



VOL **12**

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Wexford County

Development Plan

2022 - 2028

Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

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1 Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 (the 'Plan' and / or 'WCDP') which was adopted on the 13 June 2022 and is effective from the 25 July 2022.

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is derived from European Directive 2001/42/EC *on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment* (also known as the 'SEA Directive'). SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality and consequences of Plans or Programmes (P/Ps). The purpose is to ensure that the environmental consequences of Plans or Programmes are assessed both during their preparation and prior to their adoption. The SEA process also gives specified environmental authorities, interested parties and the general public, an opportunity to comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed Plans or Programmes and to be kept informed during the decision-making process.

The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) was transposed into national legislation by the:

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

The latter Regulations (i.e. S.I. No. 436 of 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011) provide for SEA for development plans such as the Wexford County Development Plan. The requirement to carry out SEA for plans such is set out in Article 13A(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2022, which states that SEA is required where it *applies to a development plan for an area the population or the target population of which is less than 10,000 persons*. The 2016 Census records the population of County Wexford at 149,722 persons and therefore, SEA was a mandatory requirement for the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Article 13I of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2022 requires that the plan-making authority must make available an SEA Statement summarising how the SEA, environmental considerations, the Environmental Report and consultations have been taken into account in the making of the Plan. In addition,

the plan-making authority has to detail the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and the measures decided for monitoring of implementation of the plan on the environment.

This SEA Statement is a reflective document that looks back on the SEA process, what has been achieved and it also sets out what monitoring will be done in the future.

1.2 Content of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

In accordance with Article 13I of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2022 the SEA Statement shall summarise the following:

- (a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan (Chapter 2);
- (b) how:
 - (i) the environmental report prepared pursuant to article 13C,
 - (ii) submissions and observations made to the planning authority in response to a notice under section 12(1) or (7) of the Act, and
 - (iii) any consultations under article 13F.have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan (Chapter 2),
- (c) the reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with (Chapter 3), and
- (d) the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 13J, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan (Chapter 4).

1.3 Key Stages of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process

A summary of the key stages of the SEA process are set out in the Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1: Key Stages of the SEA Process for the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

SEA Stage	SEA Actions
<p>1. Screening</p>	<p>The requirement to undertake a SEA is mandatory for certain Plan / Programme (P / P). Where SEA is not a mandatory requirement, the P / Ps is subject to a ‘Screening process’, to consider if it is <i>likely to have significant effects</i> on the environment, and therefore, if SEA is required.</p> <p>In accordance with Article 13A(1) Screening of the Wexford County Development Plan is not required as SEA is mandatory requirement based on the population or target population for the Plan not being less than 10,000 persons.</p>
<p>2. Scoping</p>	<p>Wexford County Council undertook consultation with the environmental authorities specified in article 13A(4) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ methods of assessment for the SEA; ▪ contents and level of detail in the Plan / Programme; ▪ the stage in the Plan or Programme-making process; and ▪ the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment. <p>A SEA Scoping Report was prepared and issued to the environmental authorities in 2018 with an invitation to return submissions or observations on the Scoping Report. Due to delays in finalising the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region the preparation of the development plan was put on hold pending completion of the RSES and therefore, the scoping exercise with the environmental authorities was repeated in 2020. Submissions / observations were received from the following environmental authorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); ▪ Geological Survey, Ireland (GSI) - under the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCAE); ▪ Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM); ▪ Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO); and ▪ Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. <p>The submissions / observations provided information on legislation, guidance, sources of information, the baseline environment, and on key considerations for the draft plan and its environmental assessment.</p>

SEA Stage	SEA Actions
	<p>These assisted, guided and informed the preparation of the draft WCDP and the strategic environmental assessment of the draft plan.</p>
<p>3. Environmental Assessment and Environmental Report</p>	<p>An assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the Plan and the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report. This was an iterative process with various rounds of environmental assessment as the draft plan was being prepared.</p> <p>The Environmental Report went out on public display with the Draft Development Plan from 28 September 2020 to 9 December 2020. A total of 168 submissions and observations were received on the draft plan and some directly related to the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>The submissions and observations were considered and proposed amendments, which were subject to screening and assessment for AA and SEA, were recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report of 21 April 2021. The Members of Wexford County Council considered the proposed amendments and proposed further amendments, all of which were screened for the requirement for further assessment under SEA and AA processes. Together with an updated SEA Environmental Report, the proposed material amendments (PMA) went back on public display from 7 April 2022 to 6 May 2022. A further 56 submissions and observations on the PMA were received and some directly related to the SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>The submissions and observations were considered and proposed minor modifications, which were subject to screening for AA and SEA, were recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report of 1 June 2022. The Members of Wexford County Council considered the proposed minor modifications and formally adopted the new Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 on the 13 June 2022.</p>
<p>4. SEA Statement</p>	<p>Coming in effect of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 the finalisation of the SEA Environmental Report and the preparation of the SEA Statement (this report) in accordance with Article 13I of Planning and Development Regulations 2001-2022, summarising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan; ▪ how the environmental report; submissions and observations made to the planning authority in response to a notice under section 12(1) or (7) of the Act, and any consultations under article 13F of the Regulations have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan; ▪ the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and

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SEA Stage	SEA Actions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="459 260 1991 327">the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 13J, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan.

1.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

In addition to the SEA, there is a requirement under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (as transcribed into Irish law) to assess whether the Development Plan, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, is likely to have significant effect on a European site, which includes Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), in view of the site's conservation objectives. The requirement for an assessment derives from Article 6 of the directive, and in particular Article 6(3) which requires that:

“Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the conservation of a site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives.”

In accordance with this requirement, an Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening was carried out, in parallel with the SEA process. It was determined that AA was required and a Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared to inform an AA. The AA took a precautionary approach and assessed the impacts that would be anticipated from the Development Plan providing the necessary inclusion of mitigation measures and guiding principles at the strategic level of the plan.

The Development Plan was also subject to an assessment / identification of flood risk for the plan area in accordance with *“The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities”*, 2009, published by the Department for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Office of Public Works (OPW). This addresses the assessment and management of flood risk and surface water in the plan area and assisted Wexford County Council in making informed strategic land-use planning decisions. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared in parallel with the plan-making and SEA processes.

The plan-making, SEA, SFRA and AA teams worked closely together throughout the Development Plan process. As a precautionary approach, the Development Plan included environmental protection criteria which require avoidance of European Sites in the first instance and reiterated the legislative requirement for AA screening and full AA where potential for effects exists. The findings of the AA and SFRA have been integrated into the SEA.

2 Integration of Environmental Considerations in to the Plan

2.1 Introduction

This section details how both the SEA Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028.

2.2 SEA Consultation

A number of opportunities are integrated into the plan-making process to allow for consultation with the environmental authorities and the general public on the plan and SEA:

- Pre-draft, including consultation on SEA Scoping;
- Draft Plan; and
- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan.

Submissions and observations were made at each of these stages and these informed the preparation and finalisation of the plan and the SEA process.

2.3 Pre-draft Consultation

In accordance with Section 11(1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) Wexford County Council commenced the review of the Wexford County Development Plan and the preparation of a new Plan for the County and a notice to this effect was published in local newspapers and on the Council's website on 7 February 2017.

At this initial stage Wexford County Council prepared an Issues Paper for public consultation on the review of the existing Wexford County Development Plan and the preparation of the new County Development Plan. The issues paper set out information in relation to the background the review and the new plan, the strategic planning context, core strategy, settlement strategy, population, housing, economic development and employment, sustainable communities and social inclusion, communities and education facilities, open space and recreation, heritage, climate change, flood risk management, coastal zone management and marine spatial planning, transportation, infrastructure, and environmental assessments including SEA and AA.

The council circulated the issues paper to the prescribed authorities and environmental authorities set out in Part 3, Article 13 and 13A respectively of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) as well as to key infrastructure providers and stakeholders. The council also made the Issues Paper available to the public and convened a number of public consultation events in the county.

Submissions and observations were invited between 10 February 2017 to 11 April 2017, during which period a total of 41 submissions and observations were received. A number of submissions and observations specifically addressed SEA, AA and key environmental issues, while a broad range of other, often SEA related, issues were also covered including:

- Health and wellbeing;
- Core Strategy and allocation of population and sustainable settlement patterns and transport;
- Housing need/type/mix/location and one off rural housing;
- Development of towns and rural areas and ensuring the balanced development of the county;
- Education;
- Economic development including tourism development;
- Renewable energy including solar energy and wind energy;
- Retail development;
- Infrastructure (electricity, water, wastewater, telecommunications and broadband);
- Agricultural practices, industrial development in rural areas;
- Land use zoning;
- Transport-rail, bus, roads, walking and cycling and car parking;
- Unauthorised business/planning law;
- Hedges and boundaries; and
- Heritage-architectural, archaeological and natural, culture and Arts

SEA related submissions and observations included information on existing SEA of offshore wind energy, SEA of the Wind Energy Strategy, SEA for renewable energy, Guidance on SEA for development plans, relationship between SEA and AA and potential cumulative effects, provision of appropriate mitigation for identified significant environmental effects, and coastal zone management.

2.4 SEA Scoping Consultation

In accordance with Article 13D of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, a SEA Scoping Report was prepared to allow for scoping on the content of the SEA environmental report with the specified environmental authorities¹. The Scoping report provided information in relation to:

- the current knowledge and methods of environmental assessment;
- the contents and level of detail in the plan;

¹ The following environmental authorities were notified for the purposes of SEA Scoping: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment; Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht; Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government; Carlow County Council; Kilkenny County Council; Wateford County Council; and Wicklow County Council.

- the stage of the plan in the decision-making process; and
- the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.

SEA Scoping ensures that the environmental assessment process is focused on the relevant environmental issues and examines issues at the appropriate level of detail and allows for the incorporation of the views of the environmental authorities within the Draft Plan and the SEA Environmental Report.

Scoping with the environmental authorities was undertaken between December 2017 and January 2018, however due to a delay in the plan-making process to allow for completion of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region, it was decided to reengage with the environmental authorities on SEA scoping between May and June 2020.

Submissions and observations on SEA Scoping were received from the following Environmental Authorities:

- The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (submission in 2018 and 2020);
- Geological Survey, Ireland (GSI) - under the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA) (submission in 2018 and 2020);
- Department of Agriculture, Food & the Marine (DAFM) (submission in 2018 and 2020);
- National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) (2020);
- Southern Region Waste Management Office (SRWMO) (2020); and
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department's Development Applications Unit (2020).

The submissions provided information on sources of guidance and useful resources and aspects for consideration and incorporation in the Draft Plan and in SEA Environmental Report. A summary of the submissions is provided in the Table 2.1.

Table 2.1: SEA Scoping Submissions and Responses

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
1	EPA (June 2020)	<p>Recommended Guidance & Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ SEA process guidance and checklists. ▪ Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA. ▪ Topic specific SEA guidance (including <i>Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i> (EPA, 2020), <i>Integrating climatic factors into SEA</i> (EPA, 2019), <i>Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA</i> (EPA, 2015), and <i>Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment</i> (EPA, 2012)). ▪ Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool. ▪ EPA SEA Web GIS Tool. ▪ EPA WFD Application. ▪ EPA AA Geo Tool. ▪ <i>SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources</i>. 2020 Version 1.6. ▪ <i>Ireland's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Projections for 2018-2040</i>. ▪ <i>Integrating Climatic Factors into the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process in Ireland</i>. <p>Specific Comments on the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>'State of the Environment Report - Ireland's Environment 2016'</i>. Consider the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within this report. ▪ <i>Sustainable Development Goals</i>. UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. Relevant targets and actions in Ireland's SDG Implementation Plan (DCCA, 2018) should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan. ▪ <i>Critical service infrastructure</i>. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place. ▪ <i>Climate Action</i>. National commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation. ▪ <i>Coastal Zone Management</i>. Specific coastal zone management objectives and future climate scenarios. ▪ <i>Integration of transport & land-use planning</i>. Compact growth and better integration of transport. ▪ <i>Biodiversity</i>. Promote the need to protect non-designated aspects of biodiversity including ecological corridors / linkages / green infrastructure and areas of important local biodiversity. ▪ <i>Invasive Alien Species Control and Management</i>. Addressing the control and management of invasive species. ▪ <i>Community Engagement</i>. The need to proactively engage local communities should be a core consideration. ▪ <i>Key Plans and Programmes</i>: Spatial Planning, Sustainable Development, Tourism, Climate, Biodiversity, Water & Water Services, Transport, Air & Noise. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

