

SCREENING FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR THE

DRAFT LONGFORD TOURISM STRATEGY 2023-2027

for: Longford County Council

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Longford



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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and Legislative Requirements

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Draft Longford Tourism Strategy 2023-2027, hereafter referred to as “the Strategy”. This report has been prepared by CAAS Ltd.

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or strategy, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans and programmes. Screening is the process for determining whether a particular plan, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

Under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), Longford County Council is required to determine whether the Strategy needs to be subject to SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on the Strategy. This report should be read in conjunction with the documents cited within, including the Strategy and the AA Screening Report.

1.2 Approach

The Draft Strategy is being subject to Screening for SEA and this Screening for SEA Report has been prepared to inform a Screening for SEA Determination by Longford County Council. The Screening for SEA Report concludes that:

“Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the existing planning framework that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from the Strategy: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, it is advised that the Strategy does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.”

The Draft Strategy and associated documents, including the Screening for SEA Report and associated SEA determination, will be placed on public display as part of the public consultation on the Tourism Strategy.

Any changes to the Draft Strategy proposed following public display will be considered by the Screening for SEA process in advance of adoption of the Strategy.

1.3 Strategy Overview/Vision

The County Longford Tourism Strategy 2023-2027 represents a tourism roadmap aligned with a five-year vision for Longford and a county-wide commitment to sustainable tourism. The overarching ambition is to develop and promote County Longford as a high-quality, desirable destination within Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands that offers memorable visitor experiences. To achieve this, the Strategy will continue to take a collaborative approach to tourism that enables County Longford to harness the potential of its built and natural heritage to become a year-round tourism destination focused on slow tourism based around culture, heritage, and landscape and on outdoor recreation and adventure that is both water and land-

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

based. A Vision for the Longford Tourism Strategy is for Longford to become: *"[...] a year-round sustainable tourism destination providing authentic community and eco-tourism experiences encouraging visitors to embrace slow tourism and grounded in respect for its natural and heritage assets that are protected for future generations."* For more detail on the content of the Strategy please refer to the Strategy document.

The Vision will be achieved through the following strategic objectives, subject to compliance with the policies and objectives contained within the Failte Ireland Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Strategy, and all relevant environmental legislation, including the Habitats Directive:

- Support the development of new and existing tourism products to increase County Longford's attractiveness as a visitor location through its focus on sustainable tourism.
- Collaborate locally and regionally with key partners who can support improvement in tourism infrastructure, products and experiences.
- Identify and maximise all possible funding opportunities that can facilitate product and service development linked to sustainable and regenerative tourism.
- Raise awareness of the County as a tourism hub within Ireland's Hidden Heartlands through effective marketing and promotional campaigns.
- Grow the number of visitor experiences linked to strategic projects.
- Grow the accommodation stock across the county to increase visitor spending and dwell time.
- Disperse visitors across the county with particular emphasis on visitors already attracted to major attractions e.g. Centre Parcs, Greenways.
- Create excellence in all customer service offering working with providers to enhance their capacity and capability to meet market demands.
- Work with the County Longford Tourism committee on the implementation of this new Strategy (2023 – 2027).
- Communicate effectively with our key target audiences through the tourism office, and media, both online and offline with particular emphasis on the website www.longford.ie
- Be a champion for sustainability and sustainable tourism especially all forms of tourism that involve exploration or enjoyment of our natural environment.

The Strategy sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply. The Strategy will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local) that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA. Implementation of the Strategy shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Regional Tourism Development Strategy, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Strategy (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Strategy is not part and does not contribute towards.

1.4 Consultations

As part of the screening process, environmental authorities² were notified that a submission or observation in relation to whether or not implementation of the Strategy would be likely to have significant effects on the environment may be made to the Council. Submissions were received from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Geological Survey Ireland). The issues raised in these submissions are presented and responded to in Table 1.1 below.

Table 1.1 Issues Raised in SEA Scoping Submissions and Responses

Ref.	Issue Raised in Submission	Response
Submission from Environmental Protection Agency		
EPA1	<p>We acknowledge your notice, dated 3rd July 2023, in relation to the Draft County Longford Tourism Strategy (the Strategy) and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) screening.</p> <p>The EPA is one of the statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as a SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Strategy and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the Strategy.</p> <p>Where we provide specific comments on plans and programmes, our comments will focus on the EPA's remit and areas of expertise (in particular water, air, climate change, waste, resource efficiency, noise, radon and the inter-relationships between these and other relevant topics e.g. biodiversity), as appropriate and relevant to the particular plan or programme.</p>	Noted.
EPA2	<p>Proposed SEA Determination</p> <p>If proposed determination hasn't been made, you should determine whether the implementation of the proposed Strategy would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The criteria to consider are set out in Annex II of Directive 2001/ 42/EC on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (The SEA Directive) and in Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended).</p> <p>You should take into account the relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 into account in making its determination as to whether the Strategy would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.</p> <p>Guidance on the SEA process, including an SEA pack and checklist available on our website at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-resources-and-guidance/.</p> <p>We recommend that you take the available guidance into account in making your SEA Screening Determination and incorporate the relevant recommendations as relevant and appropriate to the Strategy.</p>	Longford County Council are making a determination, taking into account Schedule 1, as to whether the Strategy would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The EPA's online resources have been considered in the preparation of this report, which will inform the Council's determination.
EPA3	<p>EPA SEA Screening Guidance</p> <p>Our <i>Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening</i> (EPA, 2021) provides specific stand-alone guidance to assist plan or programme makers and SEA practitioners. It focuses primarily on plans/programmes in the non-land use sector in Ireland and includes an elaboration of the steps needed for screening, the legislative landscape underpinning SEA screening, and step-by-step process and templates to assist in preparing the required documentation.</p>	Relevant resources, including <i>Good Practice Guidance for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening (EPA, 2021)</i> and <i>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities</i> (DHLGH, 2022) have been considered in the preparation of this report, which will inform the Council's determination.
EPA4	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Planning Authorities</p> <p>The <i>Strategic Environmental Assessment: Guidelines for Regional Assemblies and Planning Authorities</i> (DHLGH, 2022) provides advice on carrying out SEA in the land-use planning sector for those plans listed in S.I. No. 436 of 2004, as amended. These plans comprise regional, county and local plans, including Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies, County or City Development Plans, variations of Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes for Strategic Development Zones. The Guidelines replace previous guidance for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities published in 2004.</p>	
EPA5	<p>Sustainable Development</p> <p>In proposing and in implementing the Strategy, you should ensure that</p>	The Strategy is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable

² The following environmental authorities were notified: Environmental Protection Agency; Department of Environment, Climate and Communications; Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

Ref.	Issue Raised in Submission	Response
	<p>the Strategy is consistent with the need for proper planning and sustainable development. Adequate and appropriate critical service infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place, to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the plan or programme.</p> <p>In considering the Strategy, you should take into account the need to align with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as incorporating any relevant recommendations in sectoral, regional and local climate adaptation plans.</p> <p>You should also ensure that the Strategy aligns with any key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework, Climate Action Plan 2023 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland region.</p>	<p>development and is consistent with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes, including those relating to climate action. Provisions have been integrated into the existing NPF, RSES, Longford County Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, Climate Action Plan 2023, Longford County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy and into the Strategy to this effect.</p>
EPA6	<p>State of the Environment Report – Ireland's Environment 2020</p> <p>In preparing the Strategy and associated SEA screening, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described in our published State of the Environment Report <i>Ireland's Environment – An Integrated Assessment 2020</i> (EPA, 2020) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the plan or programme. It is worth noting that the EPA are currently preparing the next iteration of this State of the Report which is due to be published in 2024. Once publication, there is merit in including a commitment to take any relevant aspects into account into account in implementing the Strategy.</p>	<p>The EPA's State of the Environment Report 2020 has been considered in the preparation of this report, which will inform the Council's determination.</p>
EPA7	<p>Available Guidance & Resources</p> <p>Our website contains various SEA resources and guidance, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - SEA process guidance and checklists - Inventory of spatial datasets relevant to SEA - topic specific SEA guidance (including Good practice note on Cumulative Effects Assessment (EPA, 2020), Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring (EPA, 2020), Integrating climatic factors into SEA (EPA, 2019), Developing and Assessing Alternatives in SEA (EPA, 2015), and Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment (EPA, 2012)) <p>You can access these guidance notes and other resources at: https://www.epa.ie/our-services/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategic-environmental-assessment/sea-topic-and-sector-specific-guidance/</p> <p>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) WebTool</p> <p>This new tool was launched recently by the EPA. It is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. It is available at www.enviromap.ie. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. These maps can help planners examine environmental considerations, anticipate potential land-use conflicts, and help identify suitable development locations while also protecting the environment.</p> <p>EPA SEA WebGIS Tool</p> <p>Our SEA WebGIS Tool has been updated recently and is now publicly available at https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/SEA. It allows public authorities to produce an indicative report on key aspects of the environment in a specific geographic area. It is intended to assist public authorities in SEA screening and scoping exercises.</p> <p>Catchments.ie</p> <p>Our https://www.catchments.ie/maps/ website provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the National WFD monitoring programme.</p> <p>EPA AA GeoTool</p> <p>Our AA GeoTool application has been developed in partnership with the NPWS. It allows users to select a location, specify a search area and gather available information for each European Site within the area. It is available at: https://gis.epa.ie/EPAMaps/AAGeoTool</p>	<p>The EPA's online resources have been considered in the preparation of this report, which will inform the Council's determination.</p>
EPA8	<p>Future amendments to the Strategy</p> <p>Where changes to the Strategy are made prior to finalisation, or where modifications to the plan or programme are proposed following its adoption, these should be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004, as amended) of the SEA Regulations, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Any proposed changes to the Strategy will be screened for potential for likely significant effects in accordance with the criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the Regulations (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended.</p>
EPA9	<p>Appropriate Assessment</p> <p>You should ensure that the plan or programme complies with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant. Where an Appropriate Assessment is required, the key findings and recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and the Strategy.</p>	<p>Screening for Appropriate Assessment is being undertaken and key findings have been incorporated into the Screening for SEA (see Section 2.2).</p>
EPA10	<p>Environmental Authorities</p>	<p>The environmental authorities have been</p>

Ref.	Issue Raised in Submission	Response
	<p>Under the SEA Regulations, prior to making your SEA determination you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; and • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. 	<p>consulted with in the preparation of this screening.</p>
EPA11	<p>SEA Determination</p> <p>As soon as practicable after making your determination as to whether SEA is required or not, you should make a copy of your decision, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection in your offices and on your website. You should also send a copy of your determination to the relevant environmental authorities consulted.</p> <p>If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>
Submission from Department of Environment, Climate and Communications (Geological Survey Ireland)		
DECC1	<p>Geological Survey Ireland is the national earth science agency and is a division of the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications. We provide independent geological information and gather various data for that purpose. Please see our website for data availability. We recommend using these various data sets, when conducting the EIAR, SEA, planning and scoping processes. Use of our data or maps should be attributed correctly to 'Geological Survey Ireland'. The publicly available data referenced/presented here, should in no way be construed as Geological Survey Ireland support for or objection to the proposed development or plan. The data is made freely available to all and can be used as independent scientific data in assessments, plans or policies. It should be noted that in many cases this data is a baseline or starting point for further site specific assessments.</p> <p>With reference to your email received on the 17 July 2023, concerning the Draft County Longford Tourism Strategy, Geological Survey Ireland would encourage use of and reference to our datasets. This data can add to the content and robustness of the SEA process. With this in mind please find attached a list of our publicly available datasets that may be useful to the environmental assessment and planning process. We recommend that you review this list and refer to any datasets you consider relevant to your assessment. The remainder of this letter and following sections provide more detail on some of these datasets.</p> <p>Geoheritage</p> <p>Geological Survey Ireland is in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS, Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage), to identify and select important geological and geomorphological sites throughout the country for designation as geological NHAs (Natural Heritage Areas). This is addressed by the Geoheritage Programme of Geological Survey Ireland, under 16 different geological themes, in which the minimum number of scientifically significant sites that best represent the theme are rigorously selected by a panel of theme experts.</p> <p>County Geological Sites (CGSs), as adopted under the National Heritage Plan, include additional sites that may also be of national importance, but which were not selected as the very best examples for NHA designation. All geological heritage sites identified by Geological Survey Ireland are categorised as CGS pending any further NHA designation by NPWS. CGSs are now routinely included in County Development Plans and in the GIS of planning departments, to ensure the recognition and appropriate protection of geological heritage within the planning system. CGSs can be viewed online under the Geological Heritage tab on the online Map Viewer.</p> <p>The audit of County Geological Sites of County Longford was published in 2015. The main report and individual County Geological Site (CGS) reports can be found here.</p> <p>Culture and Tourism</p> <p>A report on the Irish Geoheritage Sector carried out in 2016 by INDECON for Geological Survey Ireland showed that tourism in sites of geological value contributed €240 million to the Irish economy that year. While not all tourists were aware of the geological value of the sites of beauty they visited, it is undeniable that our geology, landscape, soils and weather formed the raw materials of Fáilte Ireland's brands of the Wild Atlantic Way and Ireland's Hidden Heartlands. Geological Survey Ireland supports Ireland's three UNESCO Global Geoparks (Copper Coast, Burren and Cliffs of Moher, Cuilcagh Lakelands), and one aspiring geopark on the Co</p>	<p>Noted. Relevant GSI data sets have been considered in the preparation of this report and will be considered throughout the Screening for SEA process.</p>

Ref.	Issue Raised in Submission	Response
	<p>Galway/Co Mayo border (Joyce Country and Western Lakes). These Geoparks have bolstered tourism in various parts of Ireland and helped to increase its levels in areas that were previously not as popular with tourists. We would encourage Longford County Council to continue this trend, and to use the geological audit information making it easily available to the general public.</p> <p>Geohazards Geohazards can cause widespread damage to landscapes, wildlife, human property and human life. In Ireland, landslides, flooding and coastal erosion are the most prevalent of these hazards. We recommend that geohazards be taken into consideration, especially when developing areas where these risks are prevalent, and we encourage the use of our data when doing so. Geological Survey Ireland has information available on landslides in Ireland via the National Landslide Database and Landslide Susceptibility Map both of which are available for viewing on our dedicated Map Viewer. Associated guidance documentation relating to the National Landslide Susceptibility Map is also available. Geological Survey Ireland also engaged in a national project on Groundwater Flooding. The data from this project may be useful in relation to Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and management plans, and is described in more detail under 'Groundwater' above.</p> <p>Physiographic Units Physiographic Units are cartographic representations of the broad-scale physical landscape of a region. They delineate physical regions showing internal uniformity with respect to one or more environmental attributes that can be clearly differentiated from neighbouring regions. They are valuable for regional land-use planning, and in studies of the influence of physical landscape on the ecological environment. This map is produced in support of the actions to be implemented in National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015 – 2025. Physiographic Units map data can be viewed online under the Physiographic Units tab on the online Map Viewer.</p>	

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether the Draft Strategy would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA). This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended (see Section 2.4).

2.2 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive³, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for effects on European sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

An screening for AA process has been undertaken on the Strategy. This process has helped to determine that the Strategy is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore Stage 2 AA is not required. A Screening for AA Report that accompanies the Strategy contains the findings of this assessment and has informed this Screening for SEA Report.

As the land use zoning objectives contained in the existing Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 are not being affected by the Strategy, Strategic Flood Risk Assessment is not required to be undertaken.

2.3 SEA Screening Analysis

The analysis of the Strategy is undertaken with reference to the main interactions with Strategic Environmental Objectives⁴ (SEOs). SEOs are taken from the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 SEA and are detailed in full at Table 2.1. The range of interactions identified with symbols are detailed on Table 2.2.

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

Table 2.3 is supplemented by Table 2.4, which identifies measures in force under the existing Longford County Development Plan that any projects relating to the Strategy will be required to comply with.

The examination takes account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended (see Section 2.4).

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

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

⁴ Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures developed from policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives established at international, Community or Member State level and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Strategy can be considered in order to help identify whether any provisions would be likely to result in significant environmental effects, if unmitigated.

