitats. NED also notes from Section 4.13 that the mitigation measures outlined within the report must be adhered to when there is a concentration of environmental sensitivities. No threshold has been provided on at what weighing this occurs. NED advise that mitigation measures must not be limited to areas which have a concentration of environmental sensitivities but to any locations which may result in significant environmental impacts.	Noted. Transboundary effects of the Plan were fully assessed and mitigated under the SEA and AA. Section 4.13 does not state this. Mitigation measures apply to the entire functional area of Monaghan County Council and surrounding areas within the environmental zone of influence.	None.	None.
	NED advise the five selected themes under which the alternatives have been assessed does not appear to cover all objectives of the plan. They appear very specific such as providing two reasonable alternatives for “Level of Residential Land Use Zoning in Clones”. NED suggest that the Alternatives should cover the full extent of the CDP objectives ensuring that all aspects of the plan have an alternative which is then fully assessed with the most environmental suitable alternative incorporated into the plan or a justification provided as to why this is not the case NED are of the opinion that should there be any changes to the current plan which results in the potential for transboundary impacts then the relevant authorities in NI should be consulted.	All Reasonable Alternatives considered during the Plan-making process were considered and evaluated during the Plan-making process. This evaluation is fully presented in Section 6 of the SEA ER. It should be noted that only practical/functional, realistic, and implementable alternatives can be considered under SEA, and that the plan and policy hierarchy and the legislative context places parameters around Plan policies/objective and possible alternatives.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Natura Impact Report</p> <p>NED acknowledges receipt of the Natura Impact Report (NIR). NED notes that no UK National Site Network sites (formally known as European Designated Sites, or Natura sites) have not been included within the NIR. This is contrary to Section 1.3 of the NIR which comprised the following elements "Identification of European sites within 15km of the CDP boundary with identification of potential pathways links for specific sites (if relevant) greater than 15km from the CDP boundary". A list of those NI sites which were not contained within the NIR but which are located within 15km of the county Monaghan border are below (please note that this list may not be exhaustive as there may be other sites greater than 15km but which have pathways from the CDP boundary and you may need to include these also):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moninea Bog SAC (UK0030212) • Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC (UK0016621) • Slieve Gullion SAC (UK0030277) • Slieve Beagh SAC (UK0016622) • Slieve Beagh- Mullaghfad – Lisnaskea SPA (UK9020302) • Upper Lough Erne SAC (UK0016614) • Upper Lough Erne SPA (UK9020071) <p>It is unclear if the above sites would have been screened into Stage 2 of the NIR. NED also notes from Section 6.1 the conclusion that "the Draft CDP is not foreseen to have any significant adverse effects on designated sites situated in Northern Ireland, alone or in combination with other plans or projects"</p>	<p>Noted. All mitigation presented in the Draft NIR serve to mitigate potential adverse effects on UK National Site Network sites. Further detail on how UK National Site Network sites were considered in the AA was provided.</p>	<p>Further detail on UK National Site Network sites was provided.</p>	<p>Further detail on UK National Site Network sites was provided.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>the conclusion appears to have been based on the mitigation measures contained within the NIR. NED conclude that provided the mitigation contained within the NIR including that all lower tier plans and projects are subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is applied to UK National Site Network sites which would have been screened into the assessment NED is content. We welcome the recognition that further Appropriate Assessment will be required at project level and advise continued and early engagement with the relevant bodies in NI as appropriate should there be any potential transboundary effects on NI.</p> <p>NED would suggest that the NIR is amended to include the sites which have been omitted above. NED advises that should the NIR change in respect to impacts upon UK National Site Network sites then NED should be re-consulted. NED notes from Section 6 that the AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the plan.</p>			
	<p>Climate Change Unit Comments</p> <p>AQBU has considered the SEA Environmental report and notes that, as per Heritage, Conservation, Biodiversity and Landscape Objective 10 (p142):</p> <p>The effects of agriculture related air pollution on habitats and species shall be considered by the Planning Authority when deciding on planning applications for significantly scaled agriculture development proposals.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The effect of Plan implementation on ambient air quality was fully assessed (See the Detailed Evaluation of Environmental Effects presented in Appendix 3). A variety of mitigation measures were defined for the purpose of preventing air quality impacts (e.g., Objectives AQO 1, AQO 2 and HCLP 10).</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Where necessary, Applicants shall be asked to provide appropriate supporting air dispersion modelling and ecological assessment - completed in accordance with relevant guidelines - confirming proposals will not generate adverse effects on protected species or designated sites in Ireland or Northern Ireland.</p> <p>We are therefore content and have no further comments to offer.</p> <p>Comments on the Natura Impact Report:</p> <p>Consideration should be given to objectives that support biodiversity and improve air quality at protected sites.</p> <p>The Air Pollution Information System (APIS) Air Pollution Information System Air Pollution Information System (apis.ac.uk) contains information about the link between air quality and biodiversity loss and now includes information on Ireland's protected sites.</p> <p>APIS also contains a GIS tool which provides information on the impacts of air pollutants, such as NOx, ammonia emissions and the associated Nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats and species. The map feature within APIS enables detailed information to be provided on the Critical Levels/Loads for each qualifying feature and background levels of these pollutants: APIS app Air Pollution Information System.</p> <p>Aerial emissions from traffic/industrial/energy processes contribute to nitrogen deposition on sensitive habitats. Consideration should be given to construction and traffic related activities associated with the delivery of projects within the Plan and if they might trigger a significant air quality effect on nearby sensitive habitats or species.</p>	<p>These measures serve to protect biodiversity that may be sensitive to air quality deterioration.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Water Management Unit Comments</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes the conclusion of the Environmental Report that there is the potential for transboundary impacts relating to the water environment to arise in Northern Ireland due to implementation of Monaghan the Draft County Development Plan 2025-2031</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and welcomes that our comments made in response to the scoping exercise have been considered and where appropriate, incorporated into the SEA report. Water Management Unit particularly welcome recognition of the importance of Northern Ireland's River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>Plans and Programmes</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and is broadly supportive of the identified relevant Plans and Programmes. Water Management Unit also welcomes recognition of the potential for both Intra-plan Cumulative Effects and Inter-plan Cumulative Effects.</p> <p>Mitigation</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and welcomes the inclusion of mitigation measures where the potential for adverse impacts on the aquatic environment have been identified. Water Management Unit is broadly supportive of these measures and consider it essential that all of those identified are fully implemented.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Mitigation measures were integrated into the Draft Plan during the Plan making process, and the monitoring programme proposed within Section 10 of the SEA ER accounts for the efficacy of these mitigation measures.</p> <p>The set of SEOs established for enabling monitoring and measurement of the Plan's performance serve as quantifiable indicators for measuring the environmental effects of the Plan. These environmental effects will be monitored once every year over the course of the Plan's six-year lifetime and a monitoring report will be published to document monitoring outcomes.</p> <p>Where the monitoring identifies that the implementation of the Plan may or has resulted in a significant negative environment effect, an in-depth review of the Plan will take place, and the Plan will be updated in a manner that</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>It should be noted that the mitigation measures identified should not be considered as definitive but should be reviewed throughout the life of the Draft County Development Plan 2025-2031 and considering the data obtained from the monitoring proposed to ensure the effectiveness of those measures.</p> <p>Monitoring</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and is broadly supportive of the monitoring regime proposed in relation to the aquatic environment. Monitoring must be subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data obtained. It essential that interventions (including additional mitigation measures or plan revisions where required) are undertaken if any unforeseen or adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment are identified during the monitoring regime.</p> <p>Water Management Unit would be supportive of the identification of any positive impacts to the aquatic environment identified as a result monitoring also being reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental actions and therefore may be of use informing future iterations of this or other similar plans.</p>	<p>satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects.</p> <p>Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with Plan implementation are not being adequately realised, the Plan will be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realisation of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the Plan.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Land and Groundwater Comments</p> <p>Thank you for consulting with Land & Groundwater (LGW) on the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031.</p> <p>Ten Groundwater bodies are shared between Co Monaghan and Northern Ireland, some of which are monitored in County Monaghan under the Water Framework Directive with a status report every 6 years by the Environment Protection Agency.</p> <p>We note that Groundwater protections have been taken into consideration and form part of the Water Protection Objectives.</p> <p>Areas of development which have potential to significantly impact the groundwater environment include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quarry/extractive industries; • Waste management activities/Landfill; • Cemeteries; • Wind turbine (foundations); • Geothermal Energy/heat pumps; • Abstractions of Groundwater. <p>LGW advise that further consideration is given in the plan to the impacts of the development of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries; • Abstraction activities (including geothermal energy projects) which require net abstraction from groundwater aquifers. 	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
Department of Communities (Historic Environment Division) (Northern Ireland)	HED provided comments at the scoping stage (Appendix 2) highlighting the plan has potential for transboundary effects on cultural heritage, particularly in relation to heritage assets that traverse the border, including earthworks, canals, railways and routeways and those which share interviewing views and historic landscape settings. While HED welcomes this acknowledgment in the report (Chapter 4.5), our datasets (Footnote 44 p.57) have not been fully utilized in the assessment to appropriately consider the potential impacts of the plan on the historic environment in the border region.	Noted. The Environmental Baseline section of the SEA ER (Section 4) was updated to include additional data/information on heritage in Northern Ireland, in accordance with this commentary. It was noted the level of baseline information provided was proportionate relative to the scale of the CDP in the plan hierarchy and the value of this additional, granular data was limited. In any case, a comprehensive suite of mitigatory policies/objectives were defined to prevent adverse effects on heritage in Ireland or Northern Ireland.	Environmental baseline section was updated to include additional Northern Irish heritage data/information.	None.
	Fig 4.6 p.58 – Archaeological Heritage and National Monuments Map This map includes assets on the NI Sites & Monuments Record, Defence Heritage Record and Areas of Significant Archaeological Interest, though other key NI historic environment datasets have been excluded, i.e. the Historic Buildings Record (including designated and non-designated heritage assets), the Historic Parks & Gardens Register and the Industrial Heritage Record. Conservation Areas Conservation Area Guides (A-Z list)	Noted.	Environmental baseline section was updated to include additional Northern Irish heritage data/information.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Department for Infrastructure specifically mentioned in the CH Objectives are also absent from the evidence base map. To ensure potential plan effects on cultural heritage are appropriately informed and assessed, NI historic environment datasets should be suitably and consistently represented.</p>			