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No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
2	Geological Survey, Ireland Under DCCAE (June 2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document is comprehensive and adequately covers the topics on which we normally comment. <p>Geoheritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage the inclusion of specific policy objectives for County geological sites. ▪ National Heritage Plan - major strand of geological nature conservation ▪ Audit for County Wexford was carried out in 2019 and launched in March 2020. <p>Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Groundwater Programme - vulnerable, resource, groundwater needs to be understood, managed and protected. ▪ GSI monitors groundwater nationwide. ▪ Flood Risk Management - need to identify integrated mitigation and management. ▪ Recommends using the GSI's GWFlood tools. <p>Geohazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSI has information available on past landslides, for viewing on our website and as a layer on our Map Viewer. ▪ Landslide Susceptibility Mapping and GW Flood Groundwater Flooding. ▪ Coastal flooding and storm surges. ▪ Recommends using geohazards and particularly flooding be taken into consideration. Coastal Vulnerability is seen as a potential geohazard. <p>Geothermal Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ireland has widespread shallow geothermal resources. ▪ Recommends using the Geothermal Suitability maps. <p>Natural Resources (Minerals / Aggregates)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable development of our natural resources should be an integral part of all development plans. ▪ GSI provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development. ▪ Government of Ireland "Building Ireland 2040" plan, understanding of aggregate source and supply will be important. <p>Marine and Coastal Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Seabed mapping; providing key baseline data for Ireland's marine sector. ▪ Coastal monitoring programmes providing data on coastal erosion and sea level rise including the Climate, Heritage and Environments of Reefs, Islands and Headlands (CHERISH) and the Coastal Vulnerability Index (CVI) mapping projects. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
3	Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (June 2020)	<p>Legislation, Plans & Polices</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Foreshore Act 1933-2011. ▪ Aquaculture Act 1997-2006. ▪ SEA Fisheries and Maritime Jurisdiction Act 2006 & Sea Fisheries Regulations. ▪ Fisheries Natura Plans & Declarations made under European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-fisheries) Regulations 2013. ▪ National Seafood Operational Programme & National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture 2014-2020. ▪ Food Harvest 2020. ▪ Harnessing Our Ocean Wealth. ▪ Implementation of pollution reduction programmes for designated shellfish waters (Shellfish Waters Directive 2006/113/EC). ▪ Classified Shellfish Production areas, under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004). ▪ National Climate Change Adaption Framework. <p>Issues for Consideration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on marine environmental quality. ▪ Potential impacts, both positive and negative, on the microbiological quality of shellfish in Classified Shellfish Production areas. ▪ Potential impacts on human health resulting from the placing on the market of microbiologically contaminated shellfish. ▪ Potential impacts on commercially important fish and shellfish stocks, licensed aquaculture sites and areas of importance for fish / shellfish and fisheries e.g. spawning grounds, nursery areas. ▪ Potential impacts on freshwater aquaculture operations including the requirement for water abstraction and capacity of the receiving waters to assimilate discharges. ▪ Future designations of areas of importance to the Aquaculture and Fisheries Sector. ▪ Relevant EU Directives and National Legislation in the area of Marine Spatial Planning. <p>Potential Impacts on Sea-Fisheries and Aquaculture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Major land-use changes - significantly impact the quality of the marine. ▪ Safe high quality water and assessment of potential impacts on water quality should include the seafood sector. ▪ Seafood processing sector - requires reliable water supply. ▪ Designated shellfish waters are very important to the shellfish sector. <p>Sources of Marine Data</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Details of designated shellfish growing areas which are protected by law (2006/113/EC). 	<p>Specific comments and issues for consideration are noted, have been reviewed and incorporated where possible.</p> <p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Details of Classified Shellfish Production areas (classified for food safety and consumer protection purposes under Regulation (EC) No 854/2004) are available on the Sea-Fisheries Protection Authority website: http://www.sfpa.ie/ ▪ The Marine Institute website or Marine Institute Open Access Repository. http://www.marine.ie/Home/publications ▪ Relevant reports and on line GIS - Shellfish Stocks and Fisheries Review 2011: An Assessment of Selected Stocks; Atlas of Commercial Fisheries around Ireland; Atlas of Commercial Discarding; and Ireland's Marine Atlas. ▪ Information on the Initial Assessment of Ireland's marine waters. http://www.environ.ie/en/Environment/Water/WaterQuality/Marine/ <p>Consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DAFM - policies and plans. ▪ Sea Fisheries Protection Authority (SFPA). Competent Authority for Seafood Safety. ▪ Marine Institute - Fisheries & Marine Environment. ▪ BIM (Bord Iascaigh Mhara) - Seafood Development Agency. ▪ Regional, local action groups, fisheries representative bodies. 	
4	Department of Culture, Heritage (June 2020)	<p>Nature Conservation</p> <p><u>Baseline data</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity Section should have referenced the current Biodiversity crisis. ▪ Protect biodiversity is as urgent a priority as climate change ▪ This commitment should be reflected in the County Development Plan. ▪ Biodiversity Section is heavily reliant on protected sites to provide baseline data and recommends that clear commitment should be demonstrated in relation to biodiversity conservation generally and not just in relation to protected sites, habitats and species. ▪ Halting the loss of biodiversity and degradation of ecosystem services as set out in the EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2030. This commitment should be reflected in the County Development Plan. <p><u>Green Infrastructure in spatial planning.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommends the County's Green Infrastructure Network is included as baseline information. ▪ Recommends that a review of the County's ecological resources would inform the development of such a network. ▪ Green Infrastructure, as defined by the EU definition, is not confused with provision of Greenways, Blueways and Peatways. ▪ Encourages the free dissemination of biodiversity data. 	<p>Specific comments and issues for consideration are noted, have been reviewed and incorporated where possible.</p> <p>Guidelines & resources are considered within the assessment.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>Biodiversity Issues</p> <p><u>Ecological Networks and Wildlife Corridors</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Culverting of watercourses - These streams represent missed opportunities for amenity and biodiversity. ▪ Rehabilitation measures. ▪ Watercourse rehabilitation is also an opportunity for climate change mitigation. <p><u>Coastal habitat conservation and coastal squeeze</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Coastal habitats in Ireland provide ecosystem services including biodiversity, recreation, coastal protection and food provision. ▪ Coastal squeeze ▪ Climate change is predicted to cause sea level rise and increased storminess, which in turn will lead to greater frequency of coastal flooding and erosion events, and eventually to landward movement of coastlines and coastal habitats. ▪ The focus on coastal areas for transport, tourism and recreation infrastructure has increased. ▪ Growing demand to bring built infrastructure into areas of conservation interest and to protect property through the use of coastal defences. ▪ The Department advises that SEA of the draft Plan should consider coastal issues in greater detail. <p><u>Nitrogen deposition</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Nitrogen deposition on Natura 2000 sites within the draft Plan's zone of influence. <p><u>Hedgerows and roadside verges</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Impacts on hedgerows through plan implementation ▪ It is suggested that hedgerow could be an aspect of the environment used to monitor the impacts of the plan. ▪ Mitigation could include implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015 <p><u>Quarries</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There are closed up quarries in the County where removal of old machinery, fuel and lubricant waste or invasive species has not been carried out. ▪ There is an issue here with exposed water tables, Peregrine Falcons and disturbance by clay pigeon-shooting. ▪ Some quarries nationally and perhaps in the County have problems with exposed and ground-down pyrite minerals which cause serious acidification and pollution. <p><u>Ash disease</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ If, (as is expected) County Wexford loses over 90% of its ash trees there will be several consequences. ▪ This issue may need to be considered strategically in the development of the plan. <p><u>Artificial lighting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artificial lighting can negatively impact bats, fish and other wildlife and consideration should be given to 	

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		<p>monitoring its impacts.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EUROBATS and Dark Sky Ireland lighting recommendations which provide further information on reducing the impact of lighting on wildlife. <p><u>SEA monitoring</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Member States are required to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans. ▪ Monitoring during plan implementation should allow for corrective action and intervention ▪ If environmental damage is noted and it will provide a learning opportunity for practitioners and decision makers for future land use plans. ▪ Monitoring can use existing sources of information including data collected by other government departments or agencies but the loss or enhancement of biodiversity due to development can only be adequately monitored and recorded through the planning process. Consideration should be given to monitoring nitrogen deposition impacts on Natura 2000 sites within the draft Plan’s zone of influence in the SEA. The Department would welcome a clear and specific monitoring plan to be included with the Strategic Environmental Report that would clearly outline how it is proposed to record the impacts of plan implementation on biodiversity, both in terms of biodiversity loss and biodiversity enhancement during the lifetime of the plan. The Department would also welcome the publishing of such report. <p><u>Specific comments on the Scoping Report.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strategic Environmental Objectives for Wexford should be reviewed. 	
5	<p>Southern Region Waste Management Office (June 2020)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner More Competitive Europe</i>. The New Circular Economy Action Plan builds on the aims and achievements of the first Circular Economy Action Plan Closing the Loop which was launched in 2015. ▪ Waste management of construction & demolition waste, there is now a recognised need for waste prevention planning at design stage. 	<p>These aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan & SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>
6	<p>Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (January 2018)</p>	<p>Archaeology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Archaeological Heritage for Wexford. ▪ List of Historic Monuments - There are far more recorded monuments registered in the Record of Monuments and Places. ▪ Wexford’s coastal heritage is barely referenced. ▪ The Wreck Inventory of Ireland Database, which can be consulted on appointment, has a record of at least 2,500 wrecks for County Wexford, not just 62 as indicated. ▪ Wexford developed as a direct result of its coastal location. ▪ Any proposed County Development Plan should, as part of the Cultural Heritage Section, have definitive section / policies on the protection of both Wexford’s and its environs’ terrestrial and underwater cultural heritage. 	<p>Guidelines & resources are considered within the assessment.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Plan should include provision for the adequate assessment and protection of both known and potential terrestrial and underwater archaeology. ▪ Flood Risk Assessments and Coastal Protection Assessments - flood relief and coastal protection requirements, while protecting the archaeological heritage. ▪ Developing Policies and Objectives for proposed Plan, will further strengthen and build upon the current protection afforded the archaeological heritage of the county under the current plan. ▪ Consideration be paid to the importance and subsequent protection of, the underwater cultural heritage of the areas covered by the plan. ▪ The Shipwreck Inventory of Ireland for Wexford lists a high volume of shipwrecks for, and under the 1987 National Monuments Amendment legislation, all wrecks over 100-years old are protected. ▪ The RMP is not an exhaustive list of all archaeology in existence, and in this regard the National Monuments Service would like to draw the Council’s attention to the Department’s published policy in relation to the archaeological assessment of large-scale developments on sites where there are no previously recorded monuments (Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage – Published by Dúchas The Heritage Service). ▪ Historic Town of Wexford WX037-032 Town is itself a Recorded Monument protected under the National Monuments Act (1930-2004). ▪ The Department has published a National Policy on the protection of town defences. It is recommended that the Council take into account this Department’s published policies in relation to the protection of archaeological monuments and their settings in this regard. ▪ WCC should seek to continue to protect the archaeological heritage of County Wexford from damage resulting from the re-zoning of land for development purposes. ▪ Unknown underwater archaeological sites, structures, features or artefacts, and this should be considered. ▪ Any development either above or below ground, within the vicinity of any terrestrial or underwater site of archaeological interest shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site or its setting. <p>Archaeological Assessments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Proposed developments, due to their location, size, or nature and that may have implications for the archaeological heritage, should be subject to archaeological assessment, including underwater archaeological assessments. ▪ Such developments include those that are located at or close to an archaeological monument or site, those that are extensive in terms of area (1/2 hectare or more) or length (1 kilometre or more) and developments that require an Environmental Impact Statement. Archaeological heritage includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Monuments in the ownership or care of the State or Local Authority. • Archaeological and Architectural monuments / sites in the Record of Monuments and Places. 	

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monuments in the Register of Historic Monuments. • Zones of Archaeological Potential in Historic Towns. • Underwater Archaeological Heritage, including Historic Wrecks. • Previously unknown and unrecorded archaeological sites (including subsurface elements with no visible surface remains, both terrestrial and underwater). • Potential sites located in the vicinity of large complexes of site or monuments. • Present or former wetlands, unenclosed land, rivers or lakes, or the inter-tidal / foreshore zone. • Objects or artefacts of known or potential archaeological significance, including into the modern period and recent past. <p>Nature Conservation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Department has previously provided SEA scoping comments at Plan review stage, our ref FP2017-012, and Wexford County Council and its consultants should refer to these to ensure they have adequately covered all the SEA issues for the natural heritage. ▪ In particular the proposed SEOs should include all species protected under the Wildlife Acts and not only those on schedule 5 of the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 as currently proposed for SEO B1. 	
7	EPA (January 2018)	<p>Key Plans and Programmes</p> <p>Key plans and programmes, adopted or in preparation, to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Draft National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 Our Plan. ▪ River Basin Management Plan for Ireland (expected to be published in Q1 2018). ▪ Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (in preparation). ▪ Draft National Adaptation Framework. ▪ National Mitigation Plan. ▪ Irish Water’s Water Services Strategic Plan / Capital Investment Programme. ▪ Fáilte Ireland’s 5-year Tourism Strategy (in preparation). <p>Environmental Baseline and Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It would be useful to provide a summary of the previous baseline at the commencement of the current Wexford County Development Plan 2013-2019 and how the baseline has changed over the plan period, in order to highlight any existing or emerging issues. <p>Draft Strategic Environmental Objectives, Indicators and Targets</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Targets and indicators should be measurable and meaningful. ▪ Air and Climate, there would be merit in considering an additional Objective (A2) relating to climate adaption and building resilience to climate change. ▪ W1, “% change in waters achieving and maintaining good status” may be more appropriate than “% increase...” 	<p>Guidelines & resources are considered within the assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>Water Quality Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A new website ‘Catchments.ie’ which provides detailed information on water quality assessments and trends for catchments, sub-catchments and water bodies nationally. ▪ Additional water quality information, based on the characterisation work undertaken as part of the second cycle of River Basin Management planning, is also available via the WFD Application on EDEN https://wfd.edenireland.ie/ ▪ The WFD Application provides a single point of access to catchment data useful for a range of catchment science and management purposes. <p>Scoping Process Guidance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The attached SEA integration guidance document updates the guidance included in our previous submission dated 06th April 2017. It sets out the key environmental issues to be taken into account, as relevant and appropriate, in preparing the SEA and Plan. ▪ Guidance on the SEA Scoping Process, including an SEA Pack, Integration Guidance, SEA Checklist, SEA Spatial Information Sources and guidance on Integrating Climate Change into SEA, is available on the EPA website and should be considered in the preparation of the SEA. This can be consulted at the following address: http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/ ▪ Guidance on Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015) is also available at: http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/developingandassessingalternativesinsea.html <p>Environmental Authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Under the SEA Regulations. 	
8	Geological Survey, Ireland under DCCA (January 2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The document is comprehensive and adequately covers the topics on which we normally comment. ▪ We like to see the use of Geological Survey, Ireland (GSI) data and maps in the report and we would like to remind you that our full suite of data is freely available on our public web viewer: http://dcenr.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=a30af518e87a4c0ab2fbde2aaac3c228 ▪ We would appreciate if the use of this data is acknowledged in any reports or plans. ▪ The Wexford County Geological Sites (CGS) are listed in Section 4.4.2 Geology but it might be useful to reference these also in Section 4.3.3 Tourism and Section 4.7 Cultural Heritage. ▪ Wexford is an important part of the geological story of Ireland and the County Geological Sites contribute to the overall character of Wexford and its landscape. Geological tourism (Geotourism) or landscape tourism is an essential part of Ireland’s economy and an aspect which is being developed further by many country and national tourism organisations. 	<p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the assessment.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

2.5 Draft Plan Consultation

The Draft Plan was subject to strategic environment assessment and together with the SEA Environmental Report, Natura Impact Report (NIR) and SRFA, was placed on public display between 28 September 2020 and 9 December 2020 during which written submissions and observations invited.

A total of 168 submissions and observations were received and 18 of the submissions and observations included references relating to the Environmental Report and many more submissions related to environmental aspects for the Draft Plan. These submissions provided information on sources of guidance, useful resources and suggestions for items to be addressed and monitored. A summary of the Environmental Authority submissions is provided in the Table 2.2.

The Chief Executive prepared a report (21 April 2021) summarising the submissions and observations and recommending that the Members of Wexford County Council make material alterations to the Draft Plan. Having considered the submissions and observations and the Chief Executive's Report, the Members proposed material alterations (PMA) to the Draft Plan. The PMA were screened and assessed for AA and SEA. The SEA Environmental Report was subsequently updated to take account of:

- Submissions received (Refer to Table 2.2);
- Emerging data and the changes as a result of iterative nature of SEA.
- Screening and assessment of amendments;
- Updating of interactions with NIR / SFRA and Climate; and
- To fully document the assessment which has taken place for the draft Plan and the material amendments.

2.6 Proposed Material Alterations Consultation

The material alterations proposed to the Draft Plan were placed on further 4 week period of public display between 7 April 2022 and 6 May 2022 during which 56 submissions and observations on the material amendments, SEA Environmental Report, NIR and / or SFRA were made. The Chief Executive's Report of 1 June 2022 on the review of the submissions or observations included further minor modifications to the Draft Plan. The proposed minor modifications were subject to Screening for AA and for SEA. The report was issued to the Members of Wexford County Council on 1 June 2022. The Members considered the report and the proposed minor modifications, and adopted the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028 on the 13 June 2022.

All submissions and observations from consultations have been considered and where appropriate have influenced the making of the Plan and the SEA Environmental Report.