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

Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture. Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency. Promote continuing improvement in air quality. Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive Significantly decrease noise pollution and move closer to WHO recommended levels.
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To minimise emissions of greenhouse gases. Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets. Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 2.2 Main Interactions and associated Symbols

Symbol	Main Interactions Identified
+	Potential beneficial environmental effects are provided already by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and would be further contributed towards.
-	Potentially adverse environmental effects provided already by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment), that would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated so as not to result in significant residual effects ⁵ .
+/-	Potential environmental effects either: are beneficial, provided already by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and would be further contributed towards; or are potentially adverse, provided already by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment), would be further contributed towards and would be mitigated so as not to be significant ⁶ .

⁵ Including by the measures identified on Table 2.4.

⁶ Including by the measures identified on Table 2.4.

Table 2.3 SEA Screening Analysis

SEO Codes, including interrelationships (see Table 2.1 for SEOs and Table 2.2 for Main Interactions)										
B1	PHH1	PHH2	S1	W1	AC1	AC2	CH1	M1	L1	SEA Screening Comments
+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	+/-	<p>Implementing the Strategy will involve Longford County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate. The Strategy will not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.</p> <p>The Strategy will be situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland’s planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is being implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out various objectives relating tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate. The RSE has informed the preparation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Fáilte Ireland’s “Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands” Regional Tourism Development Strategy, both of which set out various objectives relating tourism development and activities and have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate.</p> <p>The Strategy fully aligns with the provisions of the existing NPF, RSE, County Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland’s Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands, CAP and Longford County Council’s Climate Adaptation Strategy. As such, the proposed Strategy is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents and does not set out to introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.</p> <p>Implementation of the Strategy shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, the Eastern and Midland RSE, the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Fáilte Ireland’s “Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands” Regional Tourism Development Strategy, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.</p> <p>In order to be realised, projects included in the Strategy (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Strategy is not part and does not contribute towards.</p> <p>Taking into account the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the existing planning framework that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (refer to Table 2.4), it is advised that all potential effects arising from the Strategy: either are provided already (beneficial) by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and will be further contributed towards; and/or are provided already (adverse) by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently, it is advised that the Strategy does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.</p>

Table 2.4 Detail of effects⁷, including adverse effects if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects, in combination with the wider planning framework Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the National Planning Framework and associated National Development Plan, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Longford County Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, CAP23 and Longford County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy.			Environmental Requirements/Mitigation Measures already in force under the existing planning framework, including:
	Significant Positive Effect, provided already – see Tables above	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated, provided already – see Tables above	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects, provided already – see Tables above	
All	All - see below	All - see below	All - see below	<p>Longford County Development Plan Measures</p> <p>CPO 4.69 United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 no. Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p> <p>CPO 4.70 Regulatory framework for environmental protection and management Cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management, including compliance with EU Directives - including the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC, as amended), the Birds Directive (2009/147/EC), the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2011/92/EU, as amended by 2014/52/EC) and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive (2001/42/EC) – and relevant transposing Regulations.</p> <p>CPO 4.71 Information to be considered at lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment Lower levels of decision making and environmental assessment should consider the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas; • Features of the landscape that provide linkages/connectivity to designated sites (e.g. watercourses, areas of semi-natural habitat such as linear woodlands etc.); • Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas; • Areas likely to contain a habitat listed in Annex 1 of the Habitats Directive; • Entries to the Record of Monuments; • Entries to the Record of Protected Structures; • Architectural Conservation Areas; and • Landscape/amenity designations. <p>CPO 5.17 Undertake the following Corridor and Route Selection Process for relevant new infrastructure:</p> <p>Stage 1 – Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental constraints (including those identified in Section 4 of the SEA Environmental Report) and opportunities (such as existing linear infrastructure) will assist in the identification of possible route corridor options; • Potentially feasible corridors within which infrastructure could be accommodated will be identified and these corridors assessed. The selection of the preferred route corridor will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists; and • In addition to the constraints identified above, site-specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate corridors. <p>Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially feasible routes within the preferred corridor will be identified and assessed. The selection of preferred routes will avoid constraints and meet opportunities to the optimum extent, as advised by the relevant specialists, taking into account project level information and potential mitigation measures that are readily achievable; • In addition to the constraints identified above, site specific field data may be required to identify the most appropriate routes; and • In addition to environmental considerations, the identification of route corridors and the refinement of route lines is likely to be informed by other considerations. <p>DMS16.70 Construction Environmental Management Plan All development proposals of five or more residential units shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation. Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP). Construction Environmental Management Plans (CEMP) shall focus on waste minimisation and optimise waste prevention, re-use and recycling opportunities in the absence of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (WMP).</p> <p>Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Summary of Measures applying to all environmental components</p> <p>By integrating all SEA and AA recommendations into the Strategy, Fáilte Ireland is helping to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The potential significant adverse effects of implementing the Strategy, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Strategy and other plans, programmes, etc., are avoided, reduced or offset; and • The beneficial environmental effects of implementing the Strategy, in combination with implementation of other provisions from the Strategy and other plans, programmes, etc., are maximised. <p>Mitigation was achieved through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing the status of the Strategy and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and

⁷ Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework.

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					<p>Consent-Granting Framework⁸; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrating Requirements for Environmental Compliance into the Strategy⁹. <p>The SEA team worked with the Strategy-preparation team at Fáilte Ireland in order to help establish the status of the Strategy and its interrelationship with the Statutory Decision-Making and Consent-Granting Framework.</p> <p>Implementing the Strategy will involve Fáilte Ireland helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including local authorities, other government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment. The Strategy does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.</p> <p>The Strategy is situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment processes, as relevant, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.</p> <p>The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is being implemented</p>
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⁸ This framework includes various environmental requirements.

⁹ These requirements include those that have arisen through the SEA and/or AA processes.

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					<p>through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSEs set out various objectives relating tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment. The RSEs have informed, and continue to inform, the preparation of lower-tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans, which also set out various objectives relating tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment.</p> <p>Implementation of the Strategy shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, RSEs and lower-tier land use plans, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents including through SEA and AA processes. In order to be realised, projects included in the Strategy (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Strategy is not part and does not contribute towards.</p>
<p>Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation 	<p>Longford County Development Plan Measures Designated Sites - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.5 Protect and conserve the conservation value of Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas and any other sites that may be proposed for designation during the lifetime of this Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.6 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>CPO12.7 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive; in so far as there must be – (a) no alternative solution available (b) imperative reasons of an overriding public interest for the project to proceed; and (c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.</p>	

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

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	<p>protection and management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond • Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. • Contribution towards the protection of human health as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. 	<p>environmental vectors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential interactions if additional tourists are directed towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. 	<p>"Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below. This has been mitigated by provisions, including those relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management.</p>	<p>CPO 5.178 Any proposals for developments within the vicinity of major accident hazard sites shall have cognisance of the required minimum separation distances as required by the Major Accidents Directive. In this regard all future proposals of this nature shall be forwarded to the Health and Safety Authority.</p> <p>Radon</p> <p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p>	
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection amenity usage and access. • Contribution towards the sustainable growth of tourism and associated sustenance and growth of communities within the Region. 			
<p>Soil</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. • Contribution towards minimising land-take and loss of extent of soil resource. • Contributes towards protection of designated sites of geological heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. • Potential for riverbank erosion. • Land-take arising from mobility, accommodation and hospitality and other tourism products. • Adverse effects on designated geological heritage sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. 	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Longford County Development Plan Measures</p> <p>Prevention of Pollution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.86 Pursue the preparation, establishment and implementation of/compliance with the following (and any future updates):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waste Management Plan for the Midlands Region. • National Hazardous Waste Plan. • EU and National legislation on the prevention of Air and Noise Pollution. <p>CPO12.87 Encourage and promote environmental awareness and environmentally friendly practices in all aspects of life, particularly in industry, agriculture and all other commercial and leisure activities.</p> <p>CPO12.88 Reduce the impacts of existing pollutant activities through the following measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Negotiation of a reduction in the pollutant activity to a non-polluting level or a revision of operating times to reduce the impact of the activity on adjacent land uses. • Relocation to a more appropriate location where adjacent land uses are more compatible. • Imposition of conditions restricting emissions/activity • Use of enforcement action against unauthorised developments/uses. <p>CPO12.89 Ensure the implementation of the specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes as contained within the existing Building Regulations (including any updated/superseding regulations that may be published within the lifetime of this Plan).</p> <p>CPO12.90 Encourage energy efficient design solutions, such as optimising solar gain and geothermal or air source heating, in order to reduce dependence on fossil fuels and increase environmental quality.</p> <p>CPO12.91 Assess any application for planning permission for new development, extension to existing development, or intensification or change of use, in terms of its potential impact on existing adjacent developments, existing land uses and/or the surrounding landscape.</p> <p>Where such development would have a significant adverse effect on the amenities of the area through pollution by noise, fumes, dust, grit or vibration, or cause pollution of air, water and/or soil, planning permission will not be forthcoming, prior to the proposal and introduction of mitigation measures agreed with the planning authority to eliminate negative environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p> <p>Landfills</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Geological Sites – County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.24 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.5.</p> <p>CPO12.25 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Geological Audit (2015) and facilitate a review of the Geological Audit.</p> <p>CPO12.26 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>CPO12.27 Contribute towards the appropriate protection of Geological Natural Heritage Areas that become designated during the lifetime of the Plan from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO12.28 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>Peatlands - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.50 Protect the designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage.</p> <p>CPO12.51 Ensure that peatland areas which are designated (or proposed for designation) as NHAs, SACs or SPAs are conserved for their ecological, climate regulation, archaeological, cultural and educational significance.</p> <p>CPO12.52 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on all suitable peatland sites to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment Screening, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.53 Work with relevant agencies such as the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent local authorities to prepare an after-use framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes.</p> <p>CPO12.54 Support the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog Special Area of Conservation Management Plan 2017-2022 and restoration works which will be both a positive conservation measure and help to reduce carbon loss in the County.</p> <p>CPO12.55 Designated and non-designated peatlands may be subject to the requirements of the planning code, Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (EIA screening and EIA where applicable) and the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Planning permission will be required where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications will need to be supported by an Appropriate</p>

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				<p>Assessment and/or Environmental Impact Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Soil Protection – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO12.115 Recognise and protect fertile agricultural soils in the County as an important non-renewable natural resource and protect soils identified as agriculturally important in the Landscape Assessment through the prevention of inappropriate use in the development management process.</p> <p>CPO12.116 Identify areas of poorer soil in the County and respect their limitations, particularly in terms of their assimilative properties to prevent pollution</p> <p>CPO12.117 Prevent pollution in areas of poor soils through the implementation of relevant EPA and Department of Agriculture guidance and regulations in the percolation and/or spreading of domestic and agricultural effluent to land.</p> <p>CPO12.118 Investigate the potential uses of cutaway bogs in the County for re-naturing and amenity and particularly consider the development of sustainable and renewable energy projects.</p> <p>CPO12.119 Ensure that adequate soil protection measures are undertaken where appropriate. Adequate and appropriate investigations shall be carried out into the nature and extent of any soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development work, where brownfield development is proposed.</p> <p>CPO12.120 Require that the EPA’s publication Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (2007) shall be taken into account as relevant by proposals for development within or adjacent to old landfill sites.</p> <p>CPO12.121 Ensure all undeveloped, contaminated sites shall be remediated to internationally accepted standards prior to redevelopment. All applications shall be accompanied by a report from a qualified, expert consultant remediation incorporating international best practice and expertise on innovative ecological restoration techniques including specialist planting and green initiatives that create aesthetically improved sites, healthy environments and contribute to the provision of new green open spaces as integral parts of newly created areas.</p> <p>CPO12.123 Require that the treatment/management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>CPO12.124 Require that prior to the grant of approval on contaminated sites, developers will carry out a full contaminated land risk assessment to demonstrate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How the proposed land uses will be compatible with the protection of health and safety (including the durability of structures and services) - during both construction and occupation; and • How any contaminated soil or water encountered will be appropriately dealt with. 	
<p>Water</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribution towards the protection of water, including by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County’s settlements) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. • Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. • Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. • Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. • Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated. 	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Longford County Development Plan Measures Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives Water Quality and Groundwater Protection Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to:</p> <p>CPO 12.92 Protect and develop, in a sustainable manner, the existing groundwater sources and aquifers in the County and manage development in a manner consistent with the protection of these resources in conformity with the EU Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010, and any subsequent plan and the Groundwater Protection Scheme.</p> <p>CPO12.93 Implement the relevant recommendations contained within the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 12.94 Collaborate with Irish Water and other relevant stakeholders with the aim of protecting existing and potential water resources and achieving ‘good status’ in all water bodies in accordance with the requirements and guidance of relevant EU Directives and Regulations, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 12.95 Ensure licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010).</p> <p>CPO 12.96 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 12.97 Ensure implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 610 of 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources (‘the Nitrates Directive’), dangerous substances in water, and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>CPO 12.98 Encourage the use of catchment-sensitive farming practices, in order to meet Water Framework Directive targets and comply with the National River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO12.99 Protect ground and surface water resources from pollution by ensuring the appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability, the recognition of ground water resources and abstraction points and any identified major catchment areas of surface water bodies capable of use as a potable water resource and ensuring that such sources, their zones of contribution, and areas of aquifer vulnerability are protected. Development of a potentially pollutant nature in these areas and any future areas identified shall be prohibited.</p> <p>CPO12.100 Seek to control and manage any potential point and/or diffuse sources of pollution with a view towards improving and maintaining ‘good’ water quality. Such activities include, but are not restricted to, wastewater and industrial discharges, landfills, quarries, mines, contaminated land, agricultural activities, wastewater from unsewered properties, forestry activities and the use and discharge of dangerous substances.</p> <p>CPO12.101 Consider development proposals that involve the physical modification of water bodies, including abstraction of water, having regard to the potential effect on habitats and plant and animal species, with particular consideration given to European Sites and specific actions proposed where negative impacts are anticipated.</p> <p>CPO12.102 Incorporate water protection measures into initial site selection and design and produce a Water Protection Plan for all planning applications. Water Protection Plans should aim to prevent contamination of storm water, minimise soiled and waste waters, install proper containment for material storage, install appropriate treatment and disposal arrangement for soiled and waste waters and take account of legal requirements for discharges to ground and surface waters.</p> <p>CPO12.103 Support, where possible, the development and implementation of a Groundwater Protection Scheme in tandem with the Geological Survey Ireland (GSI).</p> <p>Surface Water Management - County Policy Objectives CPO 5.100 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p>	

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CPO 5.101 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.

CPO 5.102 Require surface water storage measures to be provided in new developments where it is considered that the surface water run-off levels exceed permissible discharge rates. Storm water run-off design should be carried out in accordance with Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) standards such as The SuDS Manual (CIRIA, 2015), "Dublin Corporation Stormwater Management Policy Technical Guidelines" and "Greater Dublin Regional Code of Practice for Drainage Works" incorporating "Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study, Volume 2, New Developments" or any future updates.

CPO 5.103 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.

CPO 5.104 Maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in the county and promote and facilitate the development of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems including integrated constructed wetlands and to promote and support the retrofitting of SuDS in established urban areas.

CPO 5.105 Prohibit the discharge of surface water run-off and rainwater into foul sewer systems.

Flood Risk Management - County Policy Objectives

CPO 5.106 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented. CPO 5.107 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.

CPO 5.108 Support, in co-operation with the OPW, the implementation of the EU Flood Risk Directive (2007/60/EC), the Flood Risk Regulations (SI No. 122 of 2010) and the DEHLG/OPW publication The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and Departmental Circular PL2/2014 (or any updated/superseding versions). This will include the following:

- Avoid, reduce and/or mitigate, as appropriate in accordance with the Guidelines, the risk of flooding within the flood risk areas indicated in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment report, including fluvial, pluvial and groundwater flooding, and any other flood risk areas that may be identified during the period of the plan or in relation to a planning application.
- Development proposals in areas where there is an identified or potential risk of flooding or that could give rise to a risk of flooding elsewhere will be required to carry out a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, and Justification Test where appropriate, in accordance with the provisions of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009, (or any superseding document) and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). Any flood risk assessment should include an assessment of the potential impacts of climate change, such as an increase in the extent or probability of flooding, and any associated measures necessary to address these impacts.
- Development that would be subject to an inappropriate risk of flooding or that would cause or exacerbate such a risk at other locations shall not normally be permitted.
- Where certain measures proposed to mitigate or manage the risk of flooding associated with new developments are likely to result in significant effects to the environment or European sites downstream, such measures will undergo environmental assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.

The Council shall work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within the County, from risk of flooding. Future amendments to the plan shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM's Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.