	<p>Table 5.1 p. 93 - Strategic Environmental Objectives</p> <p>HED scoping comments suggested an objective around the '...protection, conservation and enhancement of archaeological and architectural heritage' toward alignment with the NI Regional Development Strategy (RDS, RG11). The proposed plan objectives CH1 & CH2 aim to 'avoid impacts' on archaeological and architectural heritage, which raises challenges given the nature of the development plan.</p> <p>An objective which also supports the appropriate management of change, acknowledges the potential for enhancement and includes setting considerations would provide for more robust assessment of potential effects on cultural heritage and better align with draft plan policy objectives and the RDS. Objectives CH1 & CH2 also reference selective NI evidence bases (CH1 NISMR and CH2 NI Conservation Areas). To provide a holistic assessment of potential effects on all heritage assets, HED suggests applying the terms 'designated and non-designated heritage assets'.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p> <p>SEOs pertaining to Cultural Heritage defined in the SEA ER were updated appropriately.</p>	<p>SEOs pertaining to Cultural Heritage defined in the SEA ER were updated.</p>	<p>None.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Chapter 7.2 p. 121 Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation</p> <p>Potential Negative Environmental Effects</p> <p>Further consideration of potential negative effects on cultural heritage should be taken into account under the bullet points relating to infrastructure, renewable energy, and construction projects, also acknowledging the potential for impacts on the setting of transboundary heritage assets.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>A detailed evaluation of the environmental effects of Plan implementation was completed. This evaluation is presented in Appendix 3 of the SEA ER. The potential effects of the Plan on heritage were fully assessed at the appropriate scale and a comprehensive suite of mitigatory policy/objectives was defined to prevent adverse impacts on heritage, including Northern Irish heritage (e.g., BHO 2, PMPO 1, PMP 1).</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
		<p>The following mitigatory policy was recommended to ensure Northern Irish heritage was more expressly protected during Plan implementation:</p> <p>‘Ensure development taking place in the Plan area does have an adverse effect on heritage features situated in Northern Ireland; such as heritage features that traverse the border, including earthworks, canals, railways and routeways and those which share interviewing views and historic landscape settings.’</p>		
	<p>Table 7-1 p. 127- Inter-relationship between Environmental Components</p> <p>HED disagrees with the assessment of inter-relationships between cultural heritage and biodiversity, flora and fauna given the intrinsic synergies between natural and cultural heritage. The landscape context of the natural environment often contributes to the setting of heritage assets, enriching their understanding, experience and enjoyment. Historic buildings, monuments and sites can also provide important locations for wildlife conservation, including protected species such as bats, birds and insects. HED therefore recommend a further review of the interrelationships between these environmental topics.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed.</p> <p>The SEA ER comprehensively investigated the baseline environments for both environmental components, and all policies and objectives within the draft Plan with a negative effect on either component were assessed and mitigated against.</p> <p>Table 7-1 was updated to account for suggested change however.</p>	Updated Table 7-1 in Final SEA ER.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Appendix 1 -Relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes</p> <p>HED advises the following NI legislation references should also be included:</p> <p>The Planning Act (NI) 2011 (includes vires for the protection of listed buildings and Conservation Areas)</p> <p>Historic Monuments and Archaeological Objects (NI) Order 1995</p>	Noted and agreed.	Updated Appendix 1 of Final SEA ER.	None.
Office of the Planning Regulator	<p>10.2 Environmental assessments</p> <p>The Office notes that the Strategic Environmental Assessment report concludes that the adoption of the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the County Development Plan will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the County Development Plan and that no further mitigation measures are required. It is also concluded that the County Development Plan will not have any likely, significant transboundary impacts.</p>	Noted.	None	None
	<p>The Natura Impact Report (NIR) identifies measures as Additional Environmental Mitigation at table 5-2 to mitigate potential adverse effects of the County Development Plan and concludes the County Development Plan individually or combination with other plans or projects would not adversely affect the integrity of any European site in view of the sites' Conservation Objectives, and that all potential effects that may be transmitted to designated sites in Northern Ireland will also be appropriately mitigated with the adoption of the defined mitigation measures.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended that Monaghan County Council integrated suggested mitigatory text for Objectives SSO 12 and URO 5, as defined in the SEA ER, into the text of these</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>The Office notes, however, that the additional mitigation measures identified for Objectives SSO 12 and URO 5 are not integrated in the County Development Plan.</p> <p>In addition, the information notified to the Office does not appear to include the mandatory appropriate assessment screening determination referenced at section 3.5 of the NIR.</p> <p>Recommendation 15 - Natura Impact Report</p> <p>Having regard to:</p> <p>NPO 75 of the NPF to ensure that development plans are subject to the relevant environmental assessment requirements;</p> <p>Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive;</p> <p>Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended; and</p> <p>the Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (2010), the Planning Authority is required to:</p> <p>include the proposed mitigation measures for Objectives SSO 12 and URO 5 set out in the NIR, in the County Development Plan to accurately reflect the conclusions of the NIR; and produce a stage 1 appropriate assessment screening determination.</p>	<p>Objectives presented in the Monaghan CDP itself.</p> <p>It was recommended Monaghan County Council shared the Appropriate Assessment Screening Determination made with the Office of the Planning Regulator.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (DECC)	<p>Climate Action</p> <p>The Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions sets out indicative pathways, beyond 2030, towards achieving carbon neutrality for Ireland by 2050. The Strategy builds upon the decarbonisation pathways set by the carbon budgets, sectoral emissions ceilings and CAP24, to ensure coherent and effective climate policy. It is underpinned by analysis of transition options across each key sector of the economy and provides a crucial link between Ireland's 2030 climate targets and the long-term goal set by Ireland's National Climate Objective and the European Climate Law.</p> <p>The Local Authority should have regard to said strategy and ensure that all policies are assessed against it to not unintentionally undermine the State's long-term objectives. We suggest that this is incorporated into the SEA process.</p>	Noted. An assessment of the Plan Inter-relationship with this Strategy was carried out and presented in the SEA ER and NIR.	Updated Appendix 1 of SEA ER.	Updated Appendix 2 of NIR.
	<p>List of Recommendations:</p> <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>The Department recommends that the Local Authority ensures that the draft CDP is aligned with the Monaghan LACAP. It is important that the relevant actions of the Monaghan LACAP are appropriately reflected in the policies and objectives of the draft CDP, thereby ensuring consistency and alignment between both Plans.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The SEA ER noted in Appendix 1 (page 96) the Draft Plan is in harmony with the current Monaghan LACAP (2024-2029).</p>	None.	None.
Geological Survey Ireland (as part of the	Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our website for data availability.	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
DECC submission)	We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'.			
	<p>With reference to your email received on the 17 September 2024, concerning the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 -2031, Geological Survey Ireland would like to acknowledge our previous submissions, (24/190, 23/128), in relation to the new draft CDP, and have the following additional comments to make.</p> <p>Geoheritage</p> <p>In Section 6.12 'Geological Sites' of the draft CDP, we commend the listing of the five Geological Sites Policies and also the listing of the County Monaghan geological sites in Table 6.7.</p> <p>Groundwater</p> <p>We are pleased to see use of our Groundwater Protection Scheme reports and Groundwater Vulnerability maps and data and under Section 8.1.3 'Groundwater Protection'.</p> <p>Natural Resources (Minerals/Aggregates)</p> <p>In Section 15.18 'Extractive Industry' of the draft CDP, we welcome the inclusion of Geological Survey Ireland's 'Geological Heritage Guidelines for the Extractive Industry (2008)' with regard to quarrying and ancillary activities.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council	<p>Environmental Designations</p> <p>As highlighted in previous correspondence there are several environmental designations and environmental assets within our Borough which are either close or adjacent to the border with County Monaghan namely, Tynan Abbey, Tullybrick Lough, Knockbane Bog, Tullynowood Lake and Drumcarn Area of Special Scientific Interest.</p> <p>In this regard, the Council notes Heritage, Conservation and Landscape Objective HCLO 7 which aims to co-operate with adjoining local authorities north and south of the Border to ensure that the natural environment is maintained in a sustainable manner, to encourage a collaborative and consistent policy approach with adjoining areas on matters of environmental and landscape protection and to identify threats to the integrity of such sites through a transboundary approach. The Council welcomes this approach.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
An Taisce	<p>9. Strategic Environmental Assessment</p> <p>The Council has a legal obligation to ensure that the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) process is robust, effective, and identifies all likely significant effects on the environment under the range of considerations set out in the Annexes to the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). To ensure integration of environmental considerations into the plan, a general policy or land use zoning should not be maintained where likely significant effects on the environment are identified.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>As noted in Section 10 of the Draft SEA ER, the set of SEOs established for enabling monitoring and measurement of the Plan's performance serve as quantifiable indicators for measuring the environmental effects of the Plan.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>An Taisce would highlight Article 10 of the SEA Directive, which sets out the provisions for the monitoring of a programme subject to SEA and the obligation for remedial action where unforeseen adverse effects arise:</p> <p>Member States shall monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.</p> <p>In order to comply with paragraph 1, existing monitoring arrangements may be used if appropriate, with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.</p> <p>The provisions of Article 10 are not just for monitoring but, notably, for the remediation of unforeseen adverse effects. Section 8.12 of the 2001 European Commission guidance²³ states that:</p> <p>“Unforeseen adverse effects is better interpreted as referring to shortcomings of the prognostic statements in the environmental report (e.g. regarding the predicted intensity of the environmental effect) or unforeseen effects resulting from change of circumstances.”</p> <p>An Taisce considers that a proper interpretation of Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that the SEA monitoring process be based on quantitative, audited data and that qualitative data be provided on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan or programme. This is needed to ensure that, following the required baseline assessment in the SEA, ongoing monitoring or auditing can identify unanticipated changes, allowing remediation to be carried out.</p>	<p>These environmental effects will be monitored once every year over the course of the Plan’s six-year lifetime and a monitoring report will be published to document monitoring outcomes.</p> <p>Where the monitoring identifies that the implementation of the Plan may or has resulted in a significant negative environment effect, an in-depth review of the Plan will take place, and the Plan will be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects.</p> <p>Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with Plan implementation are not being adequately realised, the Plan will be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realisation of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the Plan.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to SEA ER	Changes to NIR
	<p>Producing monitoring for its own sake would not be an adequate transposition of Article 10 of the Directive. It is only by auditing this ongoing monitoring data and clearly measuring any effects that the identification of any “unforeseen adverse effects”, as defined by Article 10, can be achieved and remediation can begin.</p> <p>An Taisce has previously made a formal legal complaint to the European Commission regarding the systemic failures in Ireland to comply with Article 10 of the Directive.</p> <p>It is also worth noting that if ongoing monitoring was being carried in accordance with the provisions of Article 10, it would contribute very significantly to the general availability of environmental and ecological data in Ireland. Having such an extensive and dynamic database of ecological information would contribute greatly to environmental protection efforts and to ensuring effective spatial and strategic planning within environmental constraints. There would also be significant co-benefits for the Environmental Impact Assessment, Appropriate Assessment and other environmental assessment process.</p>			