Table 2.2: Submissions and Observations on the SEA Environmental Report

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
1	Geological Survey Ireland	<p>Geoheritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSI welcome the detailed inclusion of the County Geological Sites (CGSs) within the draft Development Plan. CGSs have been adopted in the National Heritage Plan, however, that management issues for the majority of geological heritage sites may differ from ecological sites, and in some cases development may facilitate enhanced geological understanding of a site by exposing more rock sections. <p>Culture and Tourism</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geology has become a large part of Irish tourism. Ireland currently has three UNESCO Global Geoparks. GSI would encourage Wexford County Council to continue this trend, and to use the geological audit information making it easily available to the general public. GSI welcome the inclusion of geology as a theme in the current Hook Lighthouse Visitor Experience project. <p>Dimension Stone / Stone Built Ireland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSI recently signed a research collaboration agreement, with the aim of documenting building and decorative stone in Ireland to inform government agencies, building owners and conservationists of the sources for suitable replacement stone in restoration work and to develop a greater awareness among the general public. This project could be considered as part of the themes and objectives in Section 13.4 ‘Built Heritage’ in the Draft Plan. <p>Geological Mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quaternary (subsoil) mapping began in Co. Wexford in July 2020. The data collected includes outcrop, borehole and shallow geophysical data in areas where existing data coverage was low. The National Quaternary map and the Bedrock Geology 50K maps are updated after the results of each summer field season have been compiled. <p>Groundwater</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Groundwater is important as a source of drinking water, and it supports river flows, lake levels and ecosystems. GSI monitors groundwater nationwide by characterising aquifers, investigating karst landscapes 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>and landforms and by helping to protect public and group scheme water supplies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSI recommend the use of our National Aquifer, Vulnerability and Recharge maps within the Plan. ▪ The draft Plan report to datasets on screening for flood risk. GSI would like to draw to your attention Geological Survey Ireland’s GWFlood project. ▪ With regards to Climate Change, there is a need to improve the monitoring capacity of groundwater levels in Ireland so that the potential impacts of climate change can be monitored and assessed. ▪ In this context the Geological Survey Ireland has established the GWClimate project in January 2020. <p>Geohazards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. GSI has information available on past landslides for viewing as a layer on our Map Viewer. ▪ GSI also engages in national projects such as Landslide Susceptibility Mapping and Groundwater Flooding (GWFlood), and in international projects, such as the Tsunami Warning System, coordinated by the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission of UNESCO. ▪ Historical records and geological evidence indicate that, while tsunamis are unlikely events around Ireland, the Irish coast is vulnerable to tsunamis from submarine landslides and distant earthquakes. ▪ GSI recommend that geohazards and particularly flooding / coastal erosion and coastal vulnerability index be taken into consideration. <p>Geothermal Energy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geothermal energy harnesses the heat beneath the surface of the Earth for heating applications and electricity generation, and has proven to be secure, environmentally sustainable and cost effective over long time periods. ▪ GSI’s Geothermal Suitability maps is an available resource for both domestic and commercial use. ▪ GSI currently completing a roadmap for geothermal energy use in Ireland which we expect to publish in 2020. <p>Natural Resources (Minerals / Aggregates)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Geological Survey Ireland provides data, maps, interpretations and advice on matters related to minerals, their use and their development in our Minerals section of the website. 	

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Active Quarries, Mineral Localities and the Aggregate Potential maps are available on our Map Viewer. GSI would welcome the consideration of aggregate potential sterilisation included as part of the scoping document. <p>Marine and Coastal Unit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ INFOMAR's suite of mapping products include Shipping & Navigation, Fisheries Management, Aquaculture, Marine Leisure & Tourism and Coastal Behaviour. Of particular interest to tourism is the extensive database of shipwrecks mapped by the INFOMAR programme. This data may be of benefit to the Hook Lighthouse project. ▪ INFOMAR also produces a wide variety of seabed mapping products that enable public and stakeholders to visualize Ireland's seafloor environment. ▪ GSI would therefore recommend use of our Marine and Coastal Unit datasets available on our website and Map Viewer. ▪ In the Chapter 'Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning' we welcome mention of the ongoing contribution of Geological Survey Ireland and the CHERISH Project in providing vital data to assist with the management and mitigation of coastal vulnerability and erosion in Co. Wexford. ▪ GSI recommend some alterations to existing text in Section 12.5.4 of the Draft Plan. <p>Coastal Vulnerability Index</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GSI is undertaking a new coastal vulnerability mapping initiative. 	
2	EPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EPA provide a 'self-service approach' via the guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources'. <p>Specific Comment on the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sustainable Development Goals & Key Actions for Ireland. ▪ Our State of Environment Report Ireland's Environment - An Assessment 2020 (EPA, 2020) identifies thirteen Key Messages for Ireland which align with many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). ▪ Chapter 11 of the 2020 State of Environment Report focuses on environmental pressures from transport, understanding the drivers for these pressures and looking at the transformation towards sustainable mobility within the sector. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The relevant aspects of these Key Actions and the SDGs should be taken into account in preparing the Strategy and SEA and reflected in the principles / objectives / measures in the Strategy. <p><i>Sensitivity Mapping Webtool</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EPA funded Environmental Sensitivity Mapping webtool may be a useful resource to also consider in the context of identifying environmental sensitivities in the Plan area. <p><i>Blueways and Greenways</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The EPA note the commitments in the Plan to the development of a number of Greenways and Blueways. The EPA welcome the commitment that these initiatives will be the subject of relevant environmental assessments. ▪ There is also merit in the Plan promoting the need to be careful not to remove or degrade existing natural or existing green infrastructure, and potentially negatively impact on designated European or national sites. Development of new greenways and blueways should support rather than replace existing green infrastructure. ▪ The recent HSE NUIG & UCD research reports and toolkits in relation to the health benefits of blue and green spaces. <p>Specific Comments on the Environmental Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Non-Technical Summary (NTS) - The EPA note that to access the key mitigation and monitoring measures identified in the Plan assessment, The NTS references the relevant sections in the SEA Environmental Report. There is merit to summarising the key mitigation and monitoring measures in the NTS itself. ▪ The NTS would be enhanced by including a summary of the current environmental baseline assessment as outlined in Chapter 5 of the SEA Environmental Report and the key environmental challenges identified as a result of this assessment. A summary of the likely evolution in the absence of the Plan would also be useful. ▪ Mitigation Measures - 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. ▪ Monitoring - 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. If the monitoring identifies adverse 	<p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>impacts during the implementation of the Plan, Wexford County Council should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at: https://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/guidanceonseastatementsandmonitoring.html <p>Future Amendments to the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement. <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. ▪ Guidance on preparing SEA Statements is available on the EPA website. 	
3	<p>Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media</p>	<p>Archaeology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Chapter 13 of the Draft Development Plan deals specifically and comprehensively with the archaeological heritage. ▪ It is suggested that the wording of AH03 objective be amended to read: <i>“To protect the heritage of groups of important archaeological sites and monuments, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation, in the operation of development management.”</i> <p>Architectural Heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is recommended that built heritage is considered as an integral part of the wider built environment and should be dealt with holistically throughout the Development Plan. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The renewal of a number of key national policy documents pertaining to archaeology and built heritage, including (Draft) Heritage Ireland 2030 and the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage, the (Draft) Built Vernacular Strategy and the National Policy on Architecture (pending), provide the context for this response. ▪ The Programme for Government supports the 17 No. Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the United Nations and built on the principle of 'leaving no one behind'. ▪ In summary there are a number of new areas of interest that the Department considers require greater attention and focus in future development plans and policies of Local Authorities including: National Policy on Architecture, Heritage Ireland 2030 (Draft) 3, National Inventory of Architectural Heritage, Vernacular Architecture, Climate Change, Town revitalisation, Flood Relief works, Tall buildings in historic urban centres. ▪ Local Authority Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. ▪ The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH). ▪ Built Vernacular Architecture. ▪ Nature Conservation. ▪ The inclusion of two key strategic objectives (Objective EM02 and EM04) in Chapter 10 (Environmental Management) of the Plan is noted. It should further be acknowledged in the Plan that these objectives are key mitigation measures relied on in the Natural Impact Report (NIR) of the Plan prepared by Scott Cawley (Volume 13) to ensure that adverse effects on the integrity of any European sites are avoided. These are also key mitigation measures in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Report prepared by Brady Shipman Martin (Volume 12). 	<p>available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>
4	An Taisce	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate – very much welcomes the increased focus on climate mitigation and adaptation. The National Mitigation Plan is still included throughout the Draft Plan. ▪ Sustainable Settlement and Transport - is imperative that the new Plan addresses future population growth and continues to encourage a shift away from dispersed, car-orientated development patterns to walkable, cycleable, transit-orientated and consolidated urban forms. ▪ Modal Shift in Transport - A crucial aspect of this is investment in public transport, walking and cycling is maintained and improved in order to offer communities a viable alternative to private cars. ▪ Economic Development Strategy - nitrogen runoff from agriculture is one of two primary drivers of this decline and that nitrogen pollution has worsened since 2013. Ammonia emissions. Agriculture is also a major 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>emitter of greenhouse gases.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity Strategy. ▪ Fisheries and Aquaculture - objectives for forestry should be strengthened. Additional objective be added - use of peat for horticulture is not to be permitted. Consider that an explicit commitment to ecological protection and an ecosystems approach. ▪ Rosslare Europort - the opportunity to switch to lift on-lift off rail freight from Rosslare using the existing but disused Waterford rail line. ▪ Sustainable Tourism - that future eco-tourism and recreational visitor promotion nationally should be car free. Better integrate sustainable transport concerns into the tourism objectives with goal of increasing car-free, long-stay trips. ▪ Greenways - welcome the objective for the development of a full coastal walkway in Wexford. ▪ Infrastructure - commitment to ensuring that infrastructure development is climate resilient, this should be expanded and strengthened. ▪ Bioenergy - The Plan must therefore ensure that any provision of bioenergy is accomplished in a sustainable manner. ▪ Agricultural Waste Disposal - ongoing problems with water quality. ▪ Gas Network – An Taisce submits that there is no capacity for further expansion of the fossil gas network under national, EU and international climate policy. Recommend that this objective be removed and that objectives regarding the expansion of renewables be included instead`. ▪ Environmental Management - ensure full compliance with the EIA Directive. ▪ Water - the Plan should ensure the adequate provision of serviced sites within close proximity to established water / wastewater infrastructure. ▪ Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning - the ocean environment must be recognised that a healthy ocean ecosystem is absolutely fundamental for any economic benefit. ▪ Carbon Capture and Storage - future development in Wexford should focus on emissions reductions by proposing policies for transitioning away from fossil fuel use. ▪ Energy Transmission - not properly distinguish the different strategic arguments for electricity and gas 	<p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>interconnection.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offshore Renewables - essential to ensure that the advancement of wind turbine deployment to address the climate emergency is reconciled with the biodiversity loss emergency. Policy requiring the use of a seabird sensitivity map in the early stages of planning. ▪ Heritage and Conservation - Plan should lay out specific actions to ensure that the protection of these designated sites, as well as biodiversity more generally across the County, is upheld in the planning process at all levels. ▪ Built and Cultural Heritage - ensure the effective promotion of the Architectural Heritage provisions. ▪ Implementation and Monitoring - the Plan moves beyond objectives within the text and towards robust targets, actions and measures to achieve the tangible implementation of the plan's objectives and policies. 	
5	Health Service Executive (HSE)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Submission under the remit of Healthy Ireland and relevant health supporting strategies. ▪ Climate - assist contractors to calculate their carbon footprint. Mechanisms for reducing or offsetting their carbon footprint should be outlined. ▪ The development plan to promote sustainable farming practices within the county. ▪ Energy usage in all public buildings and the setting of a measurable target for improvement in energy efficiency. ▪ Objectives to support the provision of more sustainable energy options throughout the county. ▪ Coastal Strategy - often omit to assess the effect on aquaculture downstream. Shellfish concentrate harmful microbes and chemicals. Lack of sewage treatment in the Nore Barrow Suir estuary which leads to microbial pollution. ▪ Bathing Water - Bathing water quality in a minority of these areas. Concerns re microbial and viral pollution and the presence of antibiotic resistant microbes in the environment. Discharge of raw sewage is not sustainable as it threatens water quality and detracts from the amenity value of the coastal waters in the area. ▪ Infrastructure - need to conserve water especially during drought periods. Coastal access and Special needs. Special Access in general. Rail freight is recognized as a more energy efficient way to move heavy goods than by road. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed as appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environment – Water - all sensitive receptors adjacent to these developments are adequately protected. Council should have regard to the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021 in its protection of water sources. ▪ Air Pollution - extension of the Smoky Coal Ban since September 2020 EPA results show exceedances of air quality standards in Enniscorthy during recent routine monitoring. ▪ Transport - not been successful and there remains a high rate of car reliance in Ireland. WCC to promote behavioural change in the population of Wexford. ▪ Employment - Wexford has much higher rates of unemployment. Higher healthy life expectancy is strongly correlated with higher employment rates, particularly for men. ▪ Needs of the Elderly - There needs to be a range of options in housing provision for the elderly, not just an emphasis on care homes. ▪ Health Inequalities - County Wexford suffers significantly from deprivation, ranking the fourth most disadvantaged local authority in the country in 2016. WCC promotes dialogue with marginalised groups. ▪ Obesity - WCC can influence and regulate the built environment to improve health and reduce the extent to which it promotes obesity. An assessment of food outlets in every town and villages. ▪ Green Infrastructure - ensure progress on this issue is made it is essential that projects are identified. ▪ Monitoring and implementation - progress should be constantly measured throughout the timeframe of the plan. 	
6	Irish Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Irish Water Investment Plan (Revenue Control Period 3) 2020 to 2024. ▪ National Water Resource Plan - strategic plan for water services will outline how we move towards a sustainable, secure and reliable public drinking water supply over the next 25 years. ▪ Climate Change - Irish Water is happy to work with the local authority to ensure the overarching goals of mitigating against, and adapting to, climate change in relation to water and wastewater are achieved. ▪ Drinking Water Source Protection - Irish Water is committed to working with public bodies and other stakeholders towards a common goal of the protection of drinking water sources. ▪ River Basin Management Plan - objectives and priorities of the RBMP 2018 – 2021 have been incorporated into IW investment plans. ▪ Sustainable Drainage and Blue / Green Infrastructure - Irish Water encourages the inclusion of policies and 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
		<p>objectives on the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and Green Infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water supply in Wexford - Irish Water is currently reviewing water capacity in the Water Resource Zones within the county. ▪ Wastewater infrastructure in Wexford - Irish Water will keep Wexford County Council informed of any changes to the register as the county development plan process progresses. Irish Water and Wexford County Council are continually progressing sewer rehabilitation activities, capital maintenance activities. ▪ Wastewater Sludge Management - National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan is due for review in 2021. ▪ Zoning - Irish Water is available to assist Wexford County Council in identifying suitable zoned lands from a water services perspective. ▪ Irish Water has a suite of policies / objectives which we would like to suggest to the Council for inclusion in the Plan. 	<p>incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>
7	OPW	<p>The following comments highlight opportunities for the Draft Plan before it is finalised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enhance description between plan-making and SEA process – e.g. in relation to recommendations of Elected Representatives. ▪ Indicative mapping and Flood Zones - The OPW recommend that the SFRA details all datasets and analysis used to define the Flood Zone for each respective settlement. ▪ Irish Coastal Protection Strategy Study - Where ICPSS mapping has been examined for settlements at risk of coastal flooding, the data has been merged into the PFRA outlines. ▪ Arterial Drainage Scheme - No commentary has been provided on the Owenavorrhagh Arterial Drainage Scheme. ▪ Sustainable Drainage Systems - The Guidelines recommend that the SFRA provide guidance on the likely applicability of different SuDS techniques for managing surface water run-off at key development sites. ▪ Specific Settlements – Ballymoney, Castlebridge, Rosslare, Rosslare Harbour & Kilrane. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
8	Southern Regional Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Draft Plan provides a comprehensive basis for addressing the challenges faced by Wexford. ▪ Key Regional Priorities relating to Wexford include: Climate Action, Compact Growth & Urban Regeneration, to establish the Eastern Economic Corridor, Development of Rosslare Europort, Smart Region with a Smart Town, Tourism and Industry, Learning Region and TUSE campus. ▪ Focus on the integration of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. ▪ Climate Action - The policy support contained in the Draft Plan for these RPOs including CA 02, CA 03 and CA 08 is welcomed. ▪ Sustainable Housing - monitoring of residential development. ▪ Design and Place-Making - Minute City and Town Concepts. ▪ Tourism - The relevant RSES policies are RPO 53 (Tourism) – which supports the development of appropriate tourism development and RPO 54 (Tourism and the Environment). ▪ Transportation Strategy - the chapter is comprehensive in addressing transportation issues. However, there are areas where policy could be strengthened to support Strategic Transport Objective TS 02. ▪ Environmental Management - RSES RPO 121, RPO 123 ▪ Landscape and Green Infrastructure - RPO 124, RPO 125. The Interreg Europe Blue Green Cities project (managed by the SRA) is working to develop best practice examples for the inclusion of Blue Green Infrastructure. ▪ Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning - the chapter takes a holistic view of coastal areas and addresses the social, cultural, economic and recreational issues and opportunities as well as a strong focus on environmental issues. ▪ Heritage and Conservation - Biodiversity, RPO 127 Invasive species, RPO 128 All-Ireland Pollinator Plan. ▪ Environmental Assessment - we would recommend that WCC review these documents to inform the Council’s own environmental assessments and to ensure that mitigation measures identified to address environmental sensitivities and constraints are included in the Draft Plan where relevant. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
9	Office of the Planning Regulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Patterns of development is around Dublin, rather than self-sustaining development. ▪ Commuter based development and infrastructure. ▪ Risk to Wexford if the plan remains. ▪ Core Strategy and settlement hierarchy. ▪ Compact growth, regeneration and approach to land use zoning. ▪ Rural housing and regeneration. ▪ Economic development and employment. ▪ Sustainable transport and accessibility. ▪ Climate action and energy. ▪ Environmental heritage and amenities – notes that the full implementation of the plan will not result in a significant negative impact. There is scoping to enhance the integration between the Environmental Report and the preparation of the Draft Plan. No mention of the motions in the process for the Draft Plan. ▪ Draft Plan – very lengthy and extent makes it difficult for the public to access. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>
10	Seal Rescue Ireland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Add General Objective: <i>“Wexford Co. Council supports the introduction and enforcement of new and existing Marine Protected Areas along the coast of County Wexford and the adjacent marine area.”</i> and ▪ <i>“Wexford Co. Council recognises the inherent socio-economic and environmental value of wildlife, especially apex predators such as seals. WCC recognises the role that biodiverse ecosystems play in regulating our environment, and therefore, supports the increased protection of wildlife and their habitats.”</i> ▪ Ireland has a target to designate 30% of our Maritime Area as Protected by the year 2030. ▪ Add objective to require and enforce the fencing off of all waterways from livestock as per Government regulation that is coming into action on January 1st, 2021. 	<p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
11	Wexford Environmental Network	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pleased to see the environment is a strong element. ▪ Pleased to see a chapter on climate change. We believe biodiversity should have a similar chapter. ▪ Like to see a “Connecting Wexford” view of transport. ▪ Monitoring & Implementation - The Council as the Planning Authority will go one step further and will produce quarterly reports in partnership with the Strategic Policy Committees to monitor and evaluate the objectives of the Plan. ▪ UN Sustainable Development Goals - There is significant alignment between the UN Sustainable Development Goals and this Plan. Suggest have each section headed by the SDG it is aligned with and a brief description on how it fulfils the objectives of the SDG. ▪ Social inclusion – to include immigrant communities. ▪ National Mitigation Plan - Completely remove this section and replace Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Bill 2020. ▪ Coastal Areas & Marine Sector - would like to see this sentence added to the WCDP: “Wexford Co. Council supports the introduction and enforcement of Marine Protected Areas along the coast Wexford and the adjacent marine area. 	<p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>
12	Ballymoney Community Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roundup be banned. It is unsightly, contaminates ground water and is harmful to biodiversity. ▪ Hard or impervious surfaces cause excessive run-off and many are un-necessary like driveways. ▪ Private WWT, planting should be encouraged to catch any run-off before it enters streams. ▪ Eco audit of site where planning is sought and details in application of how environment will gain if PP approved. ▪ Japanese knotweed to be addressed. 	<p>Guidelines and resources are considered within the environmental assessment.</p> <p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
13	Coastwatch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Biodiversity ▪ Climate Action ▪ Coastal Zone Management Strategic Objective ▪ Universal Access – improvement in access for all ▪ Enforcement Policy ▪ Dedicated Coastal Zone Management Committee. 	<p>Specific comments are noted and addressed as appropriate.</p>
14	Wexford Greens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Monitoring and Implementation - there should be an element of public consultation in reviews or edits made to the plan along the course of its lifetime, with opportunities for local individuals, groups and organisations to provide feedback on the progress of the plan. ▪ Climate Action - like to remove the focus on growth and development here, and encourage against the continued consolidation of the growth-led model, as being the future of economic planning, due to the finite nature of a scarcely-resourced world. ▪ Advocate for the centre in Enniscorthy to not stand alone in environmental imagery, and for a continued push towards better public transport links, water quality, and air quality. ▪ Climate Action and Economic Development. ▪ Climate Action and Tourism - issues that arise with tourism in the county are the same as nationally. ▪ Our Transport Network - need for a review of the national rail network as part of meeting our climate action obligations and in light of Brexit, we request Wexford County Council review the closure of the Rosslare-Waterford railway line, and in recognition of the importance of the line as a strategic route retaining the trackbed to facilitate new modal developments. The combined utilisation of the Barrow Bridge river crossing with both Greenway and public transport (tramway, autonomous EV, light rail) should be researched. 	<p>Specific comments are noted and addressed where appropriate.</p> <p>Where information is available these aspects have been considered and incorporated into the Plan and SEA Environmental Report as appropriate.</p>
15	Jim Hurley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ In that regard, the place name Ballyteige appears several times throughout as ‘Ballyteigue’. It would be preferable if the Ordnance Survey spelling were used in all cases. The townland ‘Inish and Ballyteige Slob’ also appears in a number of different variants. ▪ Volume 12 (SEA report). The Keeragh Islands are not a Natural Heritage Area (NHA). The Keeragh Islands are correctly listed as a proposed NHA in Volume 1, Table 13.2. 	<p>Specific comments are noted and addressed as appropriate.</p>