CPO 5.109 Protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate Flood Zone in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in DMS 16.205. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, (Please also refer to Development Management Standard, Development Management Standard, DMS 16.205, where the probability of flooding is low (less than 0.1%, Flood Zone C), site-specific Flood Risk Assessment may be required the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed. The County Plan SFRA datasets and the most up to date CFRAM Programme climate scenario mapping should be consulted by prospective applicants for developments in this regard and will be made available to lower-tier Development Management processes in the Council. Flood Zone maps should not be used to suggest that any areas are free from flood risk as they do not include groundwater or artificial drainage system flood risk.

Applications for development on land identified as Benefitting Land (under Arterial Drainage Schemes /Drainage Districts) may be prone to flooding, and as such site-specific flood risk assessments may be required in these areas. The Council will ensure that new developments proposed in Arterial Drainage Schemes and Drainage Districts do not result in a significant negative impact on the integrity, function and management of these areas.

CPO 5.110 Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) is required for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), even for developments appropriate to the particular Flood Zone. The detail of these site-specific FRAs will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations. The 2009 OPW Draft Guidance on Assessment of Potential Future Scenarios for Flood Risk Management (or any superseding document) and available information from the CFRAM Studies shall be consulted with to this effect.

CPO 5.111 Require all applications in areas prone to flooding to be subject to the Justification Test set out in the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities. Compensatory flood storage provision or the provision of flood defences will not override the need for completion of the justification test.

CPO 5.112 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.

CPO 5.113 Actively work with the CFRAM Programmes and catchment-based Flood Planning Groups, including where catchments go beyond the Council's administrative boundary, in the development and implementation of catchment-based strategies for the management of flood risk - including those relating to storage and conveyance.

CPO 5.114 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Longford County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defence infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.

CPO 5.115 Ensure that the reasonable requirements of Inland Fisheries Ireland are adhered to in the construction of flood alleviation measures in the county.

CPO 5.116 Protect water bodies and watercourses within the County from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas as appropriate. In addition, promote the sustainable management and uses of water bodies and avoid culverting or realignment of these features.

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				<p>CPO 5.117 Recognise the important role of peatland and other wetland areas in flooding patterns. Development in these areas shall therefore be subject to a Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the relevant guidance.</p> <p>CPO 5.118 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO 5.119 Facilitate the appropriate management and sustainable use of flood risk areas designated as 'Constrained Land Use' on Settlement Plan zoning maps . Future development on these lands is limited to minor development where plan-making Justification Tests have not been undertaken and the Constrained Land Use applies.</p> <p>SFRA datasets will be made available to the lower-tier forward planning and Development Management and associated SFRA/FRA processes in the Council. These processes may lead to the identification of areas where the Constrained Land Use Zoning provisions contained within this Plan may apply. In this regard, prospective applicants for developments in areas that have been previously developed and are at elevated levels of flood risk are encouraged to consult with the Planning Department at the earliest opportunity. Appendix II of the SFRA that accompanies the Plan includes mapping at a County level of historic (page 2) and predictive (page 3) flood risk indicators.</p> <p>CPO 5.120 Ensure that applications to existing developments in flood vulnerable zones shall provide details of structural and non-structural risk management measures to include, but not be limited to specifications of the following - floor levels, internal layout, flood resilient construction, flood resistant construction, emergency response planning, access and egress during flood events. (Please Refer to CPO 5.119 and Development Management Standard DMS 16.206).</p>	
<p>Material Assets</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings, cities and grids. Contributes towards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste and soil, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. Increased loading on critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) where no significant problems have been identified with this infrastructure . Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. 	<p>Longford County Development Plan Measures</p> <p>Also see measures under CEMP requirement, other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air and various Land Use and Phasing provisions from the Plan.</p> <p>Water Supply and Distribution - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.83 Work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water infrastructure, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</p> <p>CPO 5.84 Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.</p> <p>CPO 5.85 Have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.86 Support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List in conjunction with Irish Water.</p> <p>CPO 5.87 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>CPO 5.88 Ensure that adequate water services is available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission and to require developers to consult Irish Water regarding available capacity, prior to applying for planning permission.</p> <p>CPO 5.89 Promote the sustainable use of water and water conservation in existing and new development within the County by encouraging demand management measures among all water users and requiring new developments to incorporate water conservation measures.</p> <p>CPO 5.90 Provide guidance and advice regarding the protection of water supply to private wells with the overall responsibility remaining with the householder.</p> <p>Wastewater - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.91 Liaise and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan in the provision, upgrading or extension of wastewater collection and treatment systems in the County to serve existing and planned future populations and enterprise in accordance with the requirements of the Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 5.92 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>CPO 5.93 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended.</p> <p>CPO 5.94 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County. CPO 5.95 Have regard to the capacity of the Edgeworthstown and Ballymahon wastewater treatment plants (and any other plants within the County of limited capacity to accommodate the core strategy and settlement hierarchy), with any further growth in these settlements contingent on the upgrading of these treatment plants, or the submission of appropriate temporary engineering solutions for individual developments which suitably address wastewater treatment and disposal to the satisfaction of the Council and Irish Water and in accordance with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>CPO 5.96 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems.</p> <p>CPO 5.97 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>CPO 5.98 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's. 'Promote changeover from septic tanks to public collection networks in all cases where this is feasible.'</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. - EPA Wastewater Treatment Manuals – Treatment Systems for Small Communities, Business, Leisure Centres and Hotels (1999) and EPA Guidance on the Authorisation of Discharges to Groundwater (EPA 2011), as may be amended. <p>CPO 5.99 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County..</p> <p>Waste Management - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 5.121 Support the implementation of the Eastern and Midlands Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>CPO 5.122 Continue to facilitate and promote the provision of civic amenity sites, including 'bring centres' for the purposes of providing a collection point for the recycling of domestic waste, subject to siting, location, compatibility with adjacent land uses and other relevant development management criteria.</p> <p>CPO 5.123 Promote the principles of the circular economy in minimising waste going to landfill and maximise waste as a resource, with prevention, preparation for reuse, recycling and recovery prioritised in that order, over the disposal of waste.</p> <p>CPO 5.124 Promote and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p> <p>CPO 5.125 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community-based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p>	

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	<p>protection and allows for continued use of public assets and infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Helps to minimise likelihood of exceeding capacity in material assets as a result of not directing additional tourists towards specific locations in instances where significant problems with critical infrastructure (drinking water, wastewater, waste and transport) have been identified. 	<p>water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased number of visitors have the potential to increase traffic levels. Contributes to overall energy use, in combination with all other sectors in the State. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	<p>CPO 5.126 Promote and facilitate high quality sustainable waste recovery and disposal infrastructure/technology including composting (anaerobic digester) plants for managing organic solid waste, at appropriate locations, with the County subject to the protection of the amenities of the surrounding environment including European Sites, and in keeping with the EU waste hierarchy. CPO 5.127 Require, where necessary, Project Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plans as part of applications for development in accordance with “Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects” (DoEHLG, 2006). Such plans should be submitted for developments above the stated thresholds within these guidelines and as required by the Planning Authority.</p> <p>CPO 5.128 Control development within its powers through the planning process in order to prevent and/or limit the impact of potential air, water and soil pollution.</p> <p>CPO 5.129 The Council shall continue to fulfil its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>CPO 5.130 Ensure that all waste collectors and householder who use the services of authorised waste collectors are fully compliant with the Waste Management Act 1996, as amended and the Waste Management (Collection Permits) Regulations 2007, as amended.</p>	
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the County and beyond. In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels, including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable compact growth; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. Potential 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised. 	<p>Longford County Development Plan Measures</p> <p>Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning and sustainability provided by the Plan and various other climate action measures.</p> <p>Air Quality - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.104 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>CPO12.105 Support the collation of air quality and greenhouse gas monitoring data in support of a regional air quality and greenhouse gas emission inventory.</p> <p>CPO12.106 Seek to ensure in tandem with the EPA, that all developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.</p> <p>CPO12.107 Promote alternative and sustainable transport methods in order to maintain good air quality and support the introduction of charging points for electric vehicles (EVs) throughout the county and will seek to replace its fleet with EVs where feasible.</p> <p>CPO12.108 Promote the retention of trees, in-particular broad leaf-species, hedgerows and other vegetation where possible, and encourage afforestation and tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering.</p> <p>Noise and Light Pollution County Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO12.109 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006 and any subsequent revision of these regulations.</p> <p>CPO12.110 Support the Implementation of the Longford Noise Action Plan 2018-2023 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO12.111 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels, including the use of noise / vibration attenuation measures as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO12.112 Require the submission of a Noise Impact Assessment for all developments likely to introduce noise generating uses in proximity to noise sensitive uses.</p> <p>CPO12.113 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>CPO12.114 (a) Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals.</p> <p>(b) New/Replacement LED luminaries with warmer colours (i.e. CCT values at or below 2700K) be specified for future installations to avoid environmental impacts associated with blue-rich LED light.</p> <p>Climatic Factors</p> <p>CPO 3.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions); National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the EMRA RSES; Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 3.2 Support and facilitate European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation having regard to the measures detailed in Table 3.1</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; o Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; o Sectors including agriculture, residential heating and infrastructure; o Sustainable infrastructure design solutions including energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure. • Contribution towards climate adaptation and mitigation through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Decarbonise the tourism sector, improving low carbon travel, such as walking and cycling, and the circular economy; and o European and national objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation, taking into account a wide range of detailed measures, including those relating to resilience. 	<p>conflict, in combination with plans and programmes from all sectors including transport and land use planning, increases in visitors (which is likely to result in an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and other emissions to air, including from aviation, with associated interactions with climatic factors) and local, national and European objectives to reduce carbon emissions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential conflicts between transport movements, including car movements, and air quality. 		<p>and Table 3.2 (these have been informed by available guidance on Climate Action and Mitigation, including that from the EPA).</p> <p>CPO 3.3 Support the implementation and adoption of the Longford County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and promote the County as a key driver of the transition to a low carbon economy within the Region.</p> <p>CPO 3.4 Contribute towards climate mitigation and adaptation, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk management and drainage).</p> <p>CPO 3.5 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 3.6 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 3.7 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures, especially in the energy and agriculture sectors</p> <p>CPO 3.8 Support the delivery of sustainable development projects under the European Green Deal and the Just Transition Fund.</p> <p>CPO 3.9 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Midland Regional Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporates any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 3.10 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County. CPO 3.11 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted.</p> <p>CPO 3.12 Carry out a feasibility assessment for district heating and any subsequent Local Area Plans or other statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 3.13 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available.</p> <p>CPO 3.14 Maintain existing green infrastructure and encourage and facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of green infrastructure that recognises the synergies that can be achieved with regard to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provision of open space amenities; • Sustainable management of water; • Protection and management of biodiversity; • Protection of cultural heritage; and • Protection of protected landscape sensitivities. <p>CPO 3.15 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling.</p> <p>CPO 3.16 Complete a detailed local survey and audit of greenhouse gas emissions for the County in order to effectively target and reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a targeted approach at the County level and support the development of a Regional Inventory of GHG Emissions.</p> <p>CPO 3.17 Seek the integration of positive climate change mitigation and adaptation measures in all planning applications.</p> <p>CPO 3.18 Provide training on climate mitigation measures to include the agricultural, construction, industry and transport sector.</p> <p>CPO 3.19 (i) Create an 'Implementation Plan' of adequate detail that will allow for continued monitoring of Local Authority actions, responsibilities and progress specifically related to Climate Action.</p> <p>(ii) Consider a variation of the development plan within a reasonable period of time, or to include such other mechanism, as may be appropriate, to ensure the Development Plan will be consistent with the approach to climate action recommended in the revised Development Plan Guidelines as adopted or any other relevant guidelines.</p> <p>Also refer to: Section 8.5 "Interactions with Climate Mitigation and Adaptation"; the overall approach to compact development and sustainability provided by the Plan; and Chapter 4 Housing Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 5 Transport, Infrastructure, Energy and Communications - Climate Actions, Chapter 6 Climate Action and 'Just Transition' Fund Opportunities – County Policy Objectives, Chapter 7: Placemaking Climate Context and Associated Actions, Chapter 8 Economic Development Climate Change Actions, Chapter 9 Rural Economy Climate Change Actions, Chapter 10 Tourism Climate Change Actions, Chapter 11 Built and Cultural Heritage Climate Actions, Chapter 12 Natural Heritage and the Environment - Climate Change Actions, Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure Climate Change Actions and Chapter 14 Landscape Character Climate Change Actions</p>	
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on designated and unknown archaeological heritage. • Potential effects on architectural heritage. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation. 	<p>Longford County Development Plan Measures Architectural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives</p> <p>It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.1 Promote and direct users to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) website (www.buildingsofireland.ie) wherever appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.2 Cooperate with the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage in assessing and celebrating historic designed landscapes, demesnes and gardens.</p> <p>CPO11.3 Implement the County Heritage Plan 2019-2024 and seek to update the Heritage Plan over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.4 Promote the maintenance and appropriate re-use of the existing building stock.</p> <p>CPO11.5 Ensure that all development should be appropriate to its setting in the landscape or townscape and responds to and reinforces local character and heritage.</p> <p>CPO11.6 Encourage the enhancement, management, protection and the promotion of access to and understanding of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.7 Recognise and protect the unique historical, mythological and cultural significance of Ardagh Mountain. Developments which materially impinge on the character of the mountain will not be permitted.</p>	