Table 2-6: Responses to Submissions received during Consultation on Material Alterations

Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)	The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Plan, as amended and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the amended Plan.	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p>Proposed SEA Determination</p> <p>We note your proposed determination regarding the need for SEA of the Alterations, that SEA is required.</p> <p>Where the SEA identifies any alterations as having potential for likely significant environmental effects or which conflict with national environmental or planning policy, clear justification should be given for proceeding with those alterations. The Plan, prior to its adoption, should also consider and integrate the recommendations of the SEA.</p> <p>As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land-use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via 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. These should be considered, as appropriate and relevant to the Alterations.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>In proposing the Alterations, Monaghan County Council should ensure that the Plan, as amended, is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>In considering the Alterations, Monaghan County Council should consider 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 Plan, as amended is consistent with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>Noted, with thanks.</p> <p>Appendix 1 of the SEA Environmental Report (ER) and Appendix 2 of the Natura Impact Report for the CDP provides a summary of the relationship of the Plan with other relevant plans, programmes and strategies. The CDP is effectively in harmony with the listed plans and programmes, and their corresponding commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation.</p> <p>Separate to the CDP, Monaghan County Council published their Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 (LACAP), which outlines defined climate action for the functional area of Monaghan County Council. There is alignment between the CDP and the LACAP.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Future Modifications to the Draft Plan</p> <p>Where further changes to the Draft Plan are proposed, these should be screened for likely significant effects in accordance with SEA Regulations. They should be subject to the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Draft Plan.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.
	<p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <p>Once the Plan is made, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; • How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; • The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and • The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan. <p>A copy of the SEA Statement with the above information should be sent to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p> <p>Guidance on preparing SEA Statements is available on the EPA website at the following link: https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/EPA_Guidance_web.pdf</p>	<p>Noted, with thanks.</p> <p>As stated in in Section 3.5 of the SEA ER, Monaghan County Council has prepared an SEA Statement with the inclusion of the considerations as outlined by the EPA.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. • Any adjoining planning authority whose area is contiguous to the area of a planning authority which prepared a draft plan, proposed variation or local area plan. 	Noted. Statutory consultations were conducted in accordance with the SEA Regulations and as part of the preparation of the Plan and supporting assessments.	None.	None.
Health Service Authority	F.A.O. Monaghan County Council Planning section. With regard to your correspondence received 19/03/2025, noting the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031, please note there currently no COMAH establishments have been notified to the Authority for County Monaghan and hence no observations are made.	Noted with thanks. The SEA ER has noted that there are no SEVESO sites in County Monaghan. Any development proposals within the consultation distance of SEVESO sites in adjoining counties shall have regard to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive in the interest of population and human health (see Policy EH2P 1 and Objective EH2O 1).	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Department of Infrastructure (NI)	The Department notes the clarificatory text in the Draft SEA Environmental Report that Monaghan County Council commits to implementing the environmental mitigation measures during the lifetime of the plan; and that these measures will serve to prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative transboundary effects that may be transmitted from the County to Northern Ireland.	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.
	The Department notes the enhancement of heritage, conservation and landscape policies and the additions in regard to climate change and flood risk. In particular, it welcomes the recognition that blue and green algae have become an increasing risk to the quality of rivers and lakes and that new or expanding developments will be required to take account of public health issues relating to bathing areas and drinking water sources. Rivers and lakes often traverse the border and so the management of these environmental assets and the landscape in general cannot be undertaken in isolation. Mutual cooperation on both these issues is important and close working with your neighbouring councils in the North is also encouraged. Collaborating across boundaries will be crucial to successful spatial planning both sides of the border.	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.
Historic Environment Division (HED) (NI)	<p>HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT DIVISION COMMENTS RE: PROPOSED MATERIAL AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAFT MONAGHAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2025-2031 SEA REPORT</p> <p>DfC Historic Environment Division (HED) operate via a Service Level Agreement with colleagues in DAERA in relation to SEA, whereby, we provide authoritative comment and advice in relation to matters of Cultural Heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage. We make the following comments in respect of the documentation received by our office on 13/04/2025.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>HED has provided comments at the scoping stage in May 2024 and on the previous environmental report in Nov 2024. While we welcome where our comments have been taken into account, to acknowledge the interrelationships between the natural and historic environment and to include NI heritage legislation in Appendix 1, we advise that amendments in relation to SEA Objectives and references to NI historic environment evidence bases require further clarification.</p> <p>HED therefore provides the following additional comments:</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p>Figure 4.6 p. 59 is titled Archaeological Heritage & National Monuments Map.</p> <p>HED advises this should be revised to reflect the full suite of recorded heritage assets represented on the map e.g. Historic Environment Evidence bases'. HED welcomes the inclusion of the identified NI historic environment datasets, though it would be appropriate to also reference Conservation Areas, namely Caledon Conservation Area Guides (A-Z list) Department for Infrastructure and Aughnacloy Area of Townscape Character, both located in Co. Tyrone near the border region.</p>	<p>Noted, with thanks.</p> <p>All publicly accessible spatial data pertaining to Northern Irish Heritage was accessed and presented on this map.</p> <p>It was noted the level of baseline information provided was proportionate relative to the scale of the CDP in the plan hierarchy and the value of this additional, granular data was limited. In any case, a comprehensive suite of mitigatory policies/objectives have been defined to prevent adverse effects on heritage in Ireland or Northern Ireland.</p>	Figure 4-6 was re-titled to 'Heritage Assets Map.'	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Table 5.1 p. 94 - Strategic Environmental Objectives Cultural Heritage</p> <p>HED welcomes the inclusion of the terms ‘Protect, conserve and enhance...’ toward alignment with the NI Regional Development Strategy (RDS, RG11). Objectives CH1 & CH2 however only reference selective NI evidence bases (CH1 NISMR and CH2 NI Conservation Areas) and do not reflect the suite of NI evidence bases included in Figure 4.6.</p> <p>To provide a holistic assessment of potential significant effects on all heritage assets, HED suggests applying the terms ‘designated and non-designated heritage assets’, which can include consideration of effects on the breadth of cultural heritage including defence heritage, historic buildings, historic parks and gardens, historic landscape character and unrecorded heritage assets e.g. vernacular and industrial heritage and known and unknown archaeological sites.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Many thanks.</p> <p>Existing text for both SEOs CH1 and CH2 were amended, as follows, to extend protection to both designated and non-designated heritage assets.</p> <p><i>CH1 – Protect, conserve and enhance designated and non-designated archaeological heritage, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR).</i></p> <p><i>CH2 – Protect, conserve and enhance designated and non-designated architectural heritage, including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), industrial heritage, ACAs and conservation areas (Northern Ireland).</i></p>	<p>Updated SEOs CH1 and CH2 to reference designated and non-designated heritage sites.</p>	<p>None.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Chapter 7.2 p.121 Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation</p> <p>Potential Negative Environmental Effects</p> <p>Further consideration of potential negative effects on cultural heritage should be articulated under the bullet points relating to infrastructure, renewable energy, and construction projects describing the potential for transboundary effects as many assets traverse/predate the border and have interweaving views and settings. Key cultural heritage considerations set out in Para 4.5.1 p.58 should inform the assessment. The potential negative transboundary impacts of related strategic development i.e. Portadown –Armagh –Monaghan railway line as part of the All Island Strategic Rail review (p.21 Volume 1 Written Statement) also merits appraisal.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>The Environmental Assessment presented in Appendix 3 of the SEA considered the potential negative impact of strategic and linear infrastructure supported by the Plan on archaeology, architectural and cultural heritage within both the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland. Each policy/objective defined in the Plan was assessed individually at an appropriate scale and the interaction each policy/objective has with Heritage related SEOs was assessed using an SEA matrix.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p>The CDP already contained a suite of embedded and additional protective policies and objectives that safeguard cultural heritage both in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland, (e.g. HCLSO 1, HCLO 6, HCLP 2, BHO 5, BHP 3, BHP 4, ACP 1, PMPO 1, PMP 2, BHO 4, ACO 2, PMP 1, PMPO 5). The following mitigatory policy has also been included in the CDP on the back of the assessment completed:</p> <p><i>'Ensure development taking place in the Plan area does have not an adverse effect on heritage features situated in Northern Ireland, such as heritage features that traverse the border, including earthworks, canals, railways and routeways and those which share intervening views and historic landscape settings.'</i></p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	Table 10.1 SEA Monitoring Programme Comments in relation to CH1 & CH2 objectives and cited evidence bases above apply. We would also clarify that the Department for Communities, DfC Historic Environment Division has an MOU with DAERA to provide advice with regard to SEA cultural heritage considerations.	Noted, with thanks.	The SEA Monitoring Programme was updated in reflection to the changes to SEOs CH1 and CH2.	None.
	To aid review of our comments, we include the link to our Historic Environment Digital Datasets Department for Communities which provides a key evidence base to inform the assessment of potential transboundary effects in respect of cultural heritage. We also attach a link to our Historic Environment map viewer Department for Communities which can facilitate further interrogation of NI datasets.	Noted, with thanks.	Updated SEOs CH1 and CH2 to reference designated and non-designated heritage sites.	None.
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (NI)	The DAERA SEA Team are broadly content with the overall approach and conclusions of the amended environmental report and AA that the material alterations to the draft Monaghan Development Plan will not have any likely significant effects on Northern Ireland. We note that it has been determined in the updated environmental report that mitigation measures integrated into the Draft Plan will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Draft Plan and all amendments.	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.
	Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments NIEA Natural Environment Division works to ensure that Northern Ireland's natural environment, including its flora and fauna and landscapes, is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of this and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>NED are generally content with the material alterations to the Monaghan development plan in particular changes to chapter 6 heritage, conservation and landscape.</p> <p>We are content that potential for transboundary effects have been considered in the environmental report and assessed. We note the conclusions of the transboundary assessment that no significant adverse effects are identified.</p>			
	<p>Water Management Unit Comments</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes the conclusion of the Environmental Report that there is the potential for transboundary impacts relating to the water environment to arise in Northern Ireland due to implementation of the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 - 2031.</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and welcomes that our comments made in response to the scoping exercise have been considered and where appropriate, incorporated into the SEA report including recognition of Northern Irelands River Basin Management Plans.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.
	<p>Mitigation and Monitoring</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes the SEA Report states <i>“Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the Plan is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the Plan should take place and the Plan should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with Plan implementation are not being adequately realised, the Plan should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realisation of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the Plan.”</i></p>	<p>Noted, with thanks.</p> <p>As Section 9 of the SEA ER states, the environmental effects (inclusive of positive, negative and cumulative effects) of the implementation of the Plan will be monitored annually by the Forward Planning Section of MCC and will be documented in a monitoring report.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Water Management Unit notes and welcomes the inclusion of mitigation measures where the potential for adverse impacts on the aquatic environment have been identified. Water Management Unit is broadly supportive of these measures and consider it essential that all of those identified are fully implemented. It should be noted that the mitigation measures identified should not be considered as definitive but should be reviewed throughout the life of the plan and considering the data obtained from the monitoring proposed to ensure the effectiveness of those measures.</p> <p>Water Management Unit notes and is broadly supportive of the monitoring regime proposed in relation to the aquatic environment. Monitoring must be subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data obtained. It is essential that interventions (including additional mitigation measures or plan revisions where required) are undertaken if any unforeseen or adverse environmental effects to the aquatic environment are identified during the monitoring regime. Water Management Unit notes and welcomes that this is recognised within the SEA Report.</p> <p>Water Management Unit would be supportive of the identification of any positive impacts to the aquatic environment identified as a result monitoring also being reported as this will assist in determining successful environmental actions and therefore may be of use informing future iterations of this or other similar plans.</p>	<p>The monitoring report will account for and report on any positive effects on the aquatic environment through the metrics reported for the Indicators and Targets outlined for SEOs B1, W1, W2, W3 and W6.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Marine and Fisheries Division Comments</p> <p>Inland Fisheries Response</p> <p>Inland Fisheries notes the information provided and is content that the Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan are unlikely to have any significant impact to fisheries interests within DAERA's jurisdiction.</p> <p>Inland Fisheries notes that should any planning application be made to the local planning authority as a result of this plan that are likely to have transboundary impacts (i.e. within DAERA's jurisdiction) that DAERA will be consulted through the usual process. Inland Fisheries as a statutory consultee will continue to provide advice in relation to fisheries impacts as and when consulted.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.
Uisce Éireann	<p>Environmental Reports</p> <p>In 2023 Irish Water became Uisce Éireann, references to Irish Water within the Environmental Reports should be updated. The contents of this submission and Dec 2024 capacity registers should be taken account of in the Environmental Reports.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	The SEA ER was updated to refer to Uisce Éireann rather than Irish Water and to take account of Uisce Éireann Capacity Registers from December 2024.	The NIR was updated to refer to Uisce Éireann rather than Irish Water.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Forward Planning Section, Department of Housing, Local Government and the Environment	<p>Nature Conservation</p> <p>This submission is made in the context of the Department's role in relation to nature conservation, including as an environmental authority under SEA legislation. The observations are offered to assist the Council in meeting the obligations that arise in relation</p> <p>to European sites and the Natura 2000 network, other nature conservation sites, natural habitats and protected species, and biodiversity and environmental protection in general in the context of the plan and the environmental assessments required. The observations are not exhaustive and are made without prejudice to any submissions or recommendations that may be made by the Minister and this Department in the future.</p> <p>Government policy on nature conservation is clearly set out in the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan 2023-2030 (NBAP), which has the clear objective to "mainstream biodiversity into decision making", for all public authorities and to move towards no net loss of biodiversity. It also requires Local Authorities to develop policies and objectives for the protection and restoration of biodiversity. The Department's observations consider this primary objective within the context of the draft Plan.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>Appendix 1 of the SEA ER includes reference to Ireland's 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan and demonstrates that the CDP is in harmony with the aforementioned and cumulatively contribute to the achievement of the objectives of this framework for the environmental protection and management. HCLO 4 of the CDP commits to the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Action Plan, in addition to other similarly relevant plans and strategies such as the All-Ireland Pollination Plan, Heritage Ireland 2030, the National Peatlands Strategy and any new or updated versions thereof.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>1.1. Flora Protection Order species</p> <p>In Section 4.3 (Biodiversity Flora & Fauna), table 4-1 lists the ecological features of county Monaghan, including Flora Protection Order (FPO) species. This element focuses on FPO Bryophyte species only, identifying that no sites exist in the county. However, this table is lacking an additional analysis of FPO Vascular Plants, of which three species have been identified from the NPWS rare/threatened plants database1: Annual Knawel (<i>Scleranthus annuus</i>), Small-white Orchid (<i>Pseudorchis alba</i>), and Heath Cudweed (<i>Omalotheca sylvatica</i>). These species should be considered as relevant in the draft County Development Plan.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	Table 4-1 of the SEA ER was updated to include reference to the species listed by the Department.	None.
	<p>1.2. Protected species (Annex IV Habitats Directive)</p> <p>There are 29 references to protected species in the SEA, mostly relating to bats. Reference to protection of bat species should also refer to their protection as 'strictly protected species' under Annex IV (Habitats Directive) species of flora and fauna, which also protects their key habitats (i.e. breeding sites and resting places), wherever they occur. This protection tier also applies to otters.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>This section of the SEA ER was clarified to expressly reference the need to protect bats as strictly protected species, including their key habitats and to expressly reference the need to protect otters.</p> <p>Footnote 28 includes reference to the protection of all bat species under Annex IV of the Habitats Directive, in addition to the Irish Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000.</p>	SEA ER clarified to expressly reference the need to protect bats as strictly protected species, including their key habitats and to expressly reference the need to protect otters.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		A strong framework of mitigation for the protection of protected species has been embedded and integrated into the CDP.		
	<p>1.3 Ecological Impact Assessments</p> <p>In general, the Department recommends that no areas should be identified or targeted for future development or changes in land use without the availability of basic information on the ecological sensitivities of the lands in question, such as a habitat or ecological constraints map, i.e. the precautionary principle should apply. This will serve to ensure that plan-making is robust, informed and evidence-based, and that the expectations or concerns of various parties are better managed, particularly in relation to the likely or realistic development potential of certain areas.</p> <p>There is one reference included in the SEA for the requirement of Ecological Impact Assessments (EclA), detailed in objective WLP 2: Where it is proposed to infill or reclaim a wetland area, an Ecological Impact Assessment will be required.</p> <p>Whilst the inclusion of this requirement in the draft plan is welcomed in relation to proposed infilling of wetlands, it is important that the requirement for Ecological Impact Assessment Reports (EclA) are referenced more widely in order to facilitate the wider understanding of ecological issues in general when determining applications for consent. Reference to Biodiversity considerations and assessments needs to be considered more widely than the designated area network, thus reflecting the Strategic Aim of the draft Plan. Specific guidance has been prepared by the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM) "Guidelines for Ecological Impact Assessment in the UK and Ireland: Terrestrial, Freshwater, Coastal and Marine" (2018).</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended that MCC consider this submission and whether to add clarity to the ecological mitigation already defined.</p> <p>It was considered that the existing framework of ecological mitigation integrated into the Plan was robust and appropriately protective of ecology, however.</p> <p>An assessment of the potential impacts all Plan policies/objectives may have on the receiving ecological environment was conducted and is presented in Appendix 3 of the SEA ER.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p>A robust framework of Plan-level ecological mitigatory policies/objectives) was integrated into the CDP to prevent impacts on ecology, including ecological receptors at any greenfield sites identified for development, at designated sites and at non-designated sites. These include comprehensive suites of mitigatory policies/objectives embedded into the Plan, additional mitigatory policy/objectives integrated into the Plan during the SEA and AA, and amendments to pre-existing objectives/policies identified during the SEA and AA that mitigate ecological effects.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		The framework of ecological mitigation already defined was considered to be strong, widely encompassing and appropriately scaled. SEOs B2, B3, B4 support the appropriate assessment, protection and enhancement of ecological receptors, including non-designated features.		
	The strategic environmental assessment of the draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-31 does not include any reference to the consideration of Swifts in the planning process as recommended in this report, co-funded by Monaghan County Council. The Department therefore strongly recommends that such policy objectives be included in this and future county development plans going forward, in line with the objectives of the National Biodiversity Action Plan.	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended that MCC consider this submission and whether to add clarity to the ecological mitigation already defined.</p> <p>A robust framework of Plan-level ecological mitigatory policies/objectives was integrated into the CDP to prevent impacts on ecology, including protected species, however.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
		<p>These included comprehensive suites of mitigatory policies/objectives embedded into the Plan, additional mitigatory policy/objectives integrated into the Plan during the SEA and AA, and amendments to pre-existing objectives/policies identified during the SEA and AA that mitigate ecological effects. Certain measures expressly support the protection of protected or important species (e.g., WPO 3, HCLP 4, LP 1, LP 3, HCLO 11, HCLO 16, HCLP 10, URO 5). This mitigation will serve to prevent impacts on designated and non-designated biodiversity features, including Swifts. A variety of SEOs were defined to drive the appropriate protection of protected and important species and ecological features such species are reliant on.</p>		