No.	Stakeholder	Summary of Submission	Comment
16	Roisin Markham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The circular economy is a distinct opportunity to create a climate resilient economy, it is relevant to all areas where a product, service or interaction with natural resources is in a value or supply chain. 	Specific comments are noted and addressed as appropriate.
17	Courtown Community Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are two important proposed Natural Heritage Areas omitted from Map 2A: Natural Heritage Courtown Dunes and Glen pNHA (site code 000757) and Ardamine Wood pNHA (site code 001733). 	Specific comments are noted and addressed as appropriate.
18	CHERISH Project Discovery Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Chapter 13 'Heritage and Conservation' the ongoing work of the Discovery Programme in collaboration with the Geological Survey Ireland through the CHERISH project is producing measured datasets, creation of archaeological records and monitoring strategies for coastally located and submerged cultural heritage sites being impacted by climate change within Wexford, this data provides significant insights and understanding for future site management and mitigation. The data obtained through the CHERISH project feeds into objectives AH01, AH02, AH06, AH07, AH08, AH10, AH12, BH01 and BH04. 	Specific comments are noted and addressed as appropriate.

2.7 Integration of Environmental Measures into the Development Plan

SEA and making of the Plan is an iterative process that takes place over the period of the preparation of the Plan. As such environmental considerations have informed all stages of preparation of the Plan in order to appropriately identify and mitigate potential significant adverse effects arising from implementation of the Plan. As the plan was prepared the objectives and strategies were drafted to ensure that environmental considerations and necessary mitigation was integrated into the plan.

In accordance with SEA Regulations, the Draft Plan, together with the SEA Environmental Report, Natura Impact Report (NIR) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) were made available to the public and stakeholders for review and for making of observations or submissions.

The SEA Environmental Report included the following key sections:

- **Environmental Baseline** – Including information gathered during consultation with the environmental authorities at the SEA Scoping Stage, was collated and expanded upon. This included a review of the findings of the consultation submissions received during consultation on the pre-draft plan stage. This was used to identify environmental sensitivities and existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area.
- **Policies, Plans & Programmes Review** - A review of relevant international, European, national and regional policies, plans and programmes was undertaken both to identify the key environmental issues and to ensure that the objectives set out in the Plan meet the requirements of all relevant plans and policies.
- **Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)** – A number of SEOs were identified having regard to the above and the issues most relevant and of significance to the plan area.
- **Environmental Assessment** - Using the strategic environmental objectives (SEOs), the assessment of the potential significant environmental effects of the Draft Plan (objectives, projects and alternatives to the Plan) was undertaken.
- **Mitigation Measures** - Based on this assessment, potential adverse or uncertain environmental impacts were identified and recommendations in relation to mitigation were proposed.
- **Monitoring Programme** – A Programme for Monitoring of the Plan throughout its lifetime was proposed to ensure that any potential adverse environmental impacts, that may be unforeseen at this stage, are identified early, so that remedial action may be taken to prevent any deterioration of the environment.

It is the Plan considered as a whole, which contributes towards environmental protection and management, and towards sustainable development and that complies with the various legislative requirements. This is identified throughout the SEA documentation. The environmental assessment included recommendations for changes to

policies and objectives for the mitigation of potential negative environment effects, and for the inclusion of protective environmental policies and objectives within the Plan.

Following consultation with the EPA, the Plan and SEA Environmental Report recognised the EPA publication in relation to 'The State of the Environment Report' (*Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020*) and the 13 key environmental messages, including on: Health and Wellbeing, Climate, Air Quality, Nature, Water Quality, Marine, Clean Energy, Environmentally Sustainable Agriculture, Water Services, Circular Economy and Land Use.

2.7.1 Mitigation Measures

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires that mitigation measures be proposed for all significant adverse effects on the environment as a result of the implementation of the Plan. The SEA is an iterative process prepared in tandem with the formulation of policies and objectives of the Plan. While not always possible to achieve, it is the aim of the process to ensure that sensitive environmental receptors are given adequate and appropriate consideration throughout.

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the development objectives. Mitigation has taken place throughout the plan-making process.

Having regard to the baseline and existing environmental problems relevant to the plan area, mitigation took place through the consideration of alternatives, as environmental considerations communicated to the Planning team allowed them to make an informed choice as to which alternative to put before the Members of the Council. Mitigation also took place in the detailed assessment of the policies and objectives of the Plan and the identification, amendment or drafting of policies and / or objectives required to mitigate any uncertain and / or potentially negative aspects. A number of protective objectives were included in the plan and a full listing of protective objectives included in the Plan is provided in Table 2.3 below.