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	<p>brownfield development and regeneration.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the long-term protection of archaeological and architectural heritage by encouraging greater levels of awareness and appreciation through, use, interpretation and access, in line with the requirements relating to the protection of cultural heritage including: entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context; and entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context. 			<p>CPO11.8 Provide detailed guidance notes and continue to develop the Council's advisory/educational role with regard to heritage matters and to promote awareness, understanding and appreciation of the architectural heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.9 Ensure that proposals for development to structures included as part of the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (DoEHLG) and any updated version, maintain and enhance the character of these structures.</p> <p>CPO11.10 Ensure that development in the vicinity of a Recorded Monument or Zone of Archaeological Potential is sited and designed in a sensitive manner with a view to minimal detracton from the monument or its setting.</p> <p>CPO11.11 Require, as part of the development management process, archaeological impact assessments, geophysical survey, test excavations or monitoring as appropriate, for development in the vicinity of monuments or in areas of archaeological potential. Where there are upstanding remains, a visual impact assessment may be required.</p> <p>CPO11.12 Refer any proposed development which may impact on the integrity and/or setting of any monuments, sites, objects or areas of archaeological, cultural, architectural, historical or heritage importance under the protection of this Development Plan and/or the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to the relevant section of the DoAHG for observations/comment prior to a grant of permission/approval being obtained.</p> <p>CPO11.13 Ensure applications for housing developments shall include provision for the naming of estates in recognition of the cultural heritage of the area in which they are situated.</p> <p>Record of Protected Structures (RPS) Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.14 Review and update the Record of Protected Structures on an on-going basis and to make additions and deletions as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.15 For the purposes of the RPS, identify and retain good examples of historic street furniture, e.g. cast-iron post boxes, water pumps, light fixtures and signage, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.16 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO11.17 Ensure the protection of structures included in the Record of Protected Structures by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Controlling development which would alter the character of Protected Structures and proposed Protected Structures. Monitoring the condition of Protected Structures and proposed protected structures to identify those endangered by neglect, vandalism or unauthorised development and taking appropriate action. Preventing the endangerment of Protected Structures in the Council's ownership. <p>CPO11.18 Consider the acquisition of Protected Structures, where possible and where economic constraints permit, if this is necessary to protect the structure.</p> <p>CPO11.19 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation and reuse of existing older buildings/buildings of architectural merit, where appropriate, in preference to their demolition and redevelopment. In certain cases, land use zoning restrictions may be relaxed in order to secure the conservation of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.20 Facilitate contemporary and innovative design providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>CPO11.21 Require applications for development where a Protected Structure or its setting is likely to be materially affected, to submit a detailed assessment of the building.</p> <p>CPO11.22 Protect the setting of Protected Structures and refuse permission for development within the curtilage or adjacent to a Protected Structure which would adversely impact on the character and special interest of the structure, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.23 Issue Declarations as to the type of works that would affect the character of a Protected Structure and therefore require planning permission.</p> <p>CPO11.24 Administer the DoAHG Historic Structures Fund including the assessment of applications, ensuring that the works enhance and do not adversely affect the character of a Protected Structure and have been carried out in accordance with the conditions of the fund.</p> <p>CPO11.25 Promote and support the funding sources available for Protected Structures and built heritage within the County.</p> <p>CPO11.26 Identify and seek further funding for the upkeep of Protected Structures within the County.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA) Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.27 Prepare and review, where necessary, detailed character statements and planning guidance for the 2 no. ACA's in the County, within the lifetime of the Development Plan.</p> <p>CPO11.28 Protect the character of Architectural Conservation Areas in County Longford and ensure the preservation of the character of the Architectural Conservation Area.</p> <p>CPO11.29 Promote best conservation practice and encourage the use of appropriately qualified professional advisors, tradesmen and craftsmen, with recognised conservation expertise, for works to buildings of historic significance within Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>CPO11.30 Identify and designate new Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA's) as appropriate. Historic Gardens, Demesnes and Designed Landscapes Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.31 Support the publication of a County Inventory of Historic Gardens and Designed Landscapes, in order to promote the intrinsic character of those within the county.</p> <p>CPO11.32 Encourage the protection and enhancement of heritage gardens and demesne landscapes, and to support, in consultation with the owners, the provision of public access to these sites as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO11.33 Discourage development that would adversely affect the character, the principal components of, or the setting of historic parks, gardens and demesnes of heritage significance.</p> <p>CPO11.34 Require that proposals for development in designated landscapes and demesnes include an appraisal of the landscape, designed views and vistas, including a tree survey, where relevant, in order to inform site appropriate design proposals and ensure the on-going and future sustainability of the estate.</p> <p>CPO11.35 Continue the development, expansion and the protection of the (Albert Reynolds Peace Park (the Mall) in Longford town.</p> <p>Vernacular Architecture Policies – County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to:</p> <p>CPO11.36 Encourage the retention, sympathetic maintenance and sustainable re-use of historic buildings, including vernacular dwellings or farm buildings and the retention of historic streetscape character, fabric, detail and features.</p> <p>CPO11.37 Seek the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of County Longford and incorporate ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries, into re-developments.</p> <p>CPO11.38 Actively promote the retention and restoration of thatched dwellings as a key component of the built heritage of the County.</p> <p>CPO11.39 Create and maintain and update the survey of surviving thatched structures in the County and to promote available grant schemes to assist owners with their retention and repair.</p> <p>CPO11.40 Ensure that conversions or extensions of traditional buildings or the provision of new adjoining buildings, are sensitively designed and do not detract</p>	
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				<p>from the character of the historic building. CPO11.41 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.</p> <p>Industrial and Agricultural Heritage Policies - County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO11.42 Create and maintain an inventory of Industrial and Agricultural Heritage assets within the County. CPO11.43 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County. CPO11.44 Encourage appropriate change of use and reuse of industrial heritage structures provided such a change does not seriously impact on the intrinsic character of the structure and that all works are carried out in accordance with best conservation practice, subject to compliance with normal planning criteria. CPO11.45 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate, and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of interest.</p> <p>Financial support Incentives for Built Heritage and National Monument assets Policies - County Policy Objectives It is Policy Objective of the Council to CPO11.46 Ensure the protection and enhancement of the built and cultural heritage of County Longford by securing and promoting the provision of suitable funding initiatives where possible.</p> <p>Archaeological Heritage Policy – County Policy Objectives It is the Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO11.47 Protect known and unknown archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County. CPO11.48 Protect the integrity of the settings of archaeological areas, sites, structures, monuments and objects in the County. CPO11.49 Protect the National Monuments and monuments protected under Preservation Orders in the County (see Table 11.1: National Monuments In County Longford, Table 11.2: Monuments Protected under Preservation Orders and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage). CPO11.50 Protect the monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest in the County (see Table 11.3: County Longford Monuments of Archaeological, Historical and Cultural Interest and Appendix 6: Built and Cultural Heritage). CPO11.51 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and enhancement of the County’s rich archaeological heritage, to include community initiatives. CPO11.52 Encourage and promote access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage of the County. CPO11.53 Seek to increase awareness, appreciation and enjoyment of the archaeological heritage for all, through the provision of information to landowners and the community generally, in co-operation with statutory and other partners. CPO11.54 Investigate and promote the provision of improved access to important archaeological sites. CPO11.55 Presume in favour of the physical preservation in-situ of archaeological remains and their settings, where appropriate, feasible and in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the County. CPO11.56 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites. CPO11.57 Contribute, as appropriate, towards the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations.</p>	
<p>Landscape</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. Contribution towards the protection of landscape designations as a result of: facilitating compliance with relevant plans; and maintaining the wildness of areas that have not yet been developed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts, especially in marine, estuary, island and ridge areas where, and conflicts with the appropriate protection of statutory designations relating to the landscape. Changes in the appearance of the landscape 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with landscape protection measures. Residual visual effects (these would comply with landscape designation provisions). 	<p>Longford County Development Plan Measures Landscape Character - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.1 Support and implement objectives contained in any Regional Landscape Character Assessment. CPO14.2 Review in the context of a regional approach to landscape assessment, the County Landscape Character Assessment following publication of statutory guidelines for Planning Authorities on local Landscape Character Assessments, as outlined in the National Landscape Strategy 2015-2025. CPO14.3 Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted. CPO14.4 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals. Any new development should respect and reinforce the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness. CPO14.5 Conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes. CPO14.6 Discourage proposals necessitating the removal of an extensive number of trees, hedgerows and historic walls or other distinctive boundary treatments and consider the making of Tree Preservation Orders in respect of trees or groups of trees of particular landscape value. CPO14.7 Require landscape and visual impact assessments prepared by suitably qualified professionals to be submitted with planning applications for development which may have significant impact on landscape character areas of medium or high sensitivity. CPO14.8 Preserve views and prospects as illustrated on the accompanying map as part of Appendix 9: Landscape Character and as listed in Tables 14.2 and 14.3.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 1 – Northern Drumlin Lakeland - County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.9 Support appropriate development in areas of population decline. CPO14.10 Encourage setting back of dwellings into fields retaining existing plot size and boundary treatment. CPO14.11 Permit hedgerow removal only where necessary for road safety and, where removal is required, encourage replacement with native hedgerow species CPO14.12 Encourage access to lakes and watercourses and development of tourist accommodation within or in the vicinity of settlements, while monitoring amenity development/restricting access in environmentally sensitive locations. CPO14.13 Restrict housing on lakeshores and within their visual areas.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 2 – Northern Upland – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO14.14 Provide for the development of coherent countywide framework for large-scale utility infrastructure including identification and designation of permitted and restricted areas. CPO14.15 Investigate the concentration of heritage artefacts and features in the eastern section of this unit in terms of whether they may warrant the designation of a specific historic landscape to ensure heightened public awareness and their continued protection. CPO14.16 Facilitate co-ordination between Coillte/Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine and natural Resources forestry strategies and development Plan Policy CPO14.17 Develop identity and character in new developments in towns and villages through the application of area specific design criteria laid out in design guide.</p>	

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				<p>CPO14.18 Protect views and prospects. CPO14.19 Preserve, maintain and enhance these important landscapes and protect the amenity value and visual integrity of the northern upland areas. Discourage inappropriate development in open countryside and prohibit developments which are likely to have material adverse visual impacts, either individually or cumulatively, on the character of these uplands. Ensure that new development will not materially interfere or detract from the scenic uplands and require that proposed developments demonstrate that every effort has been made to reduce visual impacts (including excessive bulk and inappropriate siting) and that visually prominent sites have been avoided to minimise visibility from scenic routes, lakes, walking trails, public amenities, settlements and roads. In regard to the potential impacts of development on sensitive upland areas potential developments shall consider the difficulty of establishing and maintaining screening vegetation.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 3 – Shannon Basin/Lough Ree – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.20 Restrict development in the vicinity of the lakes and maintain aquifer protection zone for 1km around boreholes at Carrowroe CPO14.21 Effluent treatment systems in the vicinity of the lake to have nitrogen and phosphorous cleansing capabilities CPO14.22 Prepare Village policy statement for Newtowncashel to include provision for the protection of scenic route CPO14.23 Promote appropriate schemes for the control/eradication of invasive species</p> <p>Landscape Unit 4 – Central Corridor – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.24 Restrict development in pressure areas CPO14.25 Relax restrictions in areas of high capacity CPO14.26 Install Groundwater protection scheme around potential groundwater supplies CPO14.27 Identify and protect important areas of agricultural land from further fragmentation CPO14.28 Encourage use of existing large-scale communications infrastructure for future proposed developments</p> <p>Landscape Unit 5 – Inny Basin – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.29 Target growth to existing settlements CPO14.30 Encourage provision of facilities to strengthen settlements CPO14.31 Consider rural housing where appropriate and in accordance with normal planning criteria with the exception of high sensitivity areas in the vicinity of protected woodlands and riverbanks. Rural housing shall not be permitted in close proximity to the River Inny.</p> <p>Landscape Unit 6 – Peatlands – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.32 Identify appropriate areas for development. CPO14.33 Develop guidelines for screening and siting measures to facilitate development. CPO14.34 Seek to identify opportunity to collaborate and/or partner with Bord na Mona. Landscape Unit 7 – Open Agricultural – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective of the Council to: CPO 14.35 Fast track the formulation of Local Area Plans/village policy statements throughout the county to create, preserve and enhance village character. CPO14.36 Promote the development of adequate community and social facilities in smaller villages to maintain character, identity and pedestrian scale.</p> <p>Protected Views and Prospects – County Policy Objectives It is the County Policy Objective to: CPO14.37 Preserve the views and prospects listed in Table 14.2 and 14.3 and detailed in Appendix 9: Landscape Character with accompanying maps and to protect these views from development which would interfere unduly with the character and visual amenity of the landscape.</p> <p>Landscape Character Climate Change Actions Longford County Council shall: A12.1 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation. A12.2 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Longford. A12.3 Discourage and ban the use of glyphosate weedkillers in public spaces in favour of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar. A12.4 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased. A12.5 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022. A12.6 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands. A12.7 Discourage fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels within Longford’s functional area. A12.8 Engage the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities. A12.9 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible. A12.10 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Midlands Climate Action Region.</p>	
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2.4 Schedule 1

PART 1

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

Implementing the Strategy will involve Longford County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate. The Strategy will not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.

The Strategy will be situated alongside a hierarchy of statutory documents setting out public policy for, among other things, land use development, tourism, infrastructure, sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management. These other existing policies, plans etc. have been subject to their own environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and form the decision-making and consent-granting framework.

The National Planning Framework (NPF) sets out Ireland's planning policy direction up to 2040. The NPF is being implemented through Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs) and lower tier Development Plans and Local Area Plans. The RSE for the Eastern and Midland Region sets out various objectives relating tourism development and activities that have been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate. The RSE has informed the preparation of the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Fáilte Ireland's "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" Regional Tourism Development Strategy, both of which set out various objectives relating tourism development and activities and have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate.

The Strategy fully aligns with the provisions of the existing NPF, RSE, County Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, CAP and Longford County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy. As such, the proposed Strategy is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents and does not set out to introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

Implementation of the Strategy shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, the Eastern and Midland RSEs, the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Fáilte Ireland's "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" Regional Tourism Development Strategy, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Strategy (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Strategy is not part and does not contribute towards.

As identified on Table 2.3, taking into account the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the existing planning framework that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development (refer to Table 2.4), it is advised that all potential effects arising from the Strategy: either are provided already (beneficial) by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative

requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and will be further contributed towards; and/or are provided already (adverse) by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and will be mitigated so as not to be significant.

Taking into account the above, arising from the degree to which the Strategy sets a framework for projects and other activities, the Strategy would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Strategy is influenced by higher-level legislation, plans and programmes, may influence lower-tier plans and is likely to guide lower tier projects, in combination with the wider planning framework. Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the existing NPF, RSES, County Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, CAP and Longford County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy, including those provisions relating to the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment (a selection of which are identified on Table 2.4).

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the degree to which the Strategy influences other plans, the Strategy would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

The Strategy sits within a hierarchy of strategic actions such as plans and programmes and is subject to a number of high-level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply (including those detailed in Appendix I). The Strategy will be implemented within areas that have existing plans and programmes for a range of sectors at a range of levels (e.g. National, River Basin District, Regional, County and Local) that are already subject to more specific higher and lower tier SEA and AA. The Strategy is consistent with such plans, programmes and legislation and may, in turn, guide lower-level actions. As identified in the Strategy, any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the Longford County Development Plan and Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, including those provisions relating to the sustainable development and the protection and management of the environment (a selection of which are identified on Table 2.4).

Taking the above and the other SEA commentary provided under Section 2.3 into account, arising from the relevance of the Strategy for the integration of environmental considerations, in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Strategy would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

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

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the existing Longford County Development Plan and Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands contribute towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse. As identified in the Strategy, the Strategy is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents (a selection of which

are identified on Table 2.4) and does not set out to introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

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

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

The Longford County Development Plan and Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands to which the Strategy relates includes various provisions that would contribute towards the implementation of European legislation on the environment. Some of these provisions are provided within Table 2.4. The Strategy further contributes towards these provisions by being wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents.

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

PART 2

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

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

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

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

c) intensive land-use.

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

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

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

Section 3 Conclusion

Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan, programme or strategy, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of the report is to provide the findings of the evaluation of the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on the Draft Strategy.

This Screening for SEA Report has examined the Strategy, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 *'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment'* of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended.

Implementing the Strategy will involve Longford County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders (including government agencies, tourism operators, communities and visitors) in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans that have been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate. The Strategy will not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent.

The Strategy fully aligns with the provisions of the existing NPF, RSES, County Development Plan, Fáilte Ireland's Regional Tourism Development Strategy for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, CAP23 and Longford County Council's Climate Adaptation Strategy. As such, the proposed Strategy is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents and does not set out to introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions.

Implementation of the Strategy shall be consistent with and conform with the NPF, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and Fáilte Ireland's "Ireland's Hidden Heartlands" Regional Tourism Development Strategy, including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes.

In order to be realised, projects included in the Strategy (in a similar way to other projects from any other sector) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licencing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Strategy is not part and does not contribute towards.

Taking into account the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the existing planning framework that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is advised that all potential effects arising from the Strategy: either are provided already (beneficial) by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and will be further contributed towards; and/or are provided already (adverse) by existing plans, strategies etc. (that have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment) and will be mitigated so as not to be significant. Consequently, it is advised that the Strategy does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

This Screening for SEA Report is referred to Longford County Council for SEA Screening Determination.