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
Meath County Council	Meath County Council welcomes the publication of the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025-2031 and the opportunity to engage in the consultation process. Meath County Council acknowledges that the Draft Plan sets out a positive vision for Monaghan to make the county a place where people can have a good quality of life and be a better place to live and work. This submission follows on from a previous submission made by Meath County Council dated November 2024 on the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan.	Noted.	None.	None.
	Landscape Character Assessment Meath County Council welcomes the proposed amendment to include an additional objective, Objective LCO 1, within Section 6.4, to review and update the Landscape Character Assessment in tandem with the preparation of the Renewable Energy Strategy for County Monaghan. Meath County Council have prepared a Landscape Character Assessment as part of the Meath County Development Plan 2021-2027. In light of this, Meath County Council would request Monaghan County Council to have regard to same in preparation of their own Landscape Character Assessment and consult with Meath County Council in relation to Landscape Character Areas which traverse the shared county boundary.	Noted.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Movement</p> <p>Meath County Council refer to proposed amendments relating to movement;</p> <p><u>Material Alteration, Chapter 7, No.4</u> – amendment to policy, TP 1, stating <i>‘To develop an Integrated Transport Plan for County Monaghan..... the Plan will be prepared...during the lifetime of this plan, commencing by 2027’.</i></p> <p><u>Material Alteration, Chapter 7, No. 3</u> - The inclusion of an additional objective, TO 9, <i>‘To vary the Development Plan to incorporate the objectives and measures of an Integrated Transport Plan for County Monaghan when finalised, and to implement its objectives and measures during the lifetime of this plan’.</i></p> <p>Meath County Council welcomes the preparation of Transport Plan for the county and looks forward to engaging with Monaghan County Council on any projects that could positively impact both counties.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
Energia	<p>Energia Comment</p> <p>REO 3</p> <p>We support the amendments to policy REO 3, with the introduction of the terminology <i>‘and other environmental and ecological considerations’</i>, as it is Energia’s policy to develop sites in a responsible manner with due consideration to all relevant environmental considerations.</p>	Noted, with thanks.	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>REO 10, REO 11, REO 12</p> <p>We welcome the introduction of REO 10 which recognises the role of grid facilitative infrastructure within the requirements for security of energy supply.</p> <p>Additionally, the inclusion of policies REO 11 and REO 12 are welcomed which now support Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) and emerging technologies. This approach is supported by national and regional policies and objectives.</p> <p>Furthermore, we urge the Council to include specific policies and objectives relevant to BESS and other emerging technologies within the Renewable Energy Strategy (refer REO 2 above) to ensure the development and promotion of these types of developments within the County as appropriate.</p> <p>The Material Amendments fail to recognise and incorporate policies relevant to the repowering and extension of existing renewables schemes. The CE Report does not adequately consider or comment on the submissions set out at page 561 of its report.</p>	<p>Noted.</p> <p>It was recommended that MCC consider this submission and whether to add clarity to renewable energy policy while finalising the Plan.</p> <p>It was noted the Plan was extensively supportive of renewable energy development in its current form. In holistic terms, the Plan was supportive of extending existing renewable energy developments. Some examples of measures supportive of extension of existing renewable energy developments include REO 1, REO 2, REO 3 and REO4. REO 3 expressly supports the renewal of renewable energy infrastructure. The additional measures REO 10, REO 12 and REO 13 further support renewable energy development in the county. It was noted REO 12 supports the co-location of renewable energy projects.</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Conclusions and Recommendations</p> <p>The Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 - 2031 introduces some welcomed policies in relation to renewable energy and climate goals. We would restate our position that the Monaghan County Development Plan 2025 – 2031 should be shaped by progressive policies and objectives to ensure Monaghan’s delivery of the national climate change and renewable energy targets which are intended to decarbonise the Irish economy in line with the National Planning Framework and Climate Action Plan.</p> <p>The Council must be confident its policies and objectives as outlined in the CDP and Material Alterations, will be able to deliver on those national targets and importantly align with them.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p>This document has set out (where relevant) those additional amends to the proposed material alterations in order to provide a wholly facilitative approach to renewable energy within the County namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make clear in the Plan proposed policies to facilitate extension to lifetime and repowering of existing wind farms • Commitment to the identification of existing renewables developments within the Renewable Energy Strategy. 	<p>Noted. See comments above.</p> <p>It was recommended that MCC consider this submission while finalising the Plan.</p>	None.	None.