Table 2.3: Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
<p>Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna) (B)</p>	<p>(B_1) Preserve, protect, maintain and where appropriate, restore the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, of international, EU and nationally designated sites, protected species and habitats.</p> <p>(B_2) Maintain and where appropriate, enhance the biodiversity value of non-designated ecological and heritage areas.</p>	<p>Objective EM02 To ensure that planning permission will only be granted for a development proposal that, either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on a European sites, or where such a development proposal is likely or might have such a significant effect (either alone or in combination), the planning authority will, as required by law, carry out an appropriate assessment as per requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as transposed into Irish legislation. Only after having ascertained that the development proposal will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, will the planning authority agree to the development and impose appropriate mitigation measures in the form of planning conditions. A development proposal which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances, as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM04 To ensure that plans, including land use plans, will only be adopted, if they either individually or in combination with existing and/or proposed plans or projects, will not have a significant effect on a European, or where such a plan is likely or might have such a significant effect (either alone or in combination), Wexford County Council will, as required by law, carry out an appropriate assessment as per requirements of Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC of the 21 May 1992 on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora, as transposed into Irish legislation. Only after having ascertained that the plan will not adversely affect the integrity of any European site, will Wexford County Council adopt the plan, incorporating any necessary mitigation measures. A plan which could adversely affect the integrity of a European site may only be adopted in exceptional circumstances, as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Irish legislation.</p> <p>Objective NH02 To protect and enhance the rich qualities of our natural heritage in a manner that is appropriate to its significance.</p> <p>Objective NH03 To promote biodiversity protection, restoration and habitat connectivity both within protected areas and in the landscape through promoting the integration of green infrastructure and ecosystem services, including landscape, heritage and biodiversity and management of invasive and alien species in the plan making and development management processes.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		<p>Objective NH04 To protect the integrity of sites designated for their habitat and species importance and prohibit development which would damage or threaten the integrity of these sites. Such sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and candidate SACs, Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and proposed NHAs, Nature Reserves, Refuges for Fauna and RAMSAR sites. To protect protected species wherever they occur.</p> <p>Objective NH11 To protect trees or groups of trees and woodlands of particular amenity and nature conservation value and make tree preservation orders where appropriate.</p> <p>Objective NH14 To work with local communities, groups, landowners, National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant parties to identify, protect, manage and, where appropriate, enhance and promote sites of local biodiversity value.</p> <p>Objective NH16 To support the conservation, sustainable management and restoration of marine ecosystems in any existing or future Marine Protected Area which may be designated during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective NH17 To support any targeted programmes or projects which will be required to improve and restore the status of the large sedimentary lagoons of Wexford.</p> <p>Objective NH18 To provide support for communities in the application of EU funded programmes such as the Roseate Tern Recovery Project, the Blackstairs Farming Futures (BFF) Sustainable farming project and other LIFE and European Innovation Partnership programmes which aim to achieve the objectives of the Habitats and Birds Directives.</p> <p>Objective NH19 To implement the requirements of EU Regulations 1143/2014 on the Prevention and Management of the Introduction and Spread of Invasive Alien Species and Regulation 49 and 50 of the EU (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011(S.I. No. 477/2011), as amended.</p> <p>Objective NH22 To promote best practice in the control of invasive species and support measures for the prevention and/or eradication of invasive species as appropriate and as opportunities and resources allow.</p> <p>Objective EL02 To ensure that external lighting and lighting schemes are designed so that light spillage is minimised thereby protecting the amenities of nearby properties and wildlife, including protected species.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		<p>Objective GI02 To identify, protect, enhance and manage Green Infrastructure in all Local Area Plans in an integrated and coherent manner. This will include the mapping of existing and proposed green infrastructure and connections at a suitable scale.</p> <p>Objective GI09 To promote the re-opening of existing culverts to daylight streams as part of a wider biodiversity restoration plan. This will require a multi-stakeholder approach including the OPW, Inland Fisheries, LAWPRO and NPWS. Consent, if necessary, should be obtained from OPW to make these amendments of under the Arterial Drainage Scheme.</p> <p>Objective CZM02 To prepare a County Coastal Strategy, which will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and compliance with the Habitats Directive, to provide the framework to sustainably manage our coastal areas, in particular, those areas at risk of coastal erosion and coastal flooding, and to have regard to the Strategy when preparing land use plans and assessing planning applications.</p> <p>Objective CZM45 To maintain, conserve and restore marine ecosystems in existing and future designated Marine Protected Areas in order to achieve or maintain good environmental status of themaritime area.</p> <p>Objective CS26 To promote the protection, restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure in all settlements and in the open countryside.</p>
<p>Population & Human Health (PHH)</p>	<p>(PHH_1) Provide high quality residential, community, working and recreational environments with access to sustainable transport options.</p>	<p>Objective CS02 To ensure that new residential development in all settlements complies with the population and housing allocation targets and the principles set out in the Core Strategy and Settlement Development Strategy, in so far as practicable.</p> <p>Objective CS03 To ensure that sufficient zoned lands are available to satisfy the planned population and housing growth in those settlements over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>Objective CS08 To prepare Local Transport Plans for the Key Towns and Large Towns which focus on the development of town bus networks, rail services, the development of inter-modal transport hubs, improvements to cycling and walking infrastructure and rural transport services into towns and seek investments for the sustainable transport measures set out in these plans.</p> <p>Objective CS16 To strengthen the viability of our rural towns and villages and to support the retention of essential rural services such as post offices, shops and medical facilities.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		<p>Objective CS23 To work with public infrastructure providers such as Irish Water and local communities to provide serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in the designated Large Villages and Small Villages in the county subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the proper planning and sustainable development of the county.</p> <p>Objective SH01 To ensure that new residential developments contribute to and represent sustainable neighbourhoods which are inclusive and responsive to the physical or cultural needs of those who use them, are well-located relative to the social, community, commercial and administrative services and are integrated with the community within which they will be located.</p> <p>Objective SH18 To implement and monitor the objectives in the County Wexford Housing Strategy 2021-2027 and Housing Need Demand Assessment in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) and any relevant guidelines published.</p> <p>Objective ED06 To work with infrastructure providers to ensure that economic development land and employment related uses are effectively serviced by all infrastructures and that new and existing uses are accessible by sustainable transport modes.</p> <p>Objective ED44 To support the development of remote working hubs in settlements.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
<p>Population & Human Health (PHH)</p>	<p>(PHH_2) Protect human health and well-being.</p>	<p>Objective TV02 To promote a healthy County by improving physical and social environments to create vibrant, accessible, healthy and sustainable places to live work and relax.</p> <p>Objective IS05 To provide water treatment facilities to safeguard public health.</p> <p>Objective SC01 To facilitate the development of healthy sustainable communities where people can live, work and enjoy access to a wide range of community, health and educational facilities suitable for all ages, needs and abilities.</p> <p>Objective SC06 To support the entitlement of all members of the community to enjoy a high quality living environment and to support local communities, the Health Authorities and other bodies involved in the provision of facilities for groups with specific design/ planning needs.</p> <p>Objective ROS01 To support the implementation of the National Sports Plan 2018-2027, Get Ireland Active- the National Physical Activity Plan for Ireland 2015-2020, Sport Ireland Policy on Sport and Physical Activity in the Outdoors, the Wexford Healthy County Plan 2022-2022, the Wexford Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 and the Sports Active Wexford Strategic Plan 2017-2022 and any updated version of these plans as a means of promoting physical activity and active living in order to enhance health, wellbeing and social inclusion subject to the objectives of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Objective ROS08 To support investment in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of existing public open space facilities, and support the provision of new public parks, green space corridors, pollinator projects, native planting and wild areas and rewilding projects and other public open spaces in tandem with planned population growth to create green, biodiversity rich and healthy settlements throughout the county.</p> <p>Objective ROS21 To ensure that a range of play opportunities will be available for all children, particularly children who are marginalised, disadvantaged or who have special needs.</p> <p>Objective ROS37 To facilitate sustainable outdoor recreation in the form of walking and cycling at appropriate locations in the county and maximise the recreational and tourist potential of walking and cycling routes subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive, the protection of natural heritage, the character of rural areas, the amenities of host communities and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
<p>Soil & Geology (SG)</p>	<p>(SG_1) Safeguard sensitive soil resources and geological heritage sites.</p>	<p>Objective HL02 To implement remediation plans for the identified historic landfills in the county.</p> <p>Objective ED111 To ensure that applications for horticulture related development include adequate measures to mitigate impacts on soil water contamination, adopt sustainable practices in terms of soil and peat use and the use and management of pesticides and insecticides and adopt sustainable practices for the sustainable management of water from roofs by incorporating sustainable drainage systems and retention areas within the developments.</p> <p>Objective NH06 To recognise the importance of recommended Geological Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological Sites and protect the character and integrity of these sites where appropriate. The Council will consult Geological Survey Ireland where a development is proposed that may impact on geological sites.</p> <p>Objective NH07 To have regard to any particular management or sensitivity, contained within the individual site reports within The Geological Heritage of County Wexford: An audit of County Geological Sites in County Wexford 2018, in the assessment of planning applications located within Natural Heritage Areas, proposed Natural Heritage Areas and County Geological Sites.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		<p>reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p>
<p>Water (W)</p>	<p>(W_1) Protect and where necessary improve and maintain water quality and the management of watercourses, groundwater and the marine environment, in compliance with the requirements of the WFD objectives and measures.</p>	<p>Objective WS01 To work with all stakeholders to protect existing and potential water resources for the county and to reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021, the provisions of the county Groundwater Protection Scheme and any other protection plans including the National Water Resources Plan and Drinking Water Protection Plans, for water supply resources.</p> <p>Objective WM11 To protect and maintain the excellent quality of ‘High’ status water bodies and to raise awareness and provide support for land owners in these areas under the Blue Dot Catchment Programme established by the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021.</p> <p>Objective WQ01 To protect existing and potential water resources for the county, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/ EC), the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the provisions of a Groundwater Protection Scheme for the county and any other protection plans for water supply sources, with an aim to improving all water quality.</p> <p>Objective WQ02 To promote compliance with the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 and any other relevant legislations.</p> <p>Objective WQ04 To work with the Local Authority Waters Programme and other relevant State agencies to develop and implement the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any future river basin management plan subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective WQ05 To strive to achieve and maintain at least ‘Good’ status except where more stringent obligations are required, and no deterioration of status for all water bodies including protected areas, under the Marine Strategy Framework and its programme of measures, the Water Framework Directive and the</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		<p>River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Objective WQ07 To screen planning applications according to their Water Framework Directive status and have regard to their status and objectives to achieve ‘good’ status or protect and improve ‘high or good status’.</p> <p>Objective WQ12 To protect and enhance heavily modified water bodies and artificial water bodies in order to achieve good ecological potential and good chemical status for those water bodies and to progressively reduce pollution from priority substances and cease or phase out emissions, discharges and losses of priority hazardous substances into surface waters.</p> <p>Objective IS01 To ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment.</p> <p>Objective WW01 To require that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any updated version during the lifetime of the Plan, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective FRM02 To implement and comply fully with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the Wexford County Development Plan.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human</p>

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		<p>health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p>
<p>Air Quality & Noise (AN)</p>	<p>(AN_1) Minimise travel related emissions and encourage a modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport.</p>	<p>Objective TS01 To implement the principles and objectives of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Street (Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, Department of the Environment Community and Local Government, 2013 and 2019) and the Spatial Planning and National Roads, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2012) and the National Sustainable Mobility Policy 2022 and the other guidance listed in Section 8.3 above and any updated version of these documents.</p> <p>Objective TS02 To minimise the generation of greenhouse gases by the transport sector using the avoid-shift-improve principle and by effectively integrating land use and transport planning through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Core and Settlement Strategy of the Plan; • Implementation of the 10 Minute Town concept; • Prioritising the development of lands within or contiguous to the existing urban areas, which are, or will be, most accessible by walking, cycling and public; • Directing larger scale trip intensive developments, such as offices and retail, into central locations which

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		<p>are highly accessible by sustainable transport modes; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidating and intensifying residential and employment development in a manner which renders it serviceable by public transport and ensures that it is highly accessible by walking, cycling and public transport. <p>Objective TS05 To develop and support the development of enhanced multimodal transport infrastructure and services, including rail, on the Eastern Economic Corridor, which runs from Belfast to Rosslare Europort via Dublin, Gorey, Enniscorthy and Wexford Town and has strong links to the Southern Region and the Atlantic Economic Corridor via New Ross.</p> <p>Objective TS09 To seek to achieve a modal shift from greenhouse gas generating vehicles to sustainable modes in accordance with the targets in Table 8-1 to 8-10. These targets will be further developed in the local area plans and local transport plans for Wexford, Gorey, Enniscorthy and New Ross towns. The Council will monitor and review these targets over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>Objective TS21 To ensure that new transport infrastructure developed by the Council incorporates appropriate green infrastructure and functions as a biodiversity corridor and ensure that these elements are integrated into the proposals of other transport network providers.</p> <p>Objective TS23 To prepare a Cycling Strategy for the county to inform the development and co-ordination of the necessary infrastructure to facilitate and encourage more cycling for both everyday transport and leisure purposes.</p> <p>Objective TS29 To provide cycling and walking routes as resources allow within and between settlements, and between settlements and rural trip generators (including places of employment, sports facilities, tourism assets including greenways and other amenities). The Council will provide a cycle way between County Wicklow, Gorey, Camolin, Ferns and Enniscorthy, with a view to extending this cycleway towards Rosslare Europort and New Ross. The provision of such cycling and walking routes shall be subject to the protection of habitats, environment, amenity and heritage and Appropriate Assessment in accordance with the requirement of the EU Habitats Directive to ensure the protection and preservation of all designated SACs and SPAs. Green infrastructure and sustainable drainage shall be designed into such routes where possible.</p> <p>Objective TS30 To support the work of schools and community groups in the development of initiatives</p>

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		<p>which facilitate and encourage walking and cycling.</p> <p>Objective TS31 To support and promote bus, rail and taxi public transport services in the county in line with existing and emerging Government policy.</p> <p>Objective TS41 To examine the feasibility of reopening the disused Rosslare Europort to Waterford Railway as a sustainable transport corridor which would accommodate a reopened passenger and freight line and a greenway for active travel and amenity use. The Council will seek appropriate funding to facilitate the development of this important corridor between Rosslare Europort and Belview and Waterford MASP.</p> <p>Objective AQ01 To have regard to the Air Quality Standards Regulation 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) when assessing planning applications for development which may have effects on air quality.</p> <p>Objective AQ02 To encourage sustainable industrial developments by promoting the use of cleaner technologies and production techniques, reducing waste production, conservation and recycling of materials.</p> <p>Objective AQ05 To promote a modal change from private car use to other types of travel and to promote the use of public transport as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of</p>

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		<p>the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p> <p>Objective WT03 To ensure that the local transport plan prepared provides the framework to integrate land use, accessibility requirements and transportation, prioritise sustainable transport modes including walking, cycling and public transport and identifies the necessary infrastructure required to facilitate implementation.</p>
<p>Air Quality & Noise (AN)</p>	<p>(AN_2) Minimise noise emissions associated with traffic and transport and other noise and wind related industry etc.</p>	<p>Objective N01 To promote the pro-active management of noise where it is likely to have significant adverse impacts on health and quality of life and support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations through national planning guidance and Noise Actions Plans.</p> <p>Objective N02 To have regard to the provisions of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Acts 1992 and 2003 and the Environmental Protection Agency Act (Noise) Regulations 1994 when assessing planning applications.</p> <p>Objective N03 To have regard to the Wexford County Council Noise Action Plan 2019-2023, in particular Appendix B Roadways Qualified for Noise Mapping, Appendix C Strategic Noise Maps and Appendix D Potential Noise Hotspots, in the preparation of future local area plans and to ensure that planning applications comply with the provisions and requirements of that plan, and any future revisions/update to it.</p> <p>Objective N04 To incorporate the aims of the present and future noise action plans into local area plans and in the assessment of planning applications to protect larger areas from road noise.</p> <p>Objective N09 To minimise noise from traffic by promoting development patterns that combine walking, cycling and public transport.</p>

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<p>Climate Change (CC)</p>	<p>(CC_1) Minimise contribution to Climate Change by adopting mitigation and adaptation measures.</p>	<p>Objective CA02: To implement the National Adaptation Framework through the strategies and objectives of the County Development Plan and in future local area plans.</p> <p>Objective CA03 To implement the County Wexford Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and any Wexford County Council Local Climate Action Plan in future local area plans and the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>Objective CA06 To continue to reduce energy related CO₂ emissions of Wexford County Council, to improve energy efficiencies and to achieve the commitment under the European Climate Alliance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% every five years.</p> <p>Objective CA09 To utilise the Climate Action Fund established under the National Development Plan to facilitate public and private climate mitigation and adaptation projects in line with criteria set out by the Fund at that time.</p> <p>Objective CA11 To support measures to build resilience to climate change including adaptive capacity, awareness and providing for nature-based solutions and emergency planning and to raise awareness of the role of spatial planning in climate change mitigation and adaptation through the forward planning and development management functions of the Planning Authority.</p> <p>Objective CA15 To support the decarbonisation of the energy sector by supporting the implementation of the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan and investment in initiatives to improve energy efficiency and future proof the county’s residential, commercial, industrial, agricultural and public building stock, including retrofitting in urban and rural areas and reduction in fuel poverty. The Council will encourage developments to achieve certification under systems such as the Home Performance Index and Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.</p> <p>Objective CA16 To support change across business, public and residential sectors to achieve reduced greenhouse gas emissions in accordance with current and future national targets, improve energy efficiency and increase the use of renewable energy source across the key sectors of electricity supply, heating, transport and agriculture.</p>

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		<p>Objective CA21 To ensure that spatial planning is fully embedded in and contributes to achieving the targets set for the Decarbonising Zone in the county by facilitating sustainable transport, energy efficient buildings, appropriate renewable energy developments, waste management developments that promote the circular economy, measures to improve air quality, and restoration and enhancement of biodiversity and green infrastructure in the Decarbonising Zone.</p> <p>Objective GN02 To promote renewable gas leading to carbon emission reduction in agriculture, industry, heating and transport as well as sustainable local employment opportunities and support the transition of the gas network to a “carbon neutral” gas network by 2050.</p> <p>Objective ED85 To develop the county as a leading innovator in the green economy in areas such as sustainable agriculture, sustainable construction, the production of renewable energy and the bio-economy, and to support development of enterprises and technologies that employ green technologies and support a low carbon economy.</p> <p>Objective FRM04 To ensure that climate change is fully embedded in future flood risk management in land use planning and flood risk management activities in the county, providing for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the County Wexford Climate Action Plan 2019-2025 and the OPW Climate Change Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time and in accordance with the County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in Volume 11.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p>

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		<p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p> <p>Objective EM05 To implement the provisions of EU and National legislation and other relevant legislative requirements on protecting and improving surface and ground water quality, air quality and climate, and on reducing adverse noise and light nuisance, as appropriate and in conjunction with all relevant stakeholders in the interests of the protection of the environment, public health and the sustainable development of the county.</p>
<p>Material Assets (MA)</p>	<p>(MA_1) Make best use of existing infrastructure, promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure and protect existing assets, to meet the needs of the county's and Wexford's population.</p>	<p>Objective WS01 To work with all stakeholders to protect existing and potential water resources for the county and to reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with the EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC), the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any updated version, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for designated shellfish waters, the National Biodiversity Plan 2017-2021, the provisions of the county Groundwater Protection Scheme and any other protection plans including the National Water Resources Plan and Drinking Water Protection Plans for water supply resources.</p> <p>Objective WW01 To require that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance and subject to complying with the provisions and objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive, the National River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and any updated version during the lifetime of the Plan, the Pollution Reduction Programmes for Shellfish Waters, Urban Wastewater Water Directive and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective WW03 In order to fulfil the objectives of the Core Strategy, Settlement Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy, the Council will work alongside and facilitate the delivery of Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and Capital Investment Plan, to ensure the provision of sufficient wastewater capacity to serve all lands zoned for development and in particular, to endeavour to secure the delivery of strategic wastewater treatment plant upgrades and any other smaller, localised wastewater treatment plant upgrades</p>