Appendix I Relationship with Legislation and Other Plans and Programmes

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

Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European Level			
SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development. Provide for a high level of protection of the environment by carrying out an environmental assessment of plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Carry out an environmental assessment for plans or programmes referred to in Articles 2 to 4 of the Directive. Prepare an environmental report which identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives that consider the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission. Consult other Member States where the implementation of a plan or programme is likely to have transboundary environmental effects. Inform relevant authorities and stakeholders on the decision to implement the plan or programme. Issue a statement to include requirements detailed in Article 9 of the Directive. Monitor and mitigate significant environmental effects identified by the assessment. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EIA Directive (2011/92/EU as amended by 2014/52/EU)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requires the assessment of the environmental effects of public and private projects which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. Aims to assess and implement avoidance or mitigation measures to eliminate environmental effects, before consent is given of projects likely to have significant effects on the environment by virtue, inter alia, of their nature, size or location are made subject to a requirement for development consent and an assessment with regard to their effects. Those projects are defined in Article 4. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All projects listed in Annex I are considered as having significant effects on the environment and require an EIA. For projects listed in Annex II, a "screening procedure" is required to determine the effects of projects on the basis of thresholds/criteria or a case by case examination. This should take into account Annex III. The environmental impact assessment shall identify, describe and assess in an appropriate manner, in the light of each individual case and in accordance with Articles 4 to 12, the direct and indirect effects of a project on the following factors: human beings, fauna and flora, soil, water, air, climate and the landscape, material assets and the cultural heritage, the interaction between each factor. Consult with relevant authorities, stakeholders and public allowing sufficient time to make a submission before a decision is made. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote the preservation, protection and improvement of the quality of the environment, including the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora. Maintain or restore to favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of community interest. Promote the maintenance of biodiversity, taking account of economic, social, cultural and regional requirements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Propose and protect sites of importance to habitats, plant and animal species. Establish a network of European sites hosting the natural habitat types listed in Annex I and habitats of the species listed in Annex II, to enable the natural habitat types and the species' habitats concerned to be maintained or, where appropriate, restored at a favourable conservation status in their natural range. Carry out comprehensive assessment of habitat types and species present. Establish a system of strict protection for the animal species and plant species listed in Annex IV. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Birds Directive (2009/147/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conserve all species of naturally occurring birds in the wild state including their eggs, nests and habitats. Protect, manage and control these species and comply with regulations relating to their exploitation. The species included in Annex I shall be the subject of special conservation measures concerning their habitat in order to ensure their survival and reproduction in their area of distribution. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve, maintain or re-establish a sufficient diversity and area of habitats for all the species of birds referred to in Annex 1. Preserve, maintain and establish biotopes and habitats to include the creation of protected areas (Special Protection Areas). Ensure the upkeep and management in accordance with the ecological needs of habitats inside and outside the protected zones, re-establish destroyed biotopes and creation of biotopes. Measures for regularly occurring migratory species not listed in Annex I is required as regards their breeding, moulting and wintering areas and staging posts along their migration routes. The protection of wetlands and particularly wetlands of international importance. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EC)	Reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and - preventing further such pollution.	<p>Ireland's Nitrates Action Programme is designed to prevent pollution of surface waters and ground water from agricultural sources and to protect and improve water quality. Ireland's third NAP came into operation in 2014. Each Member State's NAP must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a limit on the amount of livestock manure applied to the land each year set periods when land spreading is prohibited due to risk set capacity levels for the storage of livestock manure 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
EU Integrated Pollution Prevention Control Directive (2008/1/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The purpose of this Directive is to achieve integrated prevention and control of pollution arising from the activities listed in Annex I. It lays down measures designed to prevent or, where that is not practicable, to reduce emissions in the air, water and land from the abovementioned activities, including measures concerning waste, in order to achieve a high level of protection of the environment taken as a whole, without prejudice to Directive 85/337/EEC and other relevant Community provisions. 	<p>The IPPC Directive is based on several principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> an integrated approach best available techniques, flexibility; and public participation 	
EU Plant Protection (products) Directive 2009/127/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive aims at reducing the risks and impacts of pesticide use on human health and the environment by introducing different targets, tools and measures such as Integrated Pest Management (IPM) or National Action Plans (NAPs). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Framework Directive applies to pesticides which are plant protection products. Regarding pesticide application equipment already in professional use, the Framework Directive introduces requirements for the inspection and maintenance to be carried out on such equipment. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Renewables Directive (2009/28/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Renewable Energy Directive establishes an overall policy for the production and promotion of energy from renewable sources in the EU. It requires the EU to fulfil at least 20% of its total energy needs with renewables by 2020 – to be achieved through the attainment of individual national targets. All EU countries must also ensure that at least 10% of their transport fuels come from renewable sources by 2020. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Directive promotes cooperation amongst EU countries (and with countries outside the EU) to help them meet their renewable energy targets. The Directive specifies national renewable energy targets for each country, taking into account its starting point and overall potential for renewables. EU countries set out how they plan to meet these targets and the general course of their renewable energy policy in national renewable energy action plans. Progress towards national targets is measured every two years when EU countries publish national renewable energy progress reports. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Indirect Land Use Change Directive (2012/0288(COD))	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Article 3(4) of Directive 2009/28/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council (3) requires Member States to ensure that the share of energy from renewable energy sources in all forms of transport in 2020 is at least 10 % of their final energy consumption. The blending of biofuels is one of the methods available for Member States to meet this target, and is expected to be the main contributor. Other methods available to meet the target are the reduction of energy consumption, which is imperative because a mandatory percentage target for energy from renewable sources is likely to become increasingly difficult to achieve sustainably if overall demand for energy for transport continues to rise, and the use of electricity from renewable energy sources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limit the contribution that conventional biofuels (with a risk of ILUC emissions) make towards attainment of the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive; Improve the greenhouse gas performance of biofuel production processes (reducing associated emissions) by raising the greenhouse gas saving threshold for new installations subject to protecting installations already in operation on 1st July 2014; Encourage a greater market penetration of advanced (low-ILUC) biofuels by allowing such fuels to contribute more to the targets in the Renewable Energy Directive than conventional biofuels; Improve the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions by obliging Member States and fuel suppliers to report the estimated indirect land-use change emissions of biofuels. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Alternative Fuels Infrastructure Directive (2014/94/EU)	This Directive establishes a common framework of measures for the deployment of alternative fuels infrastructure in the Union in order to minimise dependence on oil and to mitigate the environmental impact of transport.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive sets out minimum requirements for the building-up of alternative fuels infrastructure, including recharging points for electric vehicles and refuelling points for natural gas (LNG and CNG) and hydrogen, to be implemented by means of Member States' national policy frameworks, as well as common technical specifications for such recharging and refuelling points, and user information requirements. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Energy Efficiency Directive (2012/27/EU)	Establishes a set of binding measures to help the EU reach its 20% energy efficiency target by 2020. Under the Directive, all EU countries are required to use energy more efficiently at all stages of the energy chain, from production to final consumption.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Energy distributors or retail energy sales companies have to achieve 1.5% energy savings per year through the implementation of energy efficiency measures EU countries can opt to achieve the same level of savings through other means, such as improving the efficiency of heating systems, installing double glazed windows or insulating roofs The public sector in EU countries should purchase energy efficient buildings, products and services Every year, governments in EU countries must carry out energy efficient renovations on at least 3% (by floor area) of the buildings they own and occupy Energy consumers should be empowered to better manage consumption. This includes easy and free access to data on consumption through individual metering National incentives for SMEs to undergo energy audits Large companies will make audits of their energy consumption to help them identify ways to reduce it Monitoring efficiency levels in new energy generation capacities. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Seveso Directive (2012/18/EU)	This Directive lays down rules for the prevention of major accidents which involve dangerous substances, and the limitation of their consequences for human health and the environment, with a view to ensuring a high level of protection throughout the Union in a consistent and effective manner.	<p>The Seveso Directive is well integrated with other EU policies, thus avoiding double regulation or other administrative burden. This includes the following related policy areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals; The Union's Civil Protection Mechanism; The Security Union Agenda including CBRN-E and Protection of critical infrastructure; Policy on environmental liability and on the protection of the environment through criminal law; Safety of offshore oil and gas operations. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 – Bringing nature back into our lives (European Commission, 2020)	The EU's biodiversity strategy for 2030 is a comprehensive, ambitious and long-term plan to protect nature and reverse the degradation of ecosystems. The strategy aims to put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contains specific actions and commitments.	The Strategy contains specific commitments and actions to be delivered by 2030, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing a larger EU-wide network of protected areas on land and at sea, building upon existing Natura 2000 areas, with strict protection for areas of very high biodiversity and climate value. An EU Nature Restoration Plan - a series of concrete commitments and actions to restore degraded ecosystems across the EU by 2030, and manage them sustainably, addressing the key drivers of biodiversity loss. A set of measures to enable the necessary transformative change: setting in motion a new, strengthened governance framework to ensure better implementation and track progress, improving knowledge, financing and investments and better respecting nature in public and business decision-making. Measures to tackle the global biodiversity challenge, demonstrating that the EU is ready to lead by example towards the successful adoption of an ambitious global biodiversity framework under the Convention on Biological Diversity. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Green Infrastructure Strategy	Aims to create a robust enabling framework in order to promote and facilitate Green Infrastructure (GI) projects.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting GI in the main EU policy areas. Supporting EU-level GI projects. Improving access to finance for GI projects. Improving information and promoting innovation. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
UN Kyoto Protocol (2nd Kyoto Period), the Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II), Paris climate conference (COP21) 2015 (Paris Agreement)	<p>The UN Kyoto Protocol set of policy measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>The Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) aims to identify and develop all the necessary elements of an EU strategy to implement the Kyoto Protocol.</p> <p>At the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, 195 countries adopted the first-ever universal, legally binding global climate deal. The agreement sets out a global action plan to put the world on track to avoid dangerous climate change by limiting global warming to well below 2°C.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Kyoto Protocol is implemented through the European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II). EU member states implement measures to improve on or complement the specified measures and policies arising from the ECCP. Under COP21, governments agreed to come together every 5 years to set more ambitious targets as required by science; report to each other and the public on how well they are doing to implement their targets; track progress towards the long-term goal through a robust transparency and accountability system. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2020 Climate and Energy Package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Binding legislation which aims to ensure the European Union meets its climate and energy targets for 2020. Aims to achieve a 20% reduction in EU greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels. Aims to raise the share of EU energy consumption produced from renewable resources to 20%. Achieve a 20% improvement in the EU's energy efficiency. 	<p>Four pieces of complimentary legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reform of the EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) to include a cap on emission allowances in addition to existing system of national caps. Member States have agreed national targets for non-EU ETS emissions from countries outside the EU. Meet the national renewable energy targets of 16% for Ireland by 2020. Preparing a legal framework for technologies in carbon capture and storage. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU 2030 Framework for Climate and Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A 2030 Framework for climate and energy, including EU-wide targets and policy objectives for the period between 2020 and 2030 that has been agreed by European countries. Targets include a 40% cut in greenhouse gas emissions compared to 1990 levels, at least a 27% share of renewable energy consumption and at least 27% energy savings compared with the business-as-usual scenario. 	<p>To meet the targets, the European Commission has proposed the following policies for 2030:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A reformed EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). New indicators for the competitiveness and security of the energy system, such as price differences with major trading partners, diversification of supply, and interconnection capacity between EU countries. First ideas for a new governance system based on national plans for competitive, secure, and sustainable energy. These plans will follow a common EU approach. They will ensure stronger investor certainty, greater transparency, enhanced policy coherence and improved coordination across the EU. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Clean Air for Europe Directive (2008/50/EC) (EU Air Framework Directive) Fourth Daughter Directive (2004/107/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The CAFE Directive merges existing legislation into a single directive (except for the fourth daughter directive). Sets new air quality objectives for PM_{2.5} (fine particles) including the limit value and exposure related objectives. Accounts for the possibility to discount natural sources of pollution when assessing compliance against limit values. Allows the possibility for time extensions of three years (PM₁₀) or up to five years (NO₂, benzene) for complying with limit values, based on conditions and the assessment by the European Commission. The Fourth Daughter Directive lists pollutants, target values and monitoring requirements for the following: arsenic, cadmium, mercury, nickel and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in ambient air. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets objectives for ambient air quality designed to avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole. Aims to assess the ambient air quality in Member States on the basis of common methods and criteria. Obtains information on ambient air quality in order to help combat air pollution and nuisance and to monitor long-term trends and improvements resulting from national and community measures. Ensures that such information on ambient air quality is made available to the public. Aims to maintain air quality where it is good and improving it in other cases. Aims to promote increased cooperation between the Member States in reducing air pollution. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Noise Directive (2002/49/EC)	The Noise Directive - Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise - is part of an EU strategy setting out to reduce the number of people affected by noise in the longer term and to provide a framework for developing existing Community policy on noise	<p>The Directive requires competent authorities in Member States to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up strategic noise maps for major roads, railways, airports and agglomerations, using harmonised noise indicators and use these maps to assess the number of people which may be impacted upon as a result of excessive noise levels; 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans,