2.5 SEA and Plan Amendments

A draft version of the plan and the associated environmental reports were published for prescribed consultation during the Plan-making process. MCC prepared a Chief Executive (CE) Report on the Draft Plan responding to consultation submissions from Environmental Authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public, as necessary. This report recommended Material Alterations to the Draft Plan. Further prescribed consultation on the Material Alterations was undertaken. A further CE Report was produced for this consultation, which responded to submissions relating to the Material Alterations. This further CE Report recommended Further Amendments to the Material Alterations.

The SEA process undertaken considered Material Alterations to the Plan and Further Amendments to Material Alterations made during the Plan-making process.

The Plan amendments arising from consultation and the post consultation Plan-making processes were subject to further environmental assessment.

It was assessed that the environmental mitigation measures defined for the Plan will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Plan and all amendments to the Draft Plan that had a likelihood of resulting in significant environmental effects.

A consolidated SEA Environmental Report was produced on foot of the environmental assessment of the Plan Amendments made during the Plan-making process.

The CE Reports on consultation submissions received on the Plan and associated environmental reports accompany the adopted Plan and this SEA Statement. The CE Reports provide exact detail on how consultation submissions were considered by the local authority during the plan-making process.



3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive states that: *'Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.'*

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the Plan (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternative must be realistic and capable of implementation.

Reasonable alternatives to the Plan were initially explored and examined during the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, having regard to the scope, function and strategic aims and main objectives of the Plan. This process facilitated the accurate identification of reasonable alternatives to the Plan and also suitably informed the plan-development process, ensuring optimal environmental outcomes.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the Plan. The purpose of this was to determine if the reasonable alternative resulted in positive, negative, neutral or uncertain environmental outcomes.

The description and evaluation of reasonable alternatives in this report was undertaken in accordance with guidelines defined in the following two guidance documents primarily:

1. Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, DEHLG 2004.
2. Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment, EPA 2015.

3.2 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the Plan were considered during the Plan-development process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the Plan is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the Plan-development and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the Strategic Aim and Objectives of the Plan.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
 - The strategic aim and objectives of the Plan.
 - The geographic scope of the Plan.
 - The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
 - The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the Plan aims and objectives.
 - The technical feasibility of the alternative.



- The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the Plan within the required timeframe.
- The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the Plan by higher-level policy.
- The legislative context and the parameters placed around the Plan by climate action and environmental related legislation.

The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilised when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 3-1.

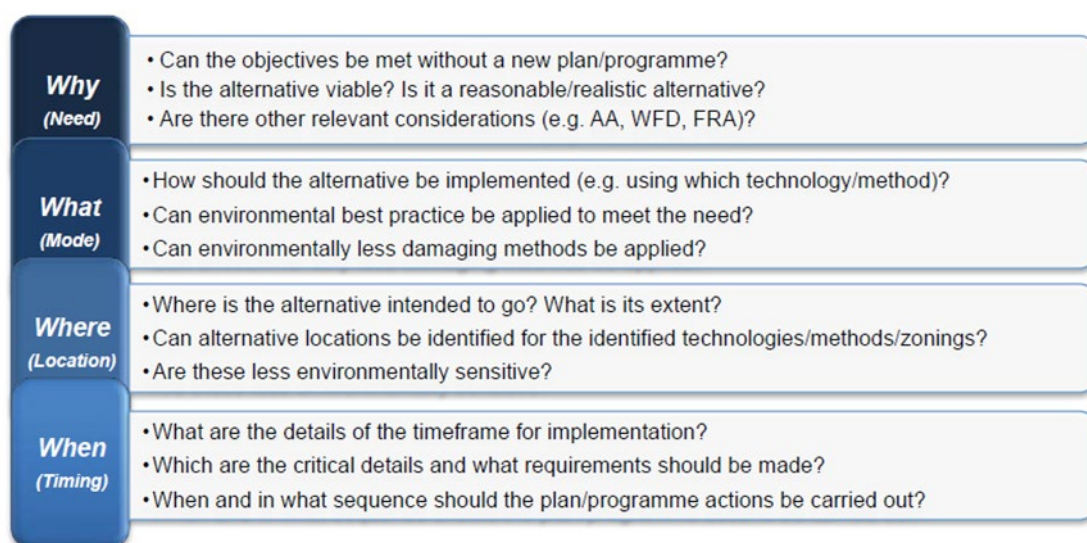


Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

3.3 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the Plan were identified as the Plan-making process evolved. An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. A description of these reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting these reasonable alternatives are presented in Tables 3-1 and 3-2.

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative was not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation a County Development Plan is a statutory requirement in this instance under Section 9(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).



Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives considered during the Plan-making Process

Theme	Description of Reasonable Alternatives
Planning for development at Lough Muckno at its environs	Alternative 1: Using the County Development Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at Lough Muckno and its environs.
	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the CDP, to provide for and control planning and development at Lough Muckno and its environs.
Approach to Rural Development and Settlement Development	Alternative 1: Ad Hoc Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption in favour of rural housing throughout the County and settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).
	Alternative 2: Managed Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption against rural housing in pressure areas only (justification required) with settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).
	Alternative 3: Managed Rural Development and Settlement Consolidation - Presumption against rural housing in pressure areas only (justification required) with settlement growth contained within existing built up footprint (mainly brownfield development).
	Alternative 4: Controlled Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption against rural housing throughout the County (justification required) with settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).
	Alternative 5: Controlled Rural Development and Settlement Consolidation - Presumption against rural housing throughout the County (justification required) with settlement growth contained within existing settlement built up footprint (mainly brownfield development).
	Alternative 6: Ad Hoc Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption in favour of rural housing throughout the County and settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).
Level of Residential Land Use Zoning in Clones	Alternative 1: No change to Residential land use zoning in Clones.
	Alternative 2: Change to Residential land use zoning in Clones.
Industry/Enterprise/Employment Zoning in Castleblayney and Ballybay	Alternative 1: Change of Industry/Enterprise/Employment land use zoning at peripheral areas of the settlement.
	Alternative 2: Retention of Industry/Enterprise/Employment land use zoning at peripheral areas of the settlement.
Noise Alleviation	Alternative 1: Continue to rely on Noise Alleviation objectives previously defined in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 - 2025.
	Alternative 2: Augment Noise Alleviation objectives - improving the focus and specificity of these objectives.