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		<p>required during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>Objective WW13 To protect existing wastewater infrastructure, including way leaves and buffer zones, from inappropriate development and zoning.</p> <p>Objective WW14 To facilitate the provision of appropriate sites for public water infrastructure, as required and to protect those sites and associated wayleaves and buffer zones, from inappropriate development and zoning.</p> <p>Objective WM01 To sustainably manage waste generation, support the investment in different types of waste treatment and support circular economy principles, prioritising prevention, reuse, recycling and recovery, to support a sustainable and healthy environment, economy and society.</p> <p>Objective WM02 To implement the provisions of the Southern Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021, and any updated version published during the lifetime of the Plan, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Objective CA04 To implement the Energy Strategy contained in Volume 10 of the Wexford County Development Plan to facilitate the transition to a low carbon county.</p> <p>Objective PT02 To support, subject to the objectives of this section and Volume 10 Energy Strategy, connecting infrastructure for the integration of low carbon and renewable energy generation projects including community scaled projects with power transmission infrastructure.</p> <p>Objective CZM51 To support, within the context of the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (ORED) and its successors, the development of Ireland’s offshore renewable energy potential, including domestic and international grid connectivity enhancements subject to compliance with the objectives of this County Development Plan, the protection of the scenic amenity and coastal views associated with coastal areas and the marine area which is crucial to the tourism industry, the protection of the amenity, livelihood and cultural well-being of coastal communities, the protection of coastal features, habitats and species and compliance with the Habitats Directive and normal planning and environmental criteria and proper planning and sustainable development.</p> <p>Objective ED116 To require extractive and processing industries to be appropriately sited, designed and</p>

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		<p>managed to avoid significant adverse impacts on their surrounding environment, amenities, road/public safety, and built and natural heritage. The Council will have regard to ‘Quarries and Ancillary Activities’ (DEHLG, 2004) in its considerations on quarrying (as may be updated in the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>Objective FRM01 To carry out flood risk assessments when implementing the forward planning and development management functions of the Council for the purposes of regulating, restricting and controlling development in areas at risk of flooding, and to minimise the level of risk to people, business, infrastructure and the environment through the identification and management of existing and potential future flood risk.</p> <p>Objective SWM01 To require the application of SuDS in accordance with the CIRIA SuDS Manual 2015 and any future update of this guidance, or other best practice guidance as may be specified or required by the Council. The application of SuDS should prioritise the use of appropriate nature-based solutions where possible. All proposals should include a commensurate drainage assessment used to design the surface water management system for the site, and this assessment should outline the drainage design considerations/strategy in line with the flood risk, surface water management and climate change requirements and objectives of the County Development Plan and the County Strategic Flood Risk Assessment in Volume 11.</p> <p>Objective GN01 To support the extension of the gas network throughout County Wexford, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Objective PT03 To support the upgrading of existing electricity networks and the reuse of existing power line routes.</p> <p>Objective CZM49 To support energy transmission proposals that maintain or improve the security and diversity of Ireland’s energy supply, including interconnectors, while ensuring that the development is informed by consideration of space required for other activities of national importance described in the National Marine Planning Framework and subject to CZM46 complying with all relevant safety, health and environmental requirements.</p> <p>Objective TC01 To facilitate the delivery of high-speed, high capacity digital and mobile infrastructure at appropriate locations in the county and facilitate the continued roll out of the National Broadband Plan as a means for developing further opportunities for enterprise, employment, education, innovation and skills</p>

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		<p>development for those who live and work in urban and rural areas in the county and subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.</p> <p>Objective CZM47 To support the development of vibrant fisheries and aquaculture sectors that produce high quality foods, protects and enhances the social and economic fabric of rural coastal communities and conserves biodiversity around our coastline, and ensures good marine litter management and to support the development of associated landside infrastructure subject to compliance with Objective CZM46 and the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p> <p>Objective ED84 To ensure that the highest environmental standards and controls are maintained in dealing with proposals relating to the extraction of marine aggregates and the mining sector and protects the amenities of local communities.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed into Irish law under national legislation.</p>

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<p>Cultural Heritage (CH)</p>	<p>(CH_1) Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological and /or architectural heritage from impact as a result of development.</p>	<p>Objective TV21 To ensure that all new development is designed to respect, enhance and respond to its natural, built, cultural and social context and add to character and sense of place.</p> <p>Objective TV24 To encourage and participate in heritage led regeneration, including consideration of the potential to participate in the Heritage Council’s Historic Towns Initiative, and to adopt a <i>Town first</i> approach to the revitalisation of historic urban centres which focuses on the repair and upgrade of existing historic buildings and their adaptation to new uses with regard to their architectural character and significance.</p> <p>Objective CH01 To support the sustainable development and promotion of our cultural heritage and the associated infrastructure subject to normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.</p> <p>Objective CH02 To safeguard the cultural heritage of the county and facilitate the expansion and development of appropriate facilities suitably located adjacent to points of interest subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and the development management standards contained in Volume 2.</p> <p>Objective AH01 To conserve and protect archaeological sites, monuments (including their settings), underwater archaeology and objects including those listed or scheduled for inclusion on the Record of Monuments and Places and/or the Register of Historic Monuments or newly discovered sub-surface archaeological remains.</p> <p>Objective AH02 To recognise the importance of monuments and sites and protect the character and integrity of these monuments and sites where appropriate. The Council will consult the National Monuments Service where a development is proposed that may impact on an archaeological monument and/or site.</p> <p>Objective AH03 To protect the heritage of groups of important archaeological sites and monuments, inclusive of their contextual setting and interpretation, in the operation of development management.</p> <p>Objective BH01 To protect the architectural heritage of County Wexford and to include structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>Objective BH02 To support targeted investment in the built heritage of our region including the Built Heritage</p>

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		<p>Investment Scheme and Historic Structures Fund to assist owners to maintain our built heritage assets.</p> <p>Objective BH04 To consider, in the preparation of future local area plans, a <i>Town first</i> approach to the revitalisation of historic urban centres, which focuses on the repair and upgrade of existing historic buildings and their adaptation to new uses with regard to their architectural character and significance.</p> <p>Objective BH05 To protect our Architectural Heritage in the form of Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and identify important groups of buildings/localities suitable for designation as Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs). Wexford County Council will also endeavour to undertake monitoring and review of the RPS and ACA's which may result in recommendations for additions or deletions and enlist measures to prevent dereliction and to support re-use of built heritage.</p> <p>Objective BH06 To protect the curtilage of Protected Structures or proposed Protected Structures from any works which would cause loss of, or damage to, the special character of the structure and loss of or damage to, any structures of heritage value within the curtilage or attendant grounds of the structure.</p> <p>Objective ACA02 To review current Architectural Conservation Areas during the preparation of subsequent local area plans, in conjunction with owners and occupiers and interest groups, with a view to preparing a Management Scheme and guidance on the treatment of structures and the public realm.</p> <p>Objective ACA03 To ensure that all proposed developments are carried out to the highest architectural and urban design standards within the Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Objective TM09 To deliver the Ireland's Ancient East Programme and facilitate the phased rollout of the branding strategy, orientation signage and the enhancement of the visitor experience at the chosen programme sites.</p> <p>Objective HT01 On adoption of the National Heritage Plan "Heritage 2030" to commence the preparation of a County Heritage Plan to assist the management and promotion of our valuable heritage in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Objective TM01 To protect and sustain the natural, built and cultural features that form the basis of the county's tourism industry including landscapes, historic buildings and structures, habitats, species and areas of natural heritage value and water quality.</p>

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		<p>Objective TM03 To facilitate the development of a sustainable diversified tourism industry at appropriate locations and at a suitable scale, subject to compliance with the objectives of this chapter and normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, and indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p> <p>Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed in Irish law under national legislation.</p>
<p>Landscape & Visual (LV)</p>	<p>(LV_1) Protect and maintain the special qualities of the landscape character including the coastal character within Wexford.</p>	<p>Objective L01 To have regard to the Landscape Character Units and their assigned Landscape Sensitivity, the Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2000) and any updated versions of these guidelines published during the lifetime of the Plan, and any National Landscape Character Assessment prepared when assessing planning applications or when carrying out local authority own development.</p> <p>Objective L02 To review the Landscape Character Assessment and the landscape objectives in the Plan, after the publication of future Landscape Assessment Guidelines issued by a Minister of the Government with respect to landscape. The revised Landscape Character Assessment will address historic and cultural landscape and seascape character analysis.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		<p>Objective L03 To carry out landscape characterisation and sensitivity analysis to inform local area plans.</p> <p>Objective L06 To ensure that developments are not unduly visually obtrusive in the landscape, in particular, in or adjacent to the Upland, River Valley, Coastal or Distinctive Landscape Character Units.</p> <p>Objective L08 To encourage appropriate development which would enhance an existing degraded landscape and/or which would enhance views to or from an Upland, River Valley, Coastal or Distinctive Landscape Character Unit from public viewpoints.</p> <p>Objective L11 To protect views worthy of protection, including views to and from the sea, rivers, landscape features, mountains, tourism sites and landmark structures such as bridges and urban settlements from inappropriate development that by virtue of design, scale, character or cumulative impact would block or detract from such views.</p> <p>Objective CZM01 To ensure the sustainable development of the county’s coastal areas and the maritime area for the long term benefit of coastal communities, and the economic well-being of these areas and the county whilst protecting and enhancing environmental quality and managing and restoring biodiversity.</p> <p>Objective AH08 To include archaeological landscapes, battlefields and historic landscapes as part of the updated Landscape Character Assessment of the County to be prepared following the publication of a National Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>Objective EM01 To ensure that proposed projects/developments comply with the requirements of EIA Directive 2014/52/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 April 2014, amending Directive 2011/92/EU on the assessment of the effects of certain public and private projects on the environment, and as transposed into Irish law under national legislation, including in Schedule 5 Part 1 and Part 2 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended). In accordance with Article 3 of Directive 2014/52/EU, where EIA is required the environmental impact assessments presented in the Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIAR) shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, the direct, indirect and cumulative significant effects of a project on the following factors: population and human health; biodiversity (with particular attention to species and habitats protected under Directive 92/43/EEC and Directive 2009/147/EC); land, soil, water, air and climate, material assets, cultural heritage, and the landscape, and the interaction between the foregoing factors.</p>

SEO	SEO Description	Selected Protective Objectives from the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028
		Objective EM03 To ensure that proposed plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the SEA Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, as transposed in Irish law under national legislation.

2.7.2 Monitoring

Monitoring of the Plan and its implications on the environment is paramount to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected through the implementation of the Plan. In accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive, and Article 13J of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 as amended, monitoring must be carried out of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan *“in order to, inter alia, identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.”* Article 13J also acknowledges that existing monitoring arrangements may be used with a view to avoiding duplication of monitoring.

While considerable environmental data is directly available to the Council, other sources of information will be accessed to provide a comprehensive view of the impact of the implementation of the Plan. In this regard the Local Authority will work with other agencies with environmental mandates to gather data for the purposes of monitoring the Plan. Therefore, while monitoring specific elements of the environment is not strictly the preserve of the Council, Wexford County Council will continue to liaise and work with the Environmental Protection Agency, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Central Statistics Office and others in the pursuit of environmental conservation and protection through existing environmental monitoring procedures. Monitoring details are set out at Section 4 of this SEA Statement.

3 Consideration of Alternative Scenarios for the Development Plan

3.1 Introduction

One of the critical roles of the SEA was to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative scenarios for accommodating future growth in County Wexford as a result of the Development Plan. Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the consideration of reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives proposed.

In accordance with SEA guidelines the alternatives put forward should be reasonable, realistic and capable of implementation. They should also be in line with the appropriate strategic level at which the plan will be implemented within the national planning hierarchy.

The Core Strategy Vision for County Wexford as set out in Chapter 3 of the Plan is that Wexford will:

- *Be a self-sustaining, low carbon, climate resilient county where people want to live, work and play.*
- *Offer high quality sustainable employment opportunities and high quality residential developments.*
- *Have sustainable urban and rural environments supported by excellent physical and social infrastructure.*
- *Continue to value its unique natural environment, built and cultural heritage, and which offers a range of high quality experiences to both residents and visitors.*

Therefore the Draft Plan is based on the principles of proper and sustainable development which means that development will be promoted in accordance with appropriate international, national and regional policy and guidance.

Alternative Scenarios are considered under:

- Settlement Strategy;
- Rural Housing Policy; and
- Energy Strategy.

3.2 Alternative Development Scenarios: Settlement Strategy

The NPF and Implementation Roadmap sets out projections to achieve accelerated urban growth. The NPF projects that the population of the Southern Region will grow from between 340,000 to 380,000 people by 2040.

The RSES vision for the Southern Region is led by the need for transformative change. By 2040, the population of the Region will most likely grow by 380,000 people to reach almost two million. The RSES for the Southern Region includes population projections for each Strategic Planning and Local Authority area in the region for to 2031 (refer to Table 3.1).

Table 3.1: Population and Projected Population for County Wexford 2011 to 2031

County Wexford	2011	2016	2027	2031	2040
Population	145,320	149,722	-	-	-
NPF Roadmap County Total	-	149,722	167,300	172,500	186,167
Projected Population (Draft Plan)	-	-	167,300	-	-

The Local Authority has a duty to plan for this increase in population and to set out how it can be suitably accommodated within the Plan area. Allied to this is the necessity to provide essential services and appropriate infrastructure to facilitate both the existing and future population needs and the need to ensure that employment opportunities exist through economic development or activity and that development has regard to climate change policy. The alternative plan scenarios are explored to determine the most sustainable approach to the development requirements set out in the NPF and RSES.

A number of alternative development scenarios were identified for the Core Strategy and Settlement Strategy based on the current and predicted future needs of the county as well as the statutory and operational requirement of preparing the Plan. In broad terms the scenarios were grouped into three viable but very different approaches. Each scenario has a differing outcome both in planning terms and in terms of the environmental consequences and these are discussed further below.

The alternatives strategies considered are broadly defined as:

- **Scenario 1:** Growth planned around on market demand.

This scenario would see growth planned to facilitate market demand. This would entail planning for continuing strong demand for growth in Gorey associated with its relative proximity to the Dublin area and good transport links, particularly by road. There would be a lesser growth around Wexford town but with very limited or no growth in Enniscorthy and New Ross. Outside of the main towns there would be very limited or no growth in the other villages, partly as a consequence of

infrastructure deficiencies, partly as demand would be met through one-off housing provision. The current levels of one-off housing demand growth would continue or increase.

▪ **Scenario 2:** Strictly Urban-centric growth.

This scenario would see growth strictly restricted to the four main towns of:

- Wexford Town.
- Gorey.
- New Ross.
- Enniscorthy.

There would be no policy support or infrastructure provision for housing growth, elsewhere including in the rural villages. Rural one-off housing would be entirely curtailed.

▪ **Scenario 3:** Balanced, planned growth.