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	reduction from source.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Draw up action plans to reduce noise where necessary and maintain environmental noise quality where it is good; and Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects, and the measures considered to address noise. <p>The Directive does not set any limit value, nor does it prescribe the measures to be used in the action plans, which remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.</p>	programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes a framework for the assessment and management of flood risks Reduce adverse consequences for human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity associated with floods in the Community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess all water courses and coast lines at risk from flooding through Flood Risk Assessment Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps outlining the extent or potential of flooding and assets and humans at risk in these areas at River Basin District level (Article 3(2) (b)) and areas covered by Article 5(1) and Article 13(1) (b) in accordance with paragraphs 2 and 3. Implement flood risk management plans and take adequate and coordinated measures to reduce flood risk for the areas covered by the Articles listed above. Inform the public and allow the public to participate in planning process. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a framework for the protection of water bodies to include inland surface waters, transitional waters, coastal waters and groundwater and their dependent wildlife and habitats. Preserve and prevent the deterioration of water status and where necessary improve and maintain “good status” of water bodies. Promote sustainable water usage. The Water Framework Directive repealed the following Directives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Drinking Water Abstraction Directive Sampling Drinking Water Directive Exchange of Information on Quality of Surface Freshwater Directive Shellfish Directive Freshwater Fish Directive Groundwater (Dangerous Substances) Directive Dangerous Substances Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, enhance and restore all water bodies and meet the environmental objectives outlined in Article 4 of the Directive. Achieve “good status” for all waters. Manage water bodies based on identifying and establishing river basins districts. Involve the public and streamline legislation. Prepare and implement a River Basin Management Plan for each river basin districts identified and a Register of Protected Areas. Establish a programme of monitoring for surface water status, groundwater status and protected areas. Recover costs for water services. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect, control and conserve groundwater. Prevent the deterioration of the status of all bodies of groundwater. Implements measures to prevent and control groundwater pollution, including criteria for assessing good groundwater chemical status and criteria for the identification of significant and sustained upward trends and for the definition of starting points for trend reversals. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet minimum groundwater standards listed in Annex 1 of Directive. Meet threshold values adopted by national legislation for the pollutants, groups of pollutants and indicators of pollution which have been identified as contributing to the characterisation of bodies or groups of bodies of groundwater as being at risk, also taking into account Part B of Annex II. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Drinking Water Directive (98/83/EC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain the quality of water intended for human consumption. Protect human health from the adverse effects of any contamination of water intended for human consumption by ensuring that it is wholesome and clean. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set values applicable to water intended for human consumption for the parameters set out in Annex I. Set values for additional parameters not included in Annex I, where the protection of human health within national territory or part of it so requires. The values set should, as a minimum, satisfy the requirements of Article 4(1) (a). Implement all measures necessary to ensure that regular monitoring of the quality of water intended for human consumption is carried out, in order to check that the water available to consumers meets the requirements of this Directive and in particular the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5. Ensure that any failure to meet the parametric values set in accordance with Article 5 is immediately investigated in order to identify the cause. Ensure that the necessary remedial action is taken as soon as possible to restore its quality and shall give priority to their enforcement action. Undertake remedial action to restore the quality of the water where necessary to protect human health. Notify consumers when remedial action is being undertaken except where the competent authorities consider the non-compliance with the parametric value to be trivial. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Directive concerns the collection, treatment and discharge of urban waste water and the treatment and discharge of waste water from certain industrial sectors. The objective of the Directive is to protect the environment from the adverse effects of waste water discharges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban waste water entering collecting systems shall before discharge, be subject to secondary treatment. Annex II requires the designation of areas sensitive to eutrophication which receive water discharges. Establishes minimum requirements for urban waste water collection and treatment systems in specified agglomerations to include special requirements for sensitive areas and certain industrial sectors. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Environmental Liability Directive (2004/35/EC) as amended by Directive 2006/21/EC, Directive 2009/31/EC and Directive 2013/30/EU	Establish a framework of environmental liability based on the ‘polluter-pays’ principle, to prevent and remedy environmental damage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relates to environmental damage caused by any of the occupational activities listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities; damage to protected species and natural habitats caused by any occupational activities other than those listed in Annex III, and to any imminent threat of such damage occurring by reason of any of those activities, whenever the 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> operator has been at fault or negligent. Where environmental damage has not yet occurred but there is an imminent threat of such damage occurring, the operator shall, without delay, take the necessary preventive measures. Where environmental damage has occurred the operator shall, without delay, inform the competent authority of all relevant aspects of the situation and take all practicable steps to immediately control, contain, remove or otherwise manage the relevant contaminants and/or any other damage factors in order to limit or to prevent further environmental damage and adverse effects on human health or further impairment of services and the necessary remedial measures, in accordance with Article 7. The operator shall bear the costs for the preventive and remedial actions taken pursuant to this Directive. The competent authority shall be entitled to initiate cost recovery proceedings against the operator. The operator may be required to provide financial security guarantees to ensure their responsibilities under the directive are met. The Environmental Liability Directive has been amended through a number of Directives. Implementation of the Environmental Liability Directive is contributed towards by a Multi-Annual Work Programme (MAWP) 'Making the Environmental Liability Directive more fit for purpose' that is updated annually to changing developments, growing knowledge and new needs. 	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (Valletta 1992)</p>	<p>The aim of this (revised) Convention is to protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study.</p>	<p>The Valletta Convention makes the conservation and enhancement of the archaeological heritage one of the goals of urban and regional planning policies. The Convention sets guidelines for the funding of excavation and research work and publication of research findings. It also deals with public access, in particular to archaeological sites, and educational actions to be undertaken to develop public awareness of the value of the archaeological heritage. It also constitutes an institutional framework for pan-European co-operation on the archaeological heritage, entailing a systematic exchange of experience and experts among the various States.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Convention of the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe (Granada 1995)</p>	<p>The main purpose of the Convention is to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. It also affirms the need for European solidarity with regard to heritage conservation and is designed to foster practical co-operation among the Parties. It establishes the principles of "European co-ordination of conservation policies" including consultations regarding the thrust of the policies to be implemented.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The reinforcement and promotion of policies for protecting and enhancing the heritage within the territories of the parties. The affirmation of European solidarity with regard to the protection of the heritage and the fostering of practical co-operation between states and regions. 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Council of Europe Framework Convention on the Value of Cultural Heritage for Society (Faro 2005)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cultural heritage is a group of resources inherited from the past which people identify, independently of ownership, as a reflection and expression of their constantly evolving values, beliefs, knowledge and traditions. It includes all aspects of the environment resulting from the interaction between people and places through time. A heritage community consists of people who value specific aspects of cultural heritage which they wish, within the framework of public action, to sustain and transmit to future generations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recognise that rights relating to cultural heritage are inherent in the right to participate in cultural life, as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Recognise individual and collective responsibility towards cultural heritage. Emphasise that the conservation of cultural heritage and its sustainable use have human development and quality of life as their goal. Take the necessary steps to apply the provisions of this Convention concerning the role of cultural heritage in the construction of a peaceful and democratic society. Greater synergy of competencies among all the public, institutional and private actors concerned. 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>European Landscape Convention 2000</p>	<p>The developments in agriculture, forestry, industrial and mineral production techniques, together with the practices followed in town and country planning, transport, networks, tourism and recreation, and at a more general level, changes in the world economy, have in many cases accelerated the transformation of landscapes. The Convention expresses a concern to achieve sustainable development based on a balanced and harmonious relationship between social needs, economic activity and the environment. It aims to respond to the public's wish to enjoy high quality landscapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promote protection, management and planning of landscapes. Organise European co-operation on landscape issues. 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>The Seventh Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community (2013-2020)</p>	<p>It identifies three key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to protect, conserve and enhance the Union's natural capital to turn the Union into a resource-efficient, green, and competitive low-carbon economy to safeguard the Union's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and wellbeing 	<p>Four so called "enablers" will help Europe deliver on these objectives (goals):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Better implementation of legislation. Better information by improving the knowledge base. More and wiser investment for environment and climate policy. Full integration of environmental requirements and considerations into other policies. <p>Two additional horizontal priority objectives complete the programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To make the Union's cities more sustainable. To help the Union address international environmental and climate challenges more effectively. 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Bern Convention (Convention on the Conservation of European Wildlife and Natural Habitats)</p>	<p>The convention has three main aims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to conserve wild flora and fauna and their natural habitats to promote cooperation between states 	<p>The Parties under the convention recognise the intrinsic value of nature, which needs to be preserved and passed to future generations, they also:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Seek to ensure the conservation of nature in their countries, paying particular 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> to give particular attention to endangered and vulnerable species including endangered and vulnerable migratory species 	<p>attention to planning and development policies and pollution control.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look at implementing the Bern Convention in central Eastern Europe and the Caucasus. Take account of the potential impact on natural heritage by other policies. Promote education and information of the public, ensuring the need to conserve species is understood and acted upon. Develop an extensive number of species action plans, codes of conducts, and guidelines, at their own initiative or in co-operation with other organisations. Created the Emerald Network, an ecological network made up of Areas of Special Conservation Interest. 	with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Bali Road Map (2007)	<p>The overall goals of the project are twofold:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To increase national capacity to co-ordinate ministerial views, participate in the UNFCCC process, and negotiate positions within the timeframe of the Bali Action Plan; and To assess investment and financial flows to address climate change for up to three key sectors and/or economic activities. 	<p>The Bali Action Plan is centred on four main building Blocks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> mitigation adaptation technology financing 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Cancun Agreements (2010)	<p>Set of decisions taken at the COP 16 Conference in Cancun in 2010 which addresses a series of key issues in the fight against climate change. Cancun Agreements' main objectives cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mitigation Transparency of actions Technology Finance Adaptation Forests Capacity building 	Among the most prominent agreements is the establishment of a Green Climate Fund to transfer money from the developed to developing world to tackle the impacts of climate change.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Doha Climate Gateway (2012)	Set of decisions taken at the COP 18 meeting in Doha in 2012 which pave the way for a new agreement in Paris in 2015.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set out a timetable to adopt a universal climate agreement by 2015 (to come into effect in 2020); Complete the work under Bali Action Plan and to focus on new completing new targets; Strengthen the aim to cut greenhouse gases and help vulnerable countries to adapt; Amend Kyoto Protocol to include a new commitment period for cutting down the greenhouse gases emissions; and Provide the financial and technology support and new institutions to allow clean energy investment and sustainable growth in developing countries. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU Common Agricultural Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To improve agricultural productivity, so that consumers have a stable supply of affordable food; and To ensure that EU farmers can make a reasonable living. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ensuring viable food production that will contribute to feeding the world's population, which is expected to rise considerably in the future; Climate change and sustainable management of natural resources; Looking after the countryside across the EU and keeping the rural economy alive. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EU REACH Regulation (EC 1907/2006)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment through the better and earlier identification of the intrinsic properties of chemical substances. 	<p>The aims are achieved by applying REACH, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation; and Restriction of chemicals. <p>REACH also aims to enhance innovation and competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.</p>	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Stockholm Convention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the Stockholm Convention is to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prohibit and/or eliminate the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex A to the Convention Restrict the production and use, as well as the import and export, of the intentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex B to the Convention Reduce or eliminate releases from unintentionally produced POPs that are listed in Annex C to the Convention Ensure that stockpiles and wastes consisting of, containing or contaminated with POPs are managed safely and in an environmentally sound manner Other provisions of the Convention relate to the development of implementation plans, information exchange, public information, awareness and education, research, development and monitoring, technical assistance, financial resources and mechanisms, reporting, effectiveness evaluation and non-compliance 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ramsar Convention	The Convention's mission is "the conservation and wise use of all wetlands through local and national actions and international cooperation, as a contribution towards achieving sustainable development throughout the world".	<p>Under the "three pillars" of the Convention, the Contracting Parties commit to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work towards the wise use of all their wetlands; Designate suitable wetlands for the list of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") and ensure their effective management; Cooperate internationally on transboundary wetlands, shared wetland systems and shared species. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for

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Legislation, Plan, etc.	Summary of high-level aim/ purpose/ objective	Summary of lower level objectives, actions etc.	Relevance to the Plan
European 2020 Strategy for Growth	Europe 2020 sets out a vision of Europe's social market economy for the 21st century and puts forward three mutually reinforcing priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart growth: developing an economy based on knowledge and innovation; Sustainable growth: promoting a more resource efficient, greener and more competitive economy; Inclusive growth: fostering a high-employment economy delivering social and territorial cohesion. 	In order to reach these priorities, the Commission proposes five quantitative targets to fulfil by 2020: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 75 % of the population aged 20-64 should be employed; 3% of the EU's GDP should be invested in R&D; the "20/20/20" climate/energy targets should be met (including an increase to 30% of emissions reduction if the conditions are right); the share of early school leavers should be under 10% and at least 40% of the younger generation should have a tertiary degree; 20 million less people should be at risk of poverty. 	environmental protection and management. Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Level			
Ireland 2040 - Our Plan, the National Planning Framework, and the National Development Plan	The National Planning Framework is the Government's high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of to the year 2040. It is a framework to guide public and private investment, to create and promote opportunities for people, and to protect and enhance the environment - from villages to cities, and everything around and in between. The National Development Plan sets out the investment priorities that will underpin the successful implementation of the new National Planning Framework. This will guide national, regional and local planning and investment decisions in Ireland over the next two decades, to cater for an expected population increase of over 1 million people.	National Strategic Outcomes as follows: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Compact Growth Enhanced Regional Accessibility Strengthened Rural Economies and Communities Sustainable Mobility A Strong Economy, supported by Enterprise, Innovation and Skills High-Quality International Connectivity Enhanced Amenity and Heritage Transition to a Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Society Sustainable Management of Water and other Environmental Resources Access to Quality Childcare, Education and Health Services 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning, Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040	Planning Land Use and Transport Outlook 2040 (PLUTO) is the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's (DTTAS) response to the new NPF and NDP. The objective of PLUTO is to update the existing framework for transport investment published in 2015 to ensure alignment with Project Ireland 2040.	The PLUTO will take account of forecasted future economic and demographic scenarios, affordability considerations and relevant Government policies and will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Quantify in broad terms the appropriate scale of financial investment in land transport over the long term; Consider how fiscal, environmental and technological developments might impact on this investment; and, Identify strategic priorities for future investment to ensure land transport infrastructure provision facilitates the objectives of Project Ireland 2040. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)	The core principal objectives of this Act are to amend the Planning Acts of 2000 – 2009 with specific regard given to supporting economic renewal and sustainable development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development, with certain exceptions, is subject to development control under the Planning Acts and the local authorities grant or refuse planning permission for development, including ones within protected areas. There are, however, a range of exemptions from the planning system. Use of land for agriculture, peat extraction and afforestation, subject to certain thresholds, is generally exempt from the requirement to obtain planning permission. Additionally, Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) is required for a range of classes and large-scale projects. Under planning legislation, Development Plans must include mandatory objectives for the conservation of the natural heritage and for the conservation of European sites and any other sites which may be prescribed. There are also discretionary powers to set objectives for the conservation of a variety of other elements of the natural heritage. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004), as amended by S.I. 200 of 2011	The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose into Irish law Directive 2001/42/EC of 27 June 2001 (O.J. No. L 197, 21 July 2001) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment – commonly known as the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Regulations cover plans and programmes in all of the sectors listed in article 3(2) of the Directive except land-use planning. These Regulations also amend certain provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 to provide the statutory basis for the transposition of the Directive in respect of land-use planning. Transposition in respect of the land-use planning sector is contained in the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477of 2011, as amended)	These Regulations provide a new for the implementation in Ireland of Council Directive 92/43/EEC on habitats and protection of wild fauna and flora (as amended) and for the implementation of Directive 2009/147/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of wild birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> They provide, among other things, for: the appointment and functions of authorized officers; identification, classification and other procedures relative to the designation of Community sites. The Regulations have been prepared to address several judgments of the CJEU against Ireland, notably cases C-418/04 and C-183/05, in respect of failure to transpose elements of the Birds Directive and the Habitats Directive into Irish law. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Waste Management Act 1996, as amended	To make provision in relation to the prevention, management and control of waste; to give effect to provisions of certain acts adopted by institutions of the European communities in respect of those matters; to amend the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992, and to repeal certain enactments and to provide for related matters.	The Waste Management Act contains a number of key legal obligations, including requirements for waste management planning, waste collection and movement, the authorisation of waste facilities, measures to reduce the production of waste and/or promote its recovery.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European Communities Environmental Objectives (FPM) Regulations 2009 (S.I. 296 of 2009)	The purpose of these Regulations is to support the achievement of favourable conservation status for freshwater pearl mussels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set environmental quality objectives for the habitats of the freshwater pearl mussel populations named in the First Schedule to these Regulations that are within the boundaries of a site notified in a candidate list of European sites, or designated as a Special Area of Conservation, under the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, 1997 (S.I. No. 94/1997). Require the production of sub-basin management plans with programmes of measures to achieve these objectives. Set out the duties of public authorities in respect of the sub-basin management plans and programmes of measure. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010), as amended (S.I. No. 366 of 2016)	To amend the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) to make further provision to implement Commission Directive 2014/80/EU of 20 June 2014 amending Annex II to Directive 2006/118/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.	<p>The substances and threshold values set out in Schedule 5 to S.I. No. 9 of 2010 have been reviewed and amended where necessary, based on existing monitoring information and international guidelines on appropriate threshold values.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Part A of Schedule 6 has been amended to include changes to the rules governing the determination of background levels for the purposes of establishing threshold values for groundwater pollutants and indicators of pollution. Part B of Schedule 6 has been amended to include nitrites and phosphorus (total) / phosphates among the minimum list of pollutants and their indicators which the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) must consider when establishing threshold values. Part C of Schedule 6 amends the information to be provided to the Minister by the EPA with regard to the pollutants and their indicators for which threshold values have been established. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2014 (S.I. No. 31 of 2014)	These Regulations, which give effect to Ireland's 3 rd Nitrates Action Programme, provide statutory support for good agricultural practice to protect waters against pollution from agricultural sources	<p>The Regulations include measures such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Periods when land application of fertilisers is prohibited Limits on the land application of fertilisers Storage requirements for livestock manure; and Monitoring of the effectiveness of the measures in terms of agricultural practice and impact on water quality. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, as amended	An Act to provide for the approval of plans by the Government in relation to climate change for the purpose of pursuing the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy.	<p>When considering a plan or framework, for approval, the Government shall endeavour to achieve the national transition objective within the period to which the objective relates and shall, in endeavouring to achieve that objective, ensure that such objective is achieved by the implementation of measures that are cost effective and shall, for that purpose, have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ultimate objective specified in Article 2 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change done at New York on 9 May 1992 and any mitigation commitment entered into by the European Union in response or otherwise in relation to that objective, The policy of the Government on climate change, Climate justice, Any existing obligation of the State under the law of the European Union or any international agreement referred to in section 2; and The most recent national greenhouse gas emissions inventory and projection of future greenhouse gas emissions, prepared by the Agency. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Action Plan 2023	The National Climate Action Plan 2023 provides a detailed plan for taking decisive action to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and setting Ireland on a path to reach net-zero emissions by no later than 2050, as committed to in the Programme for Government and set out in the Climate Act 2021.	The Plan lists the actions needed to deliver on Ireland's climate targets and sets indicative ranges of emissions reductions for each sector of the economy. It will be updated periodically to ensure alignment with Ireland's legally binding economy-wide carbon budgets and sectoral ceilings.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets out comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process. Ensures flood risk is a key consideration in preparing land use plans and in the assessment of planning applications. Implementation of the Guidelines is through actions at national, regional, local authority and site-specific levels. <p>Planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are required to have regard to the Guidelines in carrying out their functions under the Planning Acts.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding. Avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface water run-off. Ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains. Avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth. Improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders. Ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management. <p>The 2009 Flood Risk Management Guidelines were amended by Circular PL 2/2014 (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government) that provides advice on the use of OPW flood mapping in assessing planning applications and clarifies some advice from the 2009 Guidelines.</p>	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Sustainable Development Goals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Implementation Plan 2018 - 2020 is in direct response to the 	The Plan identifies four strategic priorities to guide implementation:	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with

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National Implementation Plan (2018 – 2020)	<p>2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and provides a whole-of-government approach to implement the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Plan provides a 'SDG Matrix' which identifies the responsible Government Departments for each of the 169 targets. It also includes a 'SDG Policy Map' indicating the relevant national policies for each of the targets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness: raise public awareness of the SDGs; Participation: provide stakeholders opportunities to engage and contribute to follow-up and review processes, and further develop national implementation of the Goals; Support: encourage and support efforts of communities and organisations to contribute towards meeting the SDGs, and foster public participation; and Policy alignment: develop alignment of national policy with the SDGs and identify opportunities for policy coherence. 	all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Infrastructure and Capital Investment Plan (2016-2021)	€27 billion multi-annual Exchequer Capital Investment Plan, which is supported by a programme of capital investment in the wider State sector, and which over the period 2016 to 2021 will help to lay the foundations for continued growth in Ireland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This Capital Plan reflects the Government's commitment to supporting strong and sustainable economic growth and raising welfare and living standards for all. It includes allocations for new projects across a number of key areas and funding to ensure that the present stock of national infrastructure is refreshed and maintained. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Union (Birds and Natural Habitats) (Sea-Fisheries) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 290 of 2013)	These regulations have been drafted to implement the responsibilities of the Minister for Agriculture Food and the Marine in relation to sea fisheries in Natura 2000 sites, in accordance with the Habitats and Birds Directives as transposed by the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477 of 2011).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulation 3 provides for the submission of a Fisheries Natura Plan in relation to planned fisheries; Regulation 4 provides for a screening of a Fisheries Natura Plan to determine whether or not an appropriate assessment is required; Regulation 5 provides for an appropriate assessment of a Fisheries Natura Plan and also provides for public and statutory consultation; Regulation 6 provides for the Minister to make a determination to adopt a Fisheries Natura Plan. The Minister may amend, withdraw or revoke a plan; Regulation 7 provides for publication of the adopted Fisheries Natura Plan; Regulation 8 provides for a Risk Assessment of unplanned fisheries and also provides for public and statutory consultation on the assessment; Regulation 9 provides for the issue of a Natura Declaration to prohibit, restrict including restricting by permit, control, etc. of sea fishing activities; Regulation 10 provides for Natura Permits to be issued where required by Natura Declarations; and Regulations 11 to 31 deal with functions of authorised officers and related matters, offences, etc. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's National Renewable Energy Action Plan 2010 (Irish Government submission to the European Commission)	The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government's strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland's 16% target under Directive 2009/28/EC.	The NREAP sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Strategy for Renewable Energy (2012-2020)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's overarching strategic objective is to make renewable energy an increasingly significant component of Ireland's energy supply by 2020, so that at a minimum it will achieve its legally binding 2020 target in the most cost-efficient manner for consumers. Of critical importance is the role which the renewable energy sector plays in job creation and economic activity as part of the Government's action plan for jobs. 	<p>This document sets out five strategic goals, reflecting the key dimensions of the renewable energy challenge to 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing on and offshore wind, Building a sustainable bioenergy sector, Fostering R&D in renewables such as wave & tidal, Growing sustainable transport; and Building out robust and efficient networks. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Climate Mitigation Plan 2017	The Plan represents an initial step to set Ireland on a pathway to achieve the deep decarbonisation required in Ireland by mid-century in line with the Government's policy objectives.	<p>The National Mitigation Plan focuses on the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Policy Framework Decarbonising Electricity Generation Decarbonising the Built Environment Decarbonising Transport An Approach to Carbon Neutrality for Agriculture, Forest and Land Use Sectors 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Clean Air Strategy [in preparation]	The Clean Air Strategy will provide the strategic policy framework necessary to identify and promote integrated measures across government policy that are required to reduce air pollution and promote cleaner air while delivering on wider national objectives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having a National Strategy will provide a policy framework by which Ireland can develop the necessary policies and measures to comply with new and emerging EU legislation. The Strategy should also help tackle climate change. The Strategy will consider a wider range of national policies that are relevant to clean air policy such as transport, energy, home heating and agriculture. In any discussion relating to clean air policy, the issue of people's health is paramount and this will be a strong theme of the Strategy. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
EirGrid's Grid25 Strategy and associated Grid25 Implementation Programme 2017-2022	EirGrid's mission is to develop, maintain and operate a safe, secure, reliable, economical and efficient transmission system for Ireland; "Our vision is of a grid developed to match future needs, so it can safely and reliably carry power all over the country to the major towns and cities and onwards to every home, farm and business where the electricity is consumed and so it can meet the needs of consumers and generators in a sustainable way."	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grid25, EirGrid's roadmap to update the electricity transmission grid by 2025, continues to be implemented so as to increase the capacity of the grid, to satisfy future demand, and to help Ireland meet its target of 40 per cent of electricity from renewable energy by 2020. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for

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EirGrid Transmission Development Plan 2021-2030	<p>The primary objective of the Transmission Development Plan (TDP) is to describe the transmission network reinforcements planned for the next ten years. The TDP outlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The drivers of network development; The network investment needs; and The planned network developments required to address these needs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TDP 2021 is EirGrid's Plan to develop the network through specific projects over the next ten years. 	<p>environmental protection and management.</p> <p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways (2018)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of this Strategy is to assist in the strategic development of nationally and regionally significant Greenways in appropriate locations constructed to an appropriate standard in order to deliver a quality experience for all Greenways users. It also aims to increase the number and geographical spread of Greenways of scale and quality around the country over the next 10 years with a consequent significant increase in the number of people using Greenways as a visitor experience and as a recreational amenity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Strategic Greenway network of national and regional routes, with a number of high capacity flagship routes that can be extended and/or link with local Greenways and other cycling and walking infrastructure; Greenways of scale and appropriate standard that have significant potential to deliver an increase in activity tourism to Ireland and are regularly used by overseas visitors, domestic visitors and locals thereby contributing to a healthier society through increased physical activity; Greenways that provide a substantially segregated off road experience linking places of interest, recreation and leisure in areas with beautiful scenery of different types with plenty to see and do; and Greenways that provide opportunities for the development of local businesses and economies, and Greenways that are developed with all relevant stakeholders in line with an agreed code of practice. 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Water Resources Plan [in preparation]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The NWRP is a plan on how to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply to customers for the next 25 years, without causing adverse impact on the environment. The objective of the NWRP is to set out how we intend to maintain the supply and demand for drinking water over the short, medium and long term whilst minimising the impact on the environment. The preparation of the NWRP has been divided into two phases, the combination of which will become the final NWRP. The NWRP Framework Plan (Phase 1) has now been adopted. Phase 2 of the NWRP (four Regional Water Resources Plans), currently in preparation, will address the needs across the 535 individual water supplies and identify the solutions to address these needs. 	<p>The key objectives of the plan are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify areas where there are current and future potential water supply shortfalls, taking into account normal and extreme weather conditions Assess the current and future water demand from homes, businesses, farms, and industry Consider the impacts of climate change on Ireland's water resources Develop a drought plan advising measures to be taken before and during drought events Develop a plan detailing how we deal with the material that is produced as a result of treating drinking water Assess the water resources available at a national level including lakes, rivers and groundwater 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Strategic Plan for Aquaculture Development (2014-2020)	<p>Vision: "Aquaculture in RC is economically, socially and ecologically sustainable, with a developed infrastructure, strong human potentials and an organized market. The consumption of aquaculture products is equal or above EU average, while the technological development of the sector is among the best in the EU."</p>	<p>General development and growth objectives of marine and freshwater aquaculture (2014 – 2020):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen the social, business and administrative environment for aquaculture development Increase in the total production to 24,050 tonnes while adhering to the principles of economic, social and ecological sustainability Improvement of the perception and increase in the national consumption of National products 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Construction 2020, A Strategy for a Renewed Construction Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction 2020 sets out a package of measures agreed by the Government and is aimed at stimulating activity in the building industry. The Strategy aims both to increase the capacity of the sector to create and maintain jobs, and to deliver a sustainable sector, operating at an appropriate level. It seeks to learn the lessons of the past and to ensure that the right structures and mechanisms are in place so that they are not repeated. 	<p>This Strategy therefore addresses issues including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A strategic approach to the provision of housing, based on real and measured needs, with mechanisms in place to detect and act when things are going wrong; Continuing improvement of the planning process, striking the right balance between current and future requirements; The availability of financing for viable and worthwhile projects; Access to mortgage finance on reasonable and sustainable terms; Ensuring we have the tools we need to monitor and regulate the sector in a way that underpins public confidence and worker safety; Ensuring a fit for purpose sector supported by a highly skilled workforce achieving high quality and standards; and Ensuring opportunities are provided to unemployed former construction workers to contribute to the recovery of the sector. 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland (1997)	<p>The overall aim of this Strategy is to ensure that economy and society in Ireland can develop to their full potential within a well-protected environment, without compromising the quality of that environment, and with responsibility towards present and future generations and the wider international community.</p>	<p>The Strategy addresses all areas of Government policy, and of economic and societal activity, which impact on the environment. It seeks to re-orientate policies as necessary to ensure that the strong growth Ireland enjoys and seeks to maintain will be environmentally sustainable.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025 and National Landscape Character Assessment (pending preparation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the European Landscape Convention and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing the landscape while positively managing its change. It will provide a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by 	<p>The objectives of the National Landscape Strategy are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the European Landscape Convention by integrating landscape into the approach to sustainable development; Establish and embed a public process of gathering, sharing and interpreting scientific, technical and cultural information in order to carry out evidence-based identification 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the</p>

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	<p>way of supporting actions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landscape Strategy Vision: <i>"Our landscape reflects and embodies our cultural values and our shared natural heritage and contributes to the well-being of our society, environment and economy. We have an obligation to ourselves and to future generations to promote its sustainable protection, management and planning."</i> 	<p>and description of the character, resources and processes of the landscape;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide a policy framework, which will put in place measures at national, sectoral - including agriculture, tourism, energy, transport and marine - and local level, together with civil society, to protect, manage and properly plan through high quality design for the sustainable stewardship of the landscape; Ensure that we take advantage of opportunities to implement policies relating to landscape use that are complementary and mutually reinforcing and that conflicting policy objectives are avoided in as far as possible. 	<p>objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>National Hazardous Waste Management Plan 2021-2027</p>	<p>This Plan sets out the priorities to be pursued over the next six years and beyond to improve the management of hazardous waste, taking into account the progress made since the previous plan and the waste policy and legislative changes that have occurred since the previous plan was published. Section 26 of the Waste Management Act 1996 as amended, sets out the overarching objectives for the National Hazardous Waste Management Plan. In this context, the following objectives are included as priorities for the revised Plan period:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To prevent and reduce the generation of hazardous waste by industry and society generally; To maximise the collection of hazardous waste with a view to reducing the environmental and health impacts of any unregulated waste; To strive for increased self-sufficiency in the management of hazardous waste and to minimise hazardous waste export; To minimise the environmental, health, social and economic impacts of hazardous waste generation and management. 	<p>The revised Plan makes 27 recommendations under the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevention Collection Self-sufficiency Regulation Legacy issues North-south cooperation Guidance and awareness Implementation 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Ministerial Guidelines such as Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</p>	<p>The Department produces a range of guidelines designed to help planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, developers and the general public and cover a wide range of issues amongst others, architectural heritage, child care facilities, landscape, quarries and residential density.</p>	<p>The Minister issues statutory guidelines under Section 28 of the Act which planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to in the performance of their planning functions.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>HSE Healthy Ireland Framework for Improved Health and Wellbeing 2013-2025</p>	<p>The vision is: <i>"A Healthy Ireland, where everyone can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility."</i></p>	<p>These four goals are interlinked, interdependent and mutually supportive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Goal 1: Increase the proportion of people who are healthy at all stages of life Goal 2: Reduce health inequalities Goal 3: Protect the public from threats to health and wellbeing Goal 4: Create an environment where every individual and sector of society can play their part in achieving a healthy Ireland 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Our Sustainable Future: A framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012</p>	<p>A medium to long term framework for advancing sustainable development and the green economy in Ireland. It identifies spatial planning as a key challenge for sustainable development and sets a series of measures to address these challenges.</p>	<p>Sets out the challenges facing us and how we might address them in making sure that quality of life and general wellbeing can be improved and sustained in the decades to come.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 – 2020 (2009)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines a policy for how a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved. Sets out five key goals: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To reduce overall travel demand. To maximise the efficiency of the transport network. To reduce reliance on fossil fuels. To reduce transport emissions. To improve accessibility to transport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Others lower level aims include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, mainly through a radically improved public transport service and through investment in cycling and walking improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport through improved fleet structure, energy efficient driving and alternative technologies strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Investing in our Future: A Strategic Framework for Investment in Land Transport (SFILT) – Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport</p>	<p>SFILT sets out a set of priorities to guide the allocation of the State's investment to best develop and manage Ireland's land transport network over the coming decades.</p>	<p>The three priorities stated in SFILT are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Priority 1: Achieve steady state maintenance (meaning that the maintenance and renewal of the existing transport system is at a sufficient level to maintain the system in an adequate condition); Priority 2: Address urban congestion; and Priority 3: Maximise the value of the road network. <p>In delivering on the steady state maintenance objective set out in SFILT, the Plan includes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planned replacement programme for the bus fleet operated under Public Service Obligation ("PSO") contracts; Tram refurbishment and asset renewal in the case of light rail; and 	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the extent within the Authority' remit, support for the operation of the existing rail network within the GDA. 	
Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020 (2007)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> White paper setting out a framework for delivering a sustainable energy future in Ireland. Outlines strategic Goals for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Security of Supply Sustainability of Energy Competitiveness of Energy Supply 	<p>The underpinning Strategic Goals are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring that electricity supply consistently meets demand Ensuring the physical security and reliability of gas supplies to Ireland Enhancing the diversity of fuels used for power generation Delivering electricity and gas to homes and businesses over efficient, reliable and secure networks Creating a stable attractive environment for hydrocarbon exploration and production Being prepared for energy supply disruptions 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Adaptation Framework (NAF) 2018 and associated regional, local and sectoral adaptation plans	NAF specifies the national strategy for the application of adaptation measures in different sectors and by local authorities in their administrative areas in order to reduce the vulnerability of the State to the negative effects of climate change and to avail of any positive effects that may occur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adaptation under this Framework should seek to minimise costs and maximise the opportunities arising from climate change. Adaptation actions range from building adaptive capacity (e.g. increasing awareness, sharing information and targeted training) through to policy and finance-based actions. Adaptation actions must be risk based, informed by existing vulnerabilities of our society and systems and an understanding of projected climate change. Adaptation actions taken to increase climate resilience must also consider impacts on other sectors and levels of governance 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Renewable Energy Action Plan (2010)	Sets out the Member State's national targets for the share of energy from renewable sources to be consumed in transport, electricity and heating and cooling in 2020, and demonstrates how the Member State will meet its overall national target established under the Directive.	Including Ireland's 16% target of gross final consumption to come from renewables by 2020.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland (2009 – 2020)	This is the second National Energy Efficiency Action Plan for Ireland.	The Plan reviews the original 90 actions outlined in the first Plan and updates/renews/removes them as appropriate.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Wildlife Act of 1976 Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000	The act provides protection and conservation of wild flora and fauna.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides protection for certain species, their habitats and important ecosystems Give statutory protection to NHAs Enhances wildlife species and their habitats Includes more species for protection 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Actions for Biodiversity (2017-2021) Ireland's National Biodiversity Plan	Sets out strategic objectives, targets and actions to conserve and restore Ireland's biodiversity and to prevent and reduce the loss of biodiversity in Ireland and globally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To mainstream biodiversity in the decision-making process across all sectors. To substantially strengthen the knowledge base for conservation, management and sustainable use of biodiversity. To increase awareness and appreciation of biodiversity and ecosystems services. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the wider countryside. To conserve and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services in the marine environment. To expand and improve on the management of protected areas and legally protected species. To substantially strengthen the effectiveness of international governance for biodiversity and ecosystem services. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Broadband Plan (2012)	Sets out the strategy to deliver high speed broadband throughout Ireland.	<p>The Plan sets out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A clear statement of Government policy on the delivery of High-Speed Broadband. Specific targets for the delivery and rollout of high-speed broadband and the speeds to be delivered. The strategy and interventions that will underpin the successful implementation of these targets. A series of specific complementary measures to promote implementation of Government policy in this area. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 722 of 2003) European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations of 2003 (S.I. 350 of 2014)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transpose the Water Framework Directive into legislation. Outlines the general duty of public authorities in relation to water. Identifies the competent authorities in charge of water policy (amended to Irish Water in 2013) and gives EPA and the CER the authority to regulate and supervise their actions. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implements River basin districts and characterisation of RBDs and River Basin Management Plans. Requires the public to be informed and consulted on the Plan and for progress reports to be published on RBDs. Implements a Register of protected areas, Classification systems and Monitoring programmes for water bodies. Allows the competent authority to recover the cost of damage/destruction of status 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface waters) Regulations of 2009 (S.I. 272 of 2009)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> of water body, Outlines environmental objectives and programme of measures and environmental quality standards for priority substances. Outlines criteria for assessment of groundwater. Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for surface water bodies. Outlines surface water quality standards. Establishes threshold values for the classification and protection of surface waters against pollution and deterioration in quality. 	
European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations of 2010 (S.I. 9 of 2010)	Transpose the requirements of the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC into Irish Legislation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines environmental objectives to be achieved for groundwater bodies of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in quality. Sets groundwater quality standards. Outlines threshold values for the classification and protection of groundwater. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Pollution Acts 1977 to 1990	The Water Pollution Acts allow Local Authorities the authority regulate and supervise actions relating to water in their division.	<p>The Water Pollution Acts enable local authorities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prosecute for water pollution offences. Attach appropriate pollution control conditions in the licensing of effluent discharges from industry, etc., made to waters. Issue notices ("section 12 notices") to farmers, etc., specifying measures to be taken within a prescribed period to prevent water pollution. Issue notices requiring a person to cease the pollution of waters and requiring the mitigation or remedying of any effects of the pollution in the manner and within the period specified in such notices; Seek court orders, including High Court injunctions, to prevent, terminate, mitigate or remedy pollution/its effects. Prepare water quality management plans for any waters in or adjoining their functional areas. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Water Services Act 2007 Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 Water Services Act (No. 2) 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides the water services infrastructure. Outlines the responsibilities involved in delivering and managing water services. Identifies the authority in charge of provision of water and waste water supply. Irish Water was given the responsibility of the provision of water and waste water services in the amendment act during 2013, therefore these services are no longer the responsibility of the 34 Local Authorities in Ireland. 	<p>Key strategic objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring Irish Water delivers infrastructural projects that meet key public health, environmental and economic objectives in the water services sector. Ensuring the provision of adequate water and sewerage services in the gateways and hubs listed in the National Spatial Strategy, and in other locations where services need to be enhanced. Ensuring good quality drinking water is available to all consumers of public and group water supplies, in compliance with national and EU drinking water standards Ensuring the provision of the remaining infrastructure needed to provide secondary waste water treatment, for compliance with the requirements of the EU Urban Waste water Treatment Directive. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Uisce Éireann Water Services Strategic Plan 2015 and associated Proposed Capital Investment Plan (2020-2024)	This Water Services Strategic Plan sets out strategic objectives for the delivery of water services over the next 25 years up to 2040. It details current and future challenges which affect the provision of water services and identifies the priorities to be tackled in the short and medium term.	<p>Six strategic objectives as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meet Customer Expectations. Ensure a Safe and Reliable Water Supply. Provide Effective Management of Waste water. Protect and Enhance the Environment. Support Social and Economic Growth. Invest in the Future. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Uisce Éireann's National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan	The National Wastewater Sludge Management Plan (NWSMP) outlines Irish Water's strategy to ensure a nationwide standardised approach for managing wastewater sludge over the next 25 years. This national and sustainable approach to wastewater sludge management will ensure efficiency and ongoing improvements to the benefit of the public and the environment we all live in.	<p>As part of the development of the NWSMP, Irish Water has looked at how wastewater sludge is currently managed and has set out sustainable proposals for the investment in future treatment, transport and reuse or disposal of the sludge in keeping with the following objectives: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To avoid endangering human health or harming the environment; To maximise the benefits of wastewater sludge as a soil conditioner and source of nutrients; To ensure that all regulatory and legislative controls are met, and due regard is given to non-statutory Codes of Practice and industry guidance; To establish long term, secure and sustainable reuse/disposal methods; To ensure cost-effective and efficient treatment and reuse/disposal techniques; To reduce potential for disruption from sludge transport and sludge facilities; To extract energy and other resources where economically feasible; and To drive operational efficiencies, e.g. through the use of Sludge Hub Centres. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Raised Bog SAC Management Plan and Review of Raised Bog Natural Heritage Areas	Aims to meet nature conservation obligations while having regard to national and local economic, social and cultural needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that the implications of management choices for water levels, quantity and quality are fully explored, understood and factored into policy making and land use planning. Review the current raised bog NHA network in terms of its contribution to the national conservation objective for raised bog habitats and determine the most suitable sites to replace the losses of active raised bog habitat and high bog areas 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for

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		within the SAC network and to enhance the national network of NHAs.	environmental protection and management.
Agri-Food Strategy 2030	This 10-year Strategy sets out four high-level "Missions" to be achieved in order to develop such a system in Ireland: 1. A Climate Smart, Environmentally Sustainable Agri-Food Sector 2. Viable and Resilient Primary Producers with Enhanced Wellbeing 3. Food that is Safe, Nutritious and Appealing, Trusted and Valued at Home and Abroad 4. An Innovative, Competitive and Resilient Sector, driven by Technology and Talent	Each of the Missions has a set of Goals which are underpinned by a series of Actions.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Agri-vision 2015 Action Plan	Outlines the vision for agricultural industry to improve competitiveness and response to market demand while respecting and enhancing the environment	not applicable	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Rural Environmental Protection Scheme (REPS) Agri-Environmental Options Scheme (AEOS) Green, Low-Carbon, Agri-environment Scheme (GLAS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agri-environmental funding schemes aimed at rural development for the environmental enhancement and protection. GLAS is the new replacement for REPS and AEOS which are both expiring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish best practice farming methods and production methods in order to protect landscapes and maximise conservation. Protect biodiversity, endangered species of flora and fauna and wildlife habitats. Ensure food is produced with the highest regard to the environment. Implement nutrient management plans and grassland management plans. Protect and maintain water bodies, wetlands and cultural heritage. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Rural Development Programme	The National Rural Development Programme, prepared by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, sets out a national programme based on the EU framework for rural development and prioritises improving the competitiveness of agriculture, improving the environment and improving the quality of life in rural areas	At a more detailed level, the programme also: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supports structural change at farm level including training young farmers and encouraging early retirement, support for restructuring, development and innovation; Aims to improve the environment, biodiversity and the amenity value of the countryside by support for land management through funds such as Natura 2000 payments etc.; and Aims to improve quality of life in rural areas and encouraging diversification of economic activity through the implementation of local development strategies such as non-agricultural activities 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Our Rural Future – Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025	This policy provides a framework for the development of rural Ireland over a five-year period. The role of tourism in local and regional economies is recognised as being of an importance that 'cannot be understated'. The aim of growing the tourism offering and developing outdoor activity tourism are highlighted in the policy.	Relevant policy measures include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Further development of the Failte Ireland Experience by strengthening Ireland's image as an outdoor activity holiday destination for both domestic and international markets. Investment in greenways, blueways, walking trails and other outdoor recreation infrastructure to support the growth in outdoor recreation tourism. Explore the potential for the development of further tourist trails and expand the Walks Scheme to achieve a target of at least 80 trails. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Forestry Programme (2014-2020)	Represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020.	Measures include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Afforestation and Creation of Woodland NeighbourWood Scheme Forest Roads Reconstitution Scheme Woodland Improvement Scheme Native Woodland Conservation Scheme Knowledge Transfer and Information Actions Producer Groups Innovative Forest Technology Forest Genetic Reproductive Material Forest Management Plans 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 3rd Cycle [in preparation]	This draft River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures that are necessary to protect and restore water quality in Ireland. The overall aim of the plan is to ensure that our natural waters are sustainably managed and that freshwater resources are protected so as to maintain and improve Ireland's water environment.	The River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures necessary to protect and improve the quality of Ireland's waters. These plans are prepared in 6-year cycles, during which a programme of measures must be implemented so as to achieve water quality objectives. Good water quality contributes to protecting human health by improving the quality of drinking water sources and bathing waters.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Peatlands Strategy (2015-2025)	This Strategy aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise	Objectives of the Strategy: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To give direction to Ireland's approach to peatland management. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and

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	their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of this and future generations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To apply to all peatlands, including peat soils. To ensure that the relevant State authorities and state-owned companies that influence such decisions contribute to meeting cross-cutting objectives and obligations in their policies and actions. To ensure that Ireland's peatlands are sustainably managed so that their benefits can be enjoyed responsibly. To inform appropriate regulatory systems to facilitate good decision making in support of responsible use. To inform the provision of appropriate incentives, financial supports and disincentives where required. 	cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Flood Risk Management Plans arising from National Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Programme	The national Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) programme commenced in Ireland in 2011 and is being overseen by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Programme is intended to deliver on core components of the National Flood Policy, adopted in 2004, and on the requirements of the EU Floods Directive.	CFRAM Studies have been undertaken for all River Basin Districts. The studies are focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. Flood Risk and Hazard mapping, including Flood Extent Mapping, was finalised in 2017. The final outputs from the studies are the CFRAM Plans, finalised in 2018. The Plans define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft National Bioenergy Plan 2014 - 2020	The Draft Bioenergy Plan sets out a vision as follows: Bioenergy resources contributing to economic development and sustainable growth, generating jobs for citizens, supported by coherent policy, planning and regulation, and managed in an integrated manner.	Three high level goals, of equal importance, based on the concept of sustainable development are identified: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To harness the market opportunities presented by bioenergy in order to achieve economic development, growth and jobs. To increase awareness of the value, opportunities and societal benefits of developing bioenergy. To ensure that bioenergy developments do not adversely impact the environment and its living and non-living resources. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE) 2016	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC. On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AFV forecasts Electricity targets Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets Hydrogen targets Biofuels targets LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Food Wise 2025 (DAFM)	Food Wise 2025 sets out a ten-year plan for the agri-food sector. It underlines the sector's unique and special position within the Irish economy, and it illustrates the potential which exists for this sector to grow even further.	Food Wise 2025 identifies ambitious and challenging growth projections for the industry over the next ten years including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 85% increase in exports to €19 billion. 70% increase in value added to €13 billion. 60% increase in primary production to €10 billion. The creation of 23,000 additional jobs all along the supply chain from producer level to high-end value-added product development. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Cycle Network Scoping Study 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outlines objectives and actions aimed at developing a strong cycle network in Ireland Sets out 19 specific objectives, and details the 109 actions, aimed at ensuring that a cycling culture is developed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sets a target where 10% of all journeys will be made by bike by 2020 Proposes the planning, infrastructure, communication, education and stakeholder participations measures required to implement the initiative 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport in Ireland 2017 to 2030	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This National Policy Framework on Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport represents the first step in communicating our longer-term national vision for decarbonising transport by 2050, the cornerstone of which is our ambition that by 2030 all new cars and vans sold in Ireland will be zero-emissions capable. By 2030 it is envisaged that the movement in Ireland to electrically-fuelled cars and commuter rail will be well underway, with natural gas and biofuels developing as major alternatives in the freight and bus sectors. 	<p>This policy set out to achieve five key goals in transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce overall travel demand Maximise the efficiency of the transport network Reduce reliance on fossil fuels Reduce transport emissions Improve accessibility to transport <p>These goals remain the cornerstone of transport policy and are fully aligned to the objectives of this National Policy Framework.</p>	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021	The Tourism Action Plan 2019-2021 sets out actions that the Tourism Leadership Group has identified as priorities to be progressed until 2021 in order to maintain sustainable growth in overseas tourism revenue and employment. Each action involves specific tourism stakeholders, both in the public and private sectors, all of whom we expect to proactively work towards the completion of actions within the specified timeframe.	The Plan contains 27 actions focusing on the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Context • Marketing Ireland as a Visitor Destination • Enhancing the Visitor Experience • Research in the Irish Tourism Sector • Supporting Local Communities in Tourism • Wider Government Policy • International Context • Co-ordination Structures 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Tourism Policy Statement: People, Place and Policy – Growing Tourism to 2025 and Tourism Recovery Plan 2020-2023	The main goal of this policy statement is to have a vibrant, attractive tourism sector that makes a significant contribution to employment across the country; is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable; helps promote a positive image of Ireland overseas, and is a sector in which people want to work. The Tourism Recovery Plan 2020-2023 necessitated by the impact of the global pandemic recognised that <i>'tourism is as integral to the national economic recovery now as it was in the jobs led recovery after the last recession. The sector is uniquely positioned to contribute strongly to job creation and reversing unemployment in communities and among the young throughout the country. This recovery provides an opportunity to strengthen the tourism industry and reaffirm the importance of the sector as an economic driver and an export led industry.'</i>	The Tourism Policy Statement sets three headline targets to be achieved by 2025: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overseas tourism revenue of €5 billion per year • net of inflation excluding carrier receipts; • 250,000 people employed in tourism; and • 10 million overseas visitors to Ireland per year. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework (DCCAE)	Goal: To optimise the opportunities in Ireland for renewable electricity development on land at significant scale, to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, in accordance with European and Irish law, including Directive 2009/28/EC: On the promotion of the use of energy from renewable resources.	Objective: To develop a Policy and Development Framework for renewable electricity generation on land to serve both the All Island Single Electricity Market and any future regional market within the European Union, with particular focus on large scale projects for indigenous renewable electricity generation. This will, inter alia, provide guidance for planning authorities and An Bord Pleanála. Methodology: Development of the Policy and Development Framework is to be informed by the carrying out of an SEA, including widespread consultation with stakeholders and public, and with AA under the Habitats Directive.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector (DTTAS) 2017- 2030	This Framework sets targets to achieve an appropriate level of alternative fuels infrastructure for transport, which is relative to national policy and Irish market needs. Non-infrastructure-based incentives to support the use of the infrastructure and the uptake of alternative fuels are also included within the scope of the Framework.	Targets for alternative fuel infrastructure include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AFV forecasts • Electricity targets • Natural gas (CNG, LNG) targets • Hydrogen targets • Biofuels targets • LPG targets Synthetic and paraffinic fuels targets	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021-2025	The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan is an island-wide attempt to reverse declines in pollinating insects to ensure the sustainability of our food, avoid additional economic impacts on agriculture, and protect the health of the environment. The main objectives include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making farmland, public land and private land in Ireland pollinator friendly; • Raising awareness of pollinators and how to protect them; • Managed pollinators – supporting beekeepers and growers; • Expanding our knowledge of pollinators and pollination service; and • Collecting evidence to track change and measure success. 	This voluntary Plan identified 81 actions, shared out between over 100 governmental and non-governmental organisations. A large focus of the Plan is to identify actions to improve the quality and amount of flower-rich habitat. Actions range from creating pollinator highways along our transport routes, to supporting pollinators on farmland, in gardens, businesses, and on public land.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II– A Framework for the Sustainable Development of Ireland's Offshore Renewable Energy Resource (OREDP II)	The key objectives for the OREDP II are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assess the resource potential for ORE in Ireland's maritime area. • Provide an evidence base to facilitate the future identification of Broad Areas most suitable for the sustainable deployment of ORE in Ireland's maritime area. Identify critical gaps in marine data or knowledge and recommend prioritised actions to close these gaps	The OREDP II provides a framework and evidence base to facilitate the future identification of Broad Areas most suited for the development of fixed wind, floating wind, wave and tidal as part of the enduring plan-led regime.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Ireland's Long Term Renovation Strategy 2020	This document sets out Ireland's Long-Term Renovation Strategy as required by Directive (EU) 2018/844 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 30 May 2018 amending Directive 2010/31/EU on the energy performance of buildings and Directive 2012/27/EU on energy efficiency.	This Long-Term Renovation Strategy has been developed based on the guidance issued by the European Commission.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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Policy on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on National Roads 2011	The purpose of this document is to outline the National Roads Authority's policy on the provision of tourist and leisure information signs on national primary and national secondary roads in Ireland.	The primary objectives of the Authority's Tourist and Leisure Signage Policy are to (a) provide a basis for a coherent system of tourist signage on national roads so as to effectively guide visitors to their intended destinations, and (b) avoid the unsightly proliferation of advertising and tourist signage, particularly for commercial related activities and tourist accommodation, on the national road network.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Town Centre First Policy 2022	The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community.	The Town Centre First policy sets out a range of Actions which collectively will create the framework required to support towns to achieve the desired outcomes and deliver on their own unique vision. These Actions are centred around improving knowledge and understanding of towns and what they need, enhancing the capacity of delivery agents to implement this policy, building new structures at national and local level, and ensuring that new and existing funds are co-ordinated and targeted towards the implementation of Town Centre First in each town.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Heritage Ireland 2030 – A Framework for Heritage	The objectives of Heritage Ireland 2030 are set out under three themes: Communities and Heritage; Leadership and Heritage; and Heritage Partnerships.	Heritage Ireland 2030 is a framework for the protection, conservation, promotion and management of Ireland's heritage for the next decade and beyond.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Making Remote Work: National Remote Work Strategy	The vision for this Strategy is to ensure remote working is a permanent feature in the Irish workplace in a way that maximises economic, social and environmental benefits.	The Remote Work Strategy is built on three fundamental pillars which will be bolstered by underpinning conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pillar One is focussed on creating a conducive environment for the adoption of remote work. • Pillar Two highlights the importance of the development and leveraging of remote work infrastructure to facilitate increased remote work adoption • Pillar Three is centred on maximising the benefits of remote work to achieve public policy goals. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Embracing Ireland's Outdoors - National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027	The strategy will enable inclusive, safe and accessible opportunities to get outdoors. It will