Table 3-2: Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives

Theme	Reasonable Alternative	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative
Planning for development at Lough Muckno at its environs	Alternative 1: Using the County Development Plan land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at Lough Muckno and its environs.	<p>Lough Muckno covers a wide geographical area and includes various attributes such as lakeland habitats, woodlands / recreational areas and protected structures and given its environmental attributes, its size, characteristics and features, it is of great importance to County Monaghan and the wider region.</p> <p>Using the CDP land use planning framework to provide for and control planning and development at Lough Muckno and its environs has the potential to generate a range of positive environmental effects across various environmental components. Appropriate environmental mitigation was incorporated into the CDP to support environmental enhancement, and avoid, prevent and offset as far as possible adverse environmental associated with the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>It was agreed that a Masterplan would be more suitable to sensitively address all features contained within this area. A Masterplan would set clear and area-specific policy and objectives to address any development in a sustainable, appropriately managed and balanced manner. Such a Masterplan shall be subject to SEA and AA, which would serve to define a framework of environmental protection measures specific to the area. A Strategic Objective to provide a Masterplan for Lough Muckno was therefore included in the CDP.</p>	Alternative 2.
	Alternative 2: Preparing and utilising a focused Masterplan and Development Framework, which would sit under the CDP, to provide for and control planning and development at Lough Muckno and its environs.		
Approach to Rural Development and Settlement Development	Alternative 1: Ad Hoc Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption in favour of rural housing throughout the County and settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).	<p>It was determined that the Managed Rural Development and Settlement Consolidation was the most favourable alternative - having regard to positive and negative environmental effects associated with the various alternatives considered.</p> <p>This alternative would facilitate appropriately located and scaled rural development in areas not designated as pressure areas. Well-balanced rural development has the potential to generate positive effects on a number Population and Human Health elements e.g., rural communities, local cultural heritage, rural economic activity and growth - whilst ensuring an appropriate level of environmental management and protection.</p> <p>Settlement Consolidation aligns with compact growth principles defined under the NPF and has lesser potential to generate the adverse environmental effects associated with expansive settlement referenced above.</p> <p>In addition, this approach supports sustainable land use and transportation and would promote the sustainable provision and optimised utilisation of Material Assets.</p> <p>Adopting the Managed Rural Development and Settlement Consolidation alternative would provide an appropriately balanced land use framework in the</p>	Alternative 3.
	Alternative 2: Managed Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption against rural housing in pressure areas only (justification required) with settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).		
	Alternative 3: Managed Rural Development and Settlement Consolidation - Presumption against rural housing in pressure areas only (justification required) with settlement growth contained within existing built up footprint (mainly brownfield development).		



Theme	Reasonable Alternative	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative
	<p>Alternative 4: Controlled Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption against rural housing throughout the County (justification required) with settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).</p> <p>Alternative 5: Controlled Rural Development and Settlement Consolidation - Presumption against rural housing throughout the County (justification required) with settlement growth contained within existing settlement built up footprint (mainly brownfield development).</p> <p>Alternative 6: Ad Hoc Rural Development and Settlement Expansion - Presumption in favour of rural housing throughout the County and settlements expanding beyond existing built up footprint (mainly greenfield development).</p>	<p>County. This preferred alternative had the potential to generate the greatest magnitude of positive environmental effects across environmental components, whilst ensuring rural development and settlement development will be managed and controlled in an appropriate manner that does not contribute to unsustainable land use patterns or increase the scale and magnitude of possible development related environmental effects in the Plan Area.</p>	
Level of Residential Land Use Zoning in Clones	Alternative 1: No change to Residential land use zoning in Clones.	<p>During the course of the Plan-making process, MCC conducted a review of pre-existing land use zoning in Clones. MCC considered the following alternative options for Residential land use zoning in the town:</p> <p>Retaining pre-existing Residential zoning in the town - considering the need for settlement consolidation and settlement growth aspirations.</p> <p>Changing Residential zoning in the town - to avoid potential effects on sensitive environmental features at certain lands, and to ensure settlement consolidation is more compact.</p> <p>Sensitive environmental features were identified at lands in Clones previously zoned for Residential land use, including:</p>	Alternative 2.



Theme	Reasonable Alternative	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative
	Alternative 2: Change to Residential land use zoning in Clones.	<p>The presence of the bird species Snipe at land zoned for Residential land use in the town.</p> <p>Land that are elevated and where a Protected Monument (Ref: MO011-011) is located on site.</p> <p>Thus, it was decided to change Residential zoning at the relevant lands in the town, as follows:</p> <p>Lands which contained sensitive environmental features, or which were subject to flood risk were re-zoned for Landscape Protection/Conservation.</p> <p>The serviced brownfield site was re-zoned for Residential land use so as to compensate for the reduction in the level of Residential land use zoning in the town and to promote appropriate compact growth and town regeneration.</p> <p>It was concluded that the preferred alternative has the potential to generate a variety of more positive environmental outcomes by comparison to the alternative of not changing Residential land use zoning in town.</p>	
Industry/Enterprise/Employment Zoning in Castleblayney and Ballybay	Alternative 1: Change of Industry/Enterprise/Employment land use zoning at peripheral areas of the settlement.	<p>A number of lands at the periphery of Castleblayney and Ballybay were previously zoned for Industry/Enterprise/Employment land use. MCC determined that a sufficient level of land was zoned for Industry/Enterprise/Employment at locations closer to the town centres of Castleblayney and Ballybay, however.</p> <p>MCC decided to change the zoning at the subject lands at the periphery of these settlements. The Industry/Enterprise/Employment land use zoning was removed at these lands. Environmental assessment informed the selection of the preferred alternative in this instance.</p>	Alternative 1.
	Alternative 2: Retention of Industry/Enterprise/Employment land use zoning at peripheral areas of the settlement.		
Noise Alleviation	Alternative 1: Continue to rely on Noise Alleviation objectives previously defined in the Monaghan County Development Plan 2019 - 2025.	<p>The pre-existing CDP for the Plan Area provided for development-related noise mitigation measures that are extensive and general in nature, promoting compliance with Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and all associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>During this Plan-making process, MCC considered continuing to rely on these general noise related objectives/mitigation measures relevant to development planning, or alternatively, augmenting noise-related mitigation, adding a greater</p>	Alternative 1.



Theme	Reasonable Alternative	Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives	Preferred Alternative
	Alternative 2: Augment Noise Alleviation objectives - improving the focus and specificity of these objectives.	<p>degree of focus and specificity - to better focus noise alleviation considerations during the development planning process.</p> <p>MCC decided to augment noise mitigation measures defined in the CDP. The following noise-related objectives were therefore included in the CDP to augment pre-existing noise-related mitigation:</p> <p>NO 2</p> <p>ATIP 14</p> <p>ATIP 15</p>	



4. SEA CONCLUSION

The reasonable alternatives evaluation presented in the preceding section has resulted in the development of a Plan that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternatives considered.

The adoption of the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the Plan will prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the Plan.

Environmental mitigation measures will also serve to prevent, reduce and fully offset potential negative transboundary effects that may be transmitted from the County to Northern Ireland. It has been concluded that the Plan will not have any likely, significant transboundary effects.

No further mitigation measures are required for the Plan.



5. SEA MONITORING

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan are monitored in order *'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'*

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of Plan implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out periodically to support Plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the Plan and the progress of SEOs and related targets.

MCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. The environmental effects (including positive, negative and cumulative effects) of Plan implementation will be monitored once every year over the course of the Plan's six-year lifetime. This monitoring will be carried out by the Forward Planning section of MCC who will report on progress and performance to the relevant SPC annually. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the Plan is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the Plan should take place and the Plan should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with Plan implementation are not being adequately realised, the Plan should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realisation of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the Plan.

The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the Plan is contained in Table 5-1. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2020). The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.

The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.



Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Population and Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE)/Health Atlas Ireland, the EPA and DAERA.
	PHH2	Promote economic activity and growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of objectives/policies protective and supportive of economic development as defined in Chapter 4 of the CDP. Compliance of lower order plans and projects with objectives/policies protective and supportive of economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of objectives/policies protective and supportive of economic development as defined in Chapter 4 of the CDP. No contravention of objectives/policies protective and supportive of economic development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of CDP implementation. Internal monitoring of lower order plan and project compliance with CDP objectives/policy protective and supportive of economic development. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) on economic elements of the Population and Human Health environmental component.
	PHH3	Ensure supporting infrastructure and services in the area are developed in a manner commensurate with population growth.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implementation of objectives/policies supportive of infrastructural development defined in Chapter 7 of the CDP. Compliance of lower order plans and projects with objectives/policies supportive of infrastructural development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Full implementation of objectives/policies supportive of infrastructural development defined in Chapter 7 of the CDP. No contravention of objectives/policies supportive of infrastructural development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of CDP implementation. Internal monitoring of lower order plan and project compliance with CDP objectives/policy supportive of infrastructural development. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) on Material Assets (Utilities).



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	B1	Ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁴ .	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the Plan⁵ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years). Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years). Consultation with the NPWS and DAERA (where appropriate). Review of NPWS and DAERA publications regarding the status of designated sites.

⁴ 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.

⁵ 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 plan to proceed; and
- (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	B2	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years). Review of Council Ecological Network Mapping. Mapping of important habitats and species.
	B3	Avoid or minimise significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, sites proposed for designation, and Areas of Special Scientific Interest; and to comply with the Wildlife Act (as amended) with regard to listed species.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, sites proposed for designation, and Areas of Special Scientific Interest resulting from development provided for by the Plan. Number of non-compliances of the Wildlife Act (as amended) with regard to listed species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites and Area of Special Scientific Interest resulting from development provided for by the Plan. No non-compliances of the Wildlife Act (as amended) with regard to listed species. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Review of NPWS and DAERA publications regarding the status of designated sites. Mapping of important habitats and species.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	B4	Aim for no net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of development with objectives/policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna defined in the CDP. No. of developments consented that have significant Biodiversity protection/enhancement proposals. Improved biodiversity areas (Area - km² / length - metres). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No contravention of objectives/policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna defined in the CDP. Consent for development proposals supported by the Plan only to be granted where development complies with objectives/policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna defined in the CDP. Increase number of developments consented that have significant Biodiversity protection/enhancement proposals. <p>Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP objectives/policy/ Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity and Heritage Strategic Plan. Mapping of important habitats and species.
	B5	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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Population of the county involved in land management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustain the population of the county involved in land management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of CSO figures for the county (every five years).
Landscape and Visual Amenity	L1	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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscape and amenity designations included in Land Use Plans, resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process).



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Cultural Heritage - Archaeological & Architectural	CH1	Protect, conserve and enhance designated and non-designated archaeological heritage, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) and the Northern Ireland Sites and Monuments Record (NISMR).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of features contained in the RMP and NISMR (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of the implementation of this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No features contained in the RMP and NISMR (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Consultation with the National Monuments Service and DAERA's Historic Environment Division.
	CH2	Protect, conserve and enhance designated and non-designated architectural heritage, including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH), industrial heritage, ACAs and conservation areas (Northern Ireland).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage of features contained in the RPS, NIAH, industrial heritage, ACAs and conservation areas (Northern Ireland) (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of the implementation of this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No features contained in the RMP and NISMR (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan. No features contained in the RPS, NIAH, industrial heritage, ACAs and conservation areas (Northern Ireland) (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Consultation with the National Monuments Service and DAERA's Historic Environment Division.
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	S2	Avoid adverse effects on the physico-chemical properties of soil.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physico-chemical properties of soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No adverse effects on physico-chemical properties of soil. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) i.e. Ground Investigations undertaken to inform development that may impact soils.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	S3	Ensure appropriate management of all soil and excavation material. Promote sustainable material reuse wherever appropriate.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments consented that have sustainable excavation material reuse proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments consented to have written statement for management of all soil and excavation material, where necessary. Increase number of developments consented that have sustainable excavation material reuse proposals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of the implementation of this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of the implementation of this plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Reduce travel related emissions and to encourage modal change from private car to sustainable modes of travel, including public transport, walking and cycling.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the county, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. Improvements in air quality status in the county. % change in modal split. Length of new sustainable transport routes developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the county. Reduction in private car use. Extension and improvement of the sustainable transport network in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation with the EPA. Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County. Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report. Central Statistics Office (CSO) Population data - Commuting in Ireland (every c. 5 years). Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the county, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. Improvements in air quality status in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors. Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Consultation with the EPA. Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County. Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts on existing or proposed sensitive receptors.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of sensitive receptors exposed to noise nuisance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No sensitive receptors exposed to nuisance noise in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Monitoring of internal noise complaint investigations undertaken. Consultation with the EPA and DAERA (where appropriate).
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface water bodies.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification of Overall Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Status of bathing waters as monitored under the Bathing Water Directive. Programme for the WFD. Status of Northern Irish Waters, as reported by DAERA. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Pollution Incidents detected due to poor bathing water quality results. Not to cause deterioration in the status of any water or affect the ability of any water to achieve 'good status'.⁶ No deterioration in the status of any bathing waters, having appropriate regard to bathing water mandatory and guidelines values defined in the Bathing Water Directive. Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Data issued under the WFD Monitoring Programme for Ireland and Northern Ireland (multi-annual).
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Status of groundwater bodies as reported by the EPA National Groundwater Monitoring Programme for the WFD. Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No deterioration in the status of groundwater quality, having appropriate regard to Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values defined under Directive 2006/118/EC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Data issued under the WFD Monitoring Programme

⁶ Corresponding guidance from Northern Ireland legislation: Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007 (as amended).



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process) Consultation with the EPA and DAERA.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG and OPW, 2009) ⁷	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	W5	Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments consented that have sustainable drainage proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of developments consented that have sustainable drainage proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	W6	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. No contribution to non-compliances to The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. No contribution to non-compliances to The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application. Review of DAERA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of EPA Remedial Action List.

⁷ 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)



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Material Assets	MAI1	Serve new development with adequate and appropriate waste water treatment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	MAI2	Serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023 No contribution to non-compliances to The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. No contribution to non-compliances to The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application. Review of DAERA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of EPA Remedial Action List.
	MAI3	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	MAI4	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process), including monitoring of effects on other future planned or committed Material Asset infrastructure projects. Consultation with Uisce Éireann, Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	MAI5	Promote sustainable transportation and deliver enhanced traffic and transport conditions, where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives (m²). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the county. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	MAI6	Promote sustainable waste/material management and the circular economy.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments consented that have sustainable material reuse proposals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All new developments consented to have written statement for management of material generated during construction, where necessary. Increase number of developments consented that have sustainable reuse proposals for material generated during construction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process).
Tourism and Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities, and enhance tourism and recreation, where possible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visitor trips to local authority functional area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stable or increasing number of visitor trips to local authority functional area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fáilte Ireland Data on Tourism Performance
Climate Change	CC1	Support in the achievement of the 2030 target of a 51% reduction in carbon emissions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce GHG emissions for all sectors in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the county.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	CC2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy as appropriate to the county with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of GHG emissions in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce GHG emissions for all sectors in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the county.
	CC3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at county level.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Level of GHG emissions in the county. Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone. Net addition of tree cover added cover. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce GHG emission in the county to Net Zero. Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero. Increase level of tree in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the county. Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
	CC4	Promote the carrying out of climate resilient development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments consented that are subject to unacceptable climate risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No developments consented that are subject to unacceptable climate risks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	CC5	Promote low carbon and net zero development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of low carbon and net zero measures included as part of development projects that have been granted consent. Adherence to the Near Zero Building Standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of low carbon and net zero measures included as part of development projects that have been granted consent. All new buildings shall be developed in accordance with the Near Zero Building Standards. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	CC6	Promote the carrying out of development that incorporates nature-based solutions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of nature-based solutions proposals included as part of development projects that have been granted consent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of nature-based solutions proposals included as part of development projects that have been granted consent. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	CC7	Promote active travel and reduce reliance on the use of private vehicles for transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the county. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of proposed development projects (during the development planning process)
	CC8	Support the transition to zero or low carbon Electric Vehicles.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Number of Electric Vehicle owners in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Increase number of Electric Vehicle owners in the county. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSO Electric vehicle ownership data. Data on Electric Vehicle charging points in the County (available on Data.gov.ie).



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