This scenario would see growth promoted in accordance with a settlement hierarchy designed to pragmatically achieve compact urban growth whilst providing for the spatially balanced regeneration of rural villages. Wexford Town and Gorey, as key towns in the Southern RSES, would be targeted for more than 30% population growth to 2040 with New Ross and Enniscorthy being targeted for 30% population growth over that time. Outside of the main towns, realistic population growth in the larger and smaller villages would be promoted, largely based on spatial locational factors, the function of the villages in serving a wider catchment area, and the availability of infrastructure. Outside of villages, one-off housing would continue to be permitted, but only if strictly in accordance with Government rural housing policy and guidelines.

3.2.1 Assessment of Alternative Development Scenarios: Settlement Strategy

Alternative 1: Growth planned around market demand - which involves minimal intervention would likely result in negative impacts across the majority all environmental receptors throughout County Wexford. The option would see continuing demand for residential development in Gorey, solely due to its proximity to the Dublin area. There would also be lesser growth around Wexford Town and limited or no growth in Enniscorthy and New Ross. There would be very limited or no growth in other settlements and villages around Wexford. However, this development option would also present significant challenges for the provision of required infrastructure, wastewater, potable water, sustainable land use and transport and for protection of biodiversity, soils, groundwater and landscape. It would have uncertain impacts on human health and population, on the one hand providing housing in locations of choice but on the other hand resulting lives dominated by commuting and the associated health and environmental effects.

Alternative 1 would counter the provision of balanced services throughout the county, undermine the position of Wexford Town as the highest tier settlement with county level services, for the county, and exacerbate sustainable transport and climate change initiatives (refer to Table 3.2).

Alternative 1 is not a desirable environmental plan alternative having regard to the foregoing reasons.

Alternative 2: Strictly Urban-centric growth - positively promotes development in larger settlements, with resultant benefits for soils, landscape and provision of sustainable servicing and transport measures. However, while this approach would be appropriate for larger settlements, it would present challenges for smaller settlements in meeting the demand for local provision of social and services infrastructure and sustainable transport. Bias against all rural development would also have a negative effect for those who require a rural location (e.g. agriculture) and would have a negative impact on social and economic development generally within the county (refer to Table 3.2).

There would be negative impacts on human health and population with people unable to live in the rural area in which they work resulting in reverse commuting and social isolation. There would be potential effects from interactions between population and human health and noise, air quality and flooding/surface water management. Similarly, potential impacts would arise from large or rapid concentrations of urban growth on surface water management, flooding, air quality and noise.

While having benefits, Alternative 2 is not a desirable environmental plan alternative having regard to the foregoing.

Alternative 3: Balanced, planned growth - represents a balanced recognition of established patterns of development in the county having regard to the requirements of the NPF and RSES. The approach provides for rural protection while allowing an appropriate level of growth within lower tier settlements. This approach works with existing and planned delivery of services infrastructure, (and having regard to the capacity assessment - see Appendix A8.5) and presents the best option towards sustainable transport.

Alternative 3 supports local communities and population, supporting provision of local services and infrastructure, which assists in countering isolation without impact on surrounding environment (refer to Table 3.2).

While having some uncertain environmental effects Alternative 3 is a balanced sustainable approach to planned development for the county as a whole. As such Alternative 3 was been selected as the basis of the preparation of the Wexford County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Table 3.2: Assessment Matrix of Alternative Settlement Strategy Scenarios against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Plan Alternative					Water Quality					Material Assets					
	Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)	Population & Human Health	Soils & Geology	Surface Water	Groundwater	Flooding	Air Quality	Climate Change	Noise	Water Supply	Wastewater Treatment	Waste Management	Transport	Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visual
Alternative 1: Growth planned around market demand	Negative	Uncertain	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative	Negative
Alternative 2: Strictly Urban-Centric Growth	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Positive	Negative	Negative	Positive	Uncertain	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive
Alternative 3: Balanced, Planned Growth	Uncertain	Positive	Uncertain	Uncertain	Positive	Positive	Positive	Uncertain	Positive	Positive	Positive	Positive	Uncertain	Uncertain	Negative

Key

Positive	Positive
Negative	Negative
Uncertain	Uncertain

3.2.2 Selected Alternative Development Scenario: Settlement Strategy

While having some uncertain environmental effects Alternative 3 is a balanced sustainable approach to planned development for the county as a whole. As such Alternative 3 was selected as the basis of the preparation of the Core Strategy in the Wexford CDP 2022-2028. This was based on the following:

- Consistent with the requirements of the NPF and RSES;
- Supports the existing urban centres;
- Maintains and enhances existing development, whilst protecting the rural environment;
- Prioritises growth in strategic well-serviced areas capable of delivering appropriate and sustainable development; and
- Promotes smarter travel policies, reduction in commuting, with increased walking and cycling.

Having regard to the SEO's (see Table 3.2), uncertain environmental effects are identified on biodiversity, flora and fauna, soils and geology, surface water, climate change, transport and cultural heritage. This is due in part to the limited availability of water and/or wastewater capacity in certain settlements, and the unforeseen effects of rural housing demand and provision in the surrounding areas where such infrastructure is not available (for persons with a demonstrable social or economic functional rural housing need to live in that area) to allow people to remain in their local area. Rural housing development, in general, may result in additional pressures/threats on surface water and ground water (e.g. from inadequate wastewater treatment), biodiversity (e.g. by interrupting ecological corridors) and cultural heritage (e.g. by impacting on unknown archaeological heritage during construction works) if not adequately mitigated. It may also result in increased travel which would have implications for climate change. Potential negative effects are also identified on landscape as a result of one-off housing and other industries which require a rural location.

Uncertain and negative effects are mitigated by the inclusion of protective objectives included in the Plan and will be further considered and assessed at the project level.

The Settlement Hierarchy is developed around seven levels. While each level serves a different strategic role, together they will achieve a balanced, spatial planning settlement framework which supports our urban and rural areas. All settlements, regardless of their level, have an important role and contribution to make to the economic and social life of the county.

The allocation of settlements to the different levels had regard to a range of factors including:

- The guiding principles outlined in Section 3 of the County Development Plan Volume 1.
- Designation in the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, i.e. Key towns.

- Scale of existing population and its existing performance.
- Rate and pace of past development and the extent to which there are outstanding requirements for infrastructure and amenities.
- Accessibility and potential influence in a regional and sub-regional context.
- Environmental and infrastructural capacities and the need for a plan-led approach for investment in key infrastructure, e.g. water services.
- Scale of employment provision and the economic potential of the settlement, including planned economic projects.
- Extent of local services and amenity provision, in particular, third level education, post primary education, health, retail and leisure.
- Scope of the settlement to leverage investment, in particular employment.
- Character of the local geography and accessibility as a service centre for rural hinterlands.
- The need to sustain rural populations and services.
- The need to provide for attractive, alternative options to rural housing within small towns, villages and rural nodes.

3.3 Alternative Development Scenarios: Rural Housing Policy

The rural housing policy must have regard the Rural Housing Guidelines and must be consistent with the NPF and RSES with regard to distinguishing between areas under urban influence and other rural areas. The objectives in the NPF and RSES provide that in rural areas under urban influence, single rural housing will be considered in the open countryside for those with a demonstratable economic or social functional need to live there.

Given these restrictions the following plan alternatives for rural housing policy were formulated and assessed:

- **Alternative 1:** Dispersed Rural Housing

This alternative would allow for a dispersed pattern of development and would not differentiate between the characteristics of particular areas. All applications would be assessed on their merit.

- **Alternative 2:** Pressure and Non-Pressure Areas

This alternative would divide the County into two areas based on whether they are subject to development pressure and/or commuter pressures or not i.e. areas under urban influence and elsewhere.

▪ **Alternative 3:** Pressure and Sensitive Areas – reduced specified distance

This alternative divides the County into areas based on past levels of development pressure, commuter pressures, distances from main roads etc. The policy also considers sensitivities such as designated ecological areas and landscape character units.

The pressure areas are divided into three categories with strict local need distances applied for the consideration of a rural house for a persons who have a demonstratable social functional housing need to live there:

- Areas under Strong Urban Influence (specified distance 5km).
- Stronger Rural Areas (specified distance 7km).
- Structurally Weak Areas (specified distance 10km).

Two additional ‘sensitive’ areas are included also with strict local need distances:

- Coastal Zone (specified distance 3km).
- Landscape and Heritage Areas (Designated ecological areas including SACs, SPAs and NHAs and Landscape Character Units including Uplands, River Valley, Coastal and Distinctive Landscapes) (specified distance 3km).

▪ **Alternative 4:** Pressure and Sensitive Areas – increased specified distance

This alternative divides the County into the same areas as outlined under Alternative 3 but with local need distances increased as follows:

- Areas under Strong Urban Influence (7km).
- Stronger Rural Areas (15km).
- Structurally Weak Areas (no specified distance).

The sensitive areas are divided into two categories also with strict local need distances:

- Coastal Zone (3km).
- Landscape and Heritage Areas (Designated ecological areas including SACs, SPAs and NHAs and Landscape Character Units including Uplands, River Valley, Coastal and Distinctive Landscapes) (3km).

3.3.1 Assessment of Alternative Development Scenarios: Rural Housing Policy

Alternative 1: Dispersed – by not providing for Rural Housing Designations at Plan level and instead assessing all applications on their merit, this alternative would provide a less coherent and coordinated approach that would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would be more likely to result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing towns and villages. Urban generated development would be more likely to occur under this alternative within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in lower density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reductions and various environmental components (refer to Table 3.3).

Alternative 2: Pressure and Non-Pressure Areas – this alternative would restrict development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence but would not provide additional consideration of more sensitive areas such as the coastal zone, designated ecological sites and sensitive landscapes. This would likely result in increased pressure for rural housing in sensitive areas such as the coastal zone, designated sites, uplands and river valleys which could have adverse effects on these areas in terms of biodiversity, geology, water, heritage and landscape. The increased pressure for rural housing would also have cumulative adverse effects on water quality, sustainable mobility, climate emission reductions and material assets in terms of the efficient use of existing infrastructure (refer to Table 3.3).

Alternative 3: Pressure and Sensitive Areas with reduced specified distance - would restrict development in rural areas that are under strong urban influence and would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. Rural development would be directed towards appropriate rural areas and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reductions and various environmental components – to a greater degree than would be the case under Alternative 4. This alternative also contributes to the development of sustainable communities in rural areas which are in decline or where services are stagnating. Stricter criteria for sensitive areas would also reduce impacts on most environmental receptors (refer to Table 3.3).

Alternative 4: Pressure and Sensitive Areas with increased specified distance. This alternative would also restrict development in rural areas under strong urban influence preventing low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reductions and various environmental components –to a lesser degree than would be the case under Alternative 3. Due to the increased specified distances this alternative would be a less controlled approach and would result in increased pressure for rural housing in the urban influence area with less control on the pace of development over the period of the plan (refer to Table 3.3).

Table 3.3: Assessment Matrix of Rural Housing Policy Alternative Scenarios against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Plan Alternative				Water Quality						Material Assets					
	Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)	Population & Human Health	Soils & Geology	Surface Water	Groundwater	Marine	Air Quality	Climate Change	Noise	Water Supply	Wastewater Treatment	Waste Management	Transport	Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visual
Alternative 1: Dispersed	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Alternative 2: Pressure and Non-Pressure Areas	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Green	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red	Red
Alternative 3: Pressure and Sensitive Areas with reduced distances	Green	Dark Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green
Alternative 4: Pressure and Sensitive Areas with increased distances	Green	Dark Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green	Green

Key

Positive	Green
Negative	Red
Uncertain	Light Green

3.3.2 Selected Alternative Development Scenario: Rural Housing Policy

Alternative 4 was selected with increased distances was selected for the Plan. Rural housing development, in general, may result in additional pressures / threats on surface water (e.g. from inadequate wastewater treatment), biodiversity (e.g. by interrupting ecological corridors) and cultural heritage (e.g. by impacting on unknown archaeological heritage during construction works) if not adequately mitigated. It may also result in increased travel which would have implications for climate change. Potential negative effects are also identified on landscape as a result of one-off housing.

Uncertain and negative effects are mitigated by the inclusion of protective objectives included in the Plan and will be further considered at the project level.

3.4 Alternative Development Scenarios: Energy Strategy

The Energy Strategy contained in Volume 10 of the Plan sets out a framework to guide future renewable energy development over the plan period. The Strategy aims to position County Wexford as a leader in renewable energy generation and sets an ambitious target of 100% of the County's energy consumption (electricity) to be from renewable energy sources by 2028. The Strategy is framed within the context of national policy on renewable energy and climate action and is required to set out how the Plan will contribute towards the national renewable energy targets of 70% by 2030. In this regard the framework, objectives and targets set out in the Strategy will place the County in a position to exceed its population share of the national target by 2028.

The Energy Strategy Vision is set out in Section 1.2 of the Strategy as follows:

"To maximise Wexford's renewable energy potential and its transition to becoming a more energy secure, low carbon county in line with national energy targets whilst balancing the need to protect the environmental, social and heritage assets of the county."

A number of alternatives options were considered during the course of the Energy Strategy preparation, and these are outlined below.

3.4.1 Assessment of Alternative Development Scenarios: Energy Strategy

Strategic Energy Options

- **Option 1:** Do Nothing Scenario (or Onshore Wind Only)

This option would involve retaining the existing Wind Energy Strategy as a means to achieving renewable energy targets. However, it was decided early in the plan process that a complete Renewable Energy Strategy should be prepared to:

- Take account of updated national and regional policy in relation to climate change, renewable energy and the need to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- Take account of technological advances and extant planning permissions for other renewable energy developments, including solar farms; and
- Indicate how the implementation of the Plan will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change mitigation in line with Government policy.

The Wind Energy Strategy 2013-2019 contained a target of 70% of electricity consumption to be from renewable sources and, although this would still be consistent with national renewable energy targets to 2030, it was considered that, due to the availability of renewable resources in the County, and having regard to extant permissions, Wexford can exceed this target and aim to achieve 100% of its electricity needs from renewable resources during the plan period, thus transitioning to a low carbon economy and becoming a leader in sustainable renewable energy generation.

The reliance on onshore wind to deliver this increased target would have significant positive effects for climate change reduction targets. However, it could have significant adverse effects in terms of noise emissions and impacts on the landscape if not adequately mitigated. There would be uncertain effects on biodiversity, population, soils and geology and heritage. Potential for other renewable energy developments would also not be realised (refer to Table 3.4).

▪ **Option 2:** Combination of Renewable Energy Developments

This option involves the development of a combination of renewable energy technologies, including wind and solar energy developments, together with a smaller number of bioenergy developments and other small-scale community developments to meet the renewable energy target during the plan period. The County is well placed to meet 100% of its electricity energy consumption from a variety of renewable energy resources having regard to its coastal location, a strong wind resource, good solar irradiation and a significant grid network. The County also has a strong forestry resource for the purposes of developing the bioenergy sector and a number of heat demand centres which provide a viable opportunity for combined heat and power technology.

This alternative would be positive for climate change and would balance impacts between those associated with wind farms and more land intensive renewable energy developments such as solar farms. It would allow for a blend of technologies to reach the renewable energy targets. However, there would be uncertain effects on biodiversity, population, soils and geology, heritage and landscape if not adequately mitigated (refer to Table 3.4).

▪ **Option 3:** Offshore Renewable Energy Development

This scenario would see the direction of renewable energy developments to the offshore areas of County Wexford as a means of achieving the renewable energy target. The Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (OREDPA) identifies the east coast of Wexford as being suitable for wind and tidal development while the south coast is identified as being suitable for wind only. A foreshore licence was granted in 2018 for site investigation works to inform the possible construction of a windfarm off the north Wexford coast and a further foreshore licence is at consultation stage for site investigation works off Cahore Point. A further licence application is at consultation stage for site investigation works for an offshore windfarm off the coast off Helvick Head in Co. Waterford and incorporates an area south of Hook Head off the Wexford coast.

Potential adverse effects are identified on marine waters and uncertain effects on landscape in terms of views from land. Uncertain effects are also identified on biodiversity and cultural heritage/underwater archaeology, from offshore renewable energy development and its associated landfall development, which would require appropriate mitigation.

While a lot of progress has been made in this area in terms of the National Marine Planning Framework and the Maritime Area Planning Bill 2021, which seeks to streamline the planning consent process for offshore development, the anticipated timeframes involved in the planning, consent and delivery of the necessary infrastructure to enable such developments to be developed and become operational is expected to go beyond the period of this plan. In addition, it is expected that further research and development will be required before tidal energy is developed. As such, the sole reliance on offshore renewable energy development as a means to meeting the renewable energy target during the plan period is considered unlikely (refer to Table 3.4).

Spatial Energy Options

- **Option 4:** Consolidate Renewable Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster

This option would allow for the clustering of new wind farm, solar farm and bioenergy developments in a single location based on strategic analysis of the most suitable area in terms of resources, environmental, landscape and other factors. This approach would potentially lead to significant effects in a particular location, particularly in terms of landscape and environmental impacts. However, these effects would be localised rather than dispersed throughout the county. This option would seek to meet the renewable energy target for the county whilst limiting the extent of environmental, visual and amenity impacts. However, limiting all developments to a single area in the County may make it more difficult to achieve the renewable energy target (refer to Table 3.4).

- **Option 5:** Disperse Renewable Energy Development throughout the County

This option would allow for the dispersal of wind farm, solar farm and bioenergy developments throughout the county within potentially suitable areas. This approach would not realise opportunities for clustering renewable energy developments in the most strategic or environmentally appropriate locations and could result in widespread environmental and visual impacts around the county.

Potential negative effects are identified on landscape from the dispersal of developments throughout the County while uncertain effects are identified on biodiversity, population, soils and geology and heritage which would require mitigation measures. Uncertain effects are also identified on transport, as certain developments such as bioenergy developments may result in a significant amount of traffic which would be required to be assessed and mitigated (refer to Table 3.4).

- **Option 6:** Strategic Approach to Renewable Energy Development

This approach recognises where the principal renewable energy resources are and matches them to existing infrastructure – two critical considerations for renewable energy development. It seeks to protect designated sites and existing settlements while maximising the potential of local renewable energy resources. This approach would allow potential applicants a means to progress renewable energy developments within robust strategic areas in the county, thus assisting the county in meeting its renewable energy targets. It would also encourage clustering or sharing of infrastructure associated with renewable energy development. This alternative would have the least environmental impacts out of all the alternatives considered (refer to Table 3.4).

Table 3.4: Assessment Matrix of Renewable Energy Strategy Alternatives against Strategic Environmental Objectives

Key				Water Quality						Material Assets					
	Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna)	Population & Human Health	Soils & Geology	Surface Water	Groundwater	Marine	Air Quality	Climate Change	Noise	Water Supply	Wastewater Treatment	Waste Management	Transport	Cultural Heritage	Landscape & Visual
Positive +															
Negative -															
Uncertain ?															
Neutral 0															
Option 1: Do Nothing Scenario (or Onshore Wind Only)	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	?	?	-
Option 2: Combination of Renewable Energy Developments	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	+	-	0	0	0	?	?	?
Option 3: Offshore Renewable Energy Development	?	0	0	0	0	-	+	+	?	0	0	0	0	?	?
Option 4: Consolidate Renewable Energy Development in a Single Large Cluster	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	+	?	0	0	0	?	?	+/-
Option 5: Disperse Renewable Energy Development throughout the County	?	?	?	?	0	0	+	+	?	0	0	0	?	?	-
Option 6: Strategic Approach to Renewable Energy Development	+/?	+/?	?	?	0	0	+	+	?	0	0	0	?	?	?

3.4.2 Selected Alternative Development Scenario: Energy Strategy

The selected alternative is a combination of Option 2 and Option 6 – using a combination of renewable energy resources to meet the renewable energy target within robust strategic areas. Together these options form the basis for the Energy Strategy, allowing for the strategic development of renewable energy development in areas of highest viability while seeking to avoid or reduce impacts on the environment and ensuring the protection of residential and visual amenity.

Positive and uncertain effects are identified on biodiversity, flora and fauna: positive as the areas identified for large commercial solar and wind farm development avoid the designated sites; and uncertain as the effects from development on non-designated sites and ecological networks/corridors are unknown. Similarly, positive and uncertain effects are identified on population and human health as the areas identified for large commercial wind and solar farms avoid the larger settlements, but development outside of these settlements will require mitigation to ensure that impacts do not arise on residents in the rural area. There are also potential effects from bioenergy and other renewable energy developments on population which will require mitigation.

Uncertain effects are identified on soils, geology and water quality (surface water) due to issues such as soil erosion/compaction and sedimentation and these will require mitigation. Positive impacts are identified on air quality and climate change as a result of increasing the renewable energy supply. There are potential negative or uncertain effects on noise, mainly from wind farms, which will also require mitigation including setbacks from noise sensitive properties, the use of best available technology and consideration of noise assessment reports at the project level. Material assets are mainly unaffected with the exception of transport which will require mitigation in the form of transport assessments/construction management plans. The landscape character assessment will be used to inform the identification of areas of wind and solar farm development to avoid the more sensitive landscapes including Uplands, River Valleys, Coastal and Distinctive Landscapes. However, cultural heritage and landscape will require further mitigation at the project level to protect the cultural, architectural and archaeological heritage and visual amenity.

Uncertain and negative effects are mitigated by the inclusion of protective objectives included in the Plan and will be further considered at the project level.

4 Monitoring Measures and Reporting

4.1 Introduction

In accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive, monitoring must be carried out of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan *“in order to, inter alia, identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.”* Departmental Guidelines on SEA² recommends that monitoring does not necessarily require new research activity, but that existing sources of information can be used and the task of data collection can be shared.

Monitoring enables, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action. In addition to this, monitoring can also play an important role in assessing whether the Development Plan is achieving its environmental objectives and targets - measures which the Plan can help work towards - whether these need to be re-examined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.

4.2 Monitoring Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around indicators which allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEO) identified in the SEA Environmental Report and used in the assessment. Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant strategic actions.

Table 4.1 sets out the targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan, if unmitigated. The monitoring programme may be updated to deal with specific environmental issues - including unforeseen effects - as they arise. Such issues may be identified by WCC or identified to WCC by other agencies.

4.3 Sources and Frequency

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by Wexford County Council and the relevant authorities e.g. Government Departments, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS) and the Central Statistics Office (CSO). It is anticipated that monitoring will be undertaken on a biannual basis, to correspond with, initially, the two-year review of the Plan.

² Section 8.3 of Strategic Environmental Assessment - Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities, 2022. Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

4.4 Reporting and Remedial Action

Wexford County Council is responsible for undertaking monitoring. Environmental indicator assessment during monitoring can show positive / neutral impacts or negative impacts on the environment. Where an indicator value highlights a positive / neutral impact on the environment, it is likely that the objectives of the Plan are well-defined with regard to the environment. Conversely where the objectives of the Plan have a negative impact on the environment, it may be necessary to review the objectives of the Plan or to take some other form of intervention or remedial action. For example, if an objective is having a significant adverse impact, a variation to address the issue may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan.

Table 4.1: Environmental Monitoring Programme

Environmental Aspect	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
Biodiversity (Flora & Fauna) (B)	Number and extent and condition of Protected Sites and habitats.	Protect, conserve and restore (where possible) all designated sites and species within and adjoining/adjacent to the Plan area.	NPWS (Reports under Article 17 of Habitats Directive and Article 12 of Birds Directive).
	Number of WCC plans and projects which enhance the biodiversity value of non-designated sites.	Adoption of biodiversity and green infrastructure objectives in future Local Area Plans (LAPs). Adoption of a new County Wexford Biodiversity Plan. Adoption of a new County Heritage Plan. Increase in the number of Council-wide initiatives undertaken which promote biodiversity.	Wexford County Council.
	Extent of biodiversity gains associated with renewable energy and housing developments.	Maximise biodiversity gains associated with new renewable energy and rural housing developments further to the Energy Strategy and Development Management Objective 3.1.2. Increase in the use of nature-based SuDS as part of new developments and the retrofit of existing developments, public spaces and streets.	Wexford County Council.
Population and Human Health (PHH)	Extent of unemployment and deprivation in the county.	Decrease in the number of people unemployed, and an improvement in the deprivation levels reported in the Pobal HP Deprivation Index 2016.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) and other relevant external sources.
	Extent of new open space, playgrounds, amenities, cultural building and other social infrastructure granted / developed.	Secure the implementation of the relevant standards and requirements relating to open space and play facilities in Chapters 14 and 15 of the CDP, and the delivery of other social and community infrastructure.	Wexford County Council.
	Number of WCC plans and projects incorporating Healthy Towns, Age Friendly and Accessibility goals.	To implement Healthy Towns, Age Friendly and Accessibility objectives of plan.	Wexford County Council.
Soils & Geology (SG)	Proportion of population growth occurring on infill and brownfield lands.	To achieve a minimum of 30% of all new residential development on infill/brownfield sites.	Wexford County Council.

Environmental Aspect	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	Extent of impacts on County Geological Sites.	No adverse impacts on County Geological Sites.	Wexford County Council, Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI).
Water Quality (W)	Status of water bodies (ecological and chemical) under the Water Framework Directive.	<p>Implementation of the recommendations of the River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021 and subsequent Plans.</p> <p>To achieve and maintain the achievement of “good” ecological and chemical status/potential of waterbodies in accordance with the WFD.</p> <p>To protect, maintain and restore where possible ‘High’ status water bodies under the Blue Dot Catchment programme.</p> <p>To ensure future Local Area Plans are prepared having due regard to the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plans.</p>	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Local Authorities Water Programme (LAWPRO), Wexford County Council.
	Number of bathing waters in the county complying with the Bathing Water Directive and Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008.	To maintain and improve water quality at designated Bathing Waters.	EPA, Wexford County Council.
	Proportion of new Irish Water Wastewater Treatment Plants (WwTP).	Increase in the number of new WwTPs constructed and delivered by Irish Water.	Irish Water, Wexford County Council.
	Proportion of existing WwTP complying with relevant environmental and water quality legislation.	To eliminate public WwTP that do not comply with the relevant legislation.	EPA, Irish Water, Wexford County Council.
	Number of water supplies on the EPA Water Supply Remedial Action List.	To eliminate County Wexford water supplies on the EPA Remedial action list.	EPA, Irish Water, Wexford County Council.
	Extent of flood events and associated impacts on people, property and infrastructure in the plan area.	Avoid incompatible development in areas at risk of flooding.	Wexford County Council, OPW

Environmental Aspect	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	Number of flood defence schemes.	<p>To undertake Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of all future LAPS and to incorporate SFRA recommendations into LAP land use zoning and objectives.</p> <p>Increase in the use of nature-based SuDS as part of new developments and the retrofit of existing developments, public spaces and streets.</p> <p>Implementation of the measures identified in the CFRAM Management Plans including flood defence schemes in Enniscorthy Town and Wexford Town.</p>	
Air Quality & Noise (AN)	Measurable reductions in concentrations of NO _x , SO _x , PM ₁₀ and PM _{2.5}	Improvement in the concentrations of measured parameters such as Particulate Matter, Sulphur Dioxide and nitrogen oxides.	Wexford County Council, EPA
	Proportion of CO ₂ emissions from the transport sector.	<p>Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular use of active travel modes (public transport, cycling or walking) to school and work above 2016 CSO Figures, and the securing of the modal shift targets as set out in Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy and in future LAPS.</p> <p>Increase in Electric vehicles ownership and usage.</p> <p>Increase in the number of electric charging points in the county, provided in both private and public development.</p>	CSO, Department of Transport (DoT), Wexford County Council
Climate Change (CC)	<p>Extent of coastal erosion.</p> <p>Extent of plan measures relating to climate adaptation and mitigation.</p>	<p>Implementation of a coastal erosion monitoring programme.</p> <p>Adoption of County Wexford Coastal Strategy to include the provision of appropriate coastal defence works and measures to reduce the extent of, and control the rate of, coastal erosion, where possible.</p> <p>Incorporation of objectives relating to climate adaptation and mitigation in the CDP, future LAPS, the County Wexford Climate Adaptations Strategy and future Local Climate Action Plan.</p>	Wexford County Council, GSI.

Environmental Aspect	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	Extent of renewable energy provision and the number of renewable energy development permitted.	That the equivalent of 100% of electricity consumption in the county will be generated from renewable energy sources by 2028.	Wexford County Council, 3 Counties Energy Authority (3CEA).
	Number of Nearly Zero Energy in new buildings (NZEB) permitted.	Improvement in energy efficiency in new buildings. Increase in the energy efficiency of local authority housing stock.	
	Proportion of people reporting regular cycling/walking to school and work above the 2016 CSO Figure. Proportion of journeys made by private fossil fuel based cars compared to 2016 levels.	Increase in the proportion of people reporting regular cycling/walking to school and work above 2016 Figures. Reduction in the proportion of journeys made by residents in the county using private fossil fuel based cars compared to 2016 levels.	CSO, DoT.
	Number of Actions from County Wexford Adaptation Strategy 2019 -2025 implemented.	Incorporation of the County Wexford Adaptation Strategy 2019 -2025, and any future Local Climate Action Plan into future LAPs.	Wexford County Council, 3CEA.
Material Assets (MA)	Number of public water and wastewater facilities in the county delivered.	Provision of new infrastructure and the maintenance and upgrade of existing public water and wastewater infrastructure.	Wexford County Council, Irish Water, National Transport Authority, Public transport providers, National Broadband Ireland.
	Extent of infrastructure for active travel and public transport.	Increase in number of permitted developments connecting to public wastewater and/or public water infrastructure.	
	Extent of new Information technology infrastructure and proportion of the county with access to broadband infrastructure.	Provide new and upgrade existing infrastructure for active travel and public transport. To implement the National Broadband Plan in the County.	
Cultural Heritage (CH)	Number of recorded features lost.	No loss of features of architectural or archaeological importance.	Wexford County Council, Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sports and Media (DTCAGSM).

Environmental Aspect	Indicators	Targets	Data Sources
	Number of grants awarded.	To maximise conservation of protected structures, including that supported by grant aid.	Wexford County Council, DTCAGSM.
	Number of WCC plans and projects which address cultural heritage.	Adoption, and implementation of a County Heritage Plan. Undertake further cultural heritage initiatives.	Wexford County Council.
Landscape & Visual (LV)	Impacts of development on the County's Coastal, River Valley, Upland and Distinctive landscapes.	No diminution in the overall Coastal, River Valley, Upland and Distinctive landscapes.	Wexford County Council
	Number of WCC plans and projects which address landscape issues.	Implement CDP landscape objectives including landscape characterisation and sensitivity analysis in the preparation of future LAPs.	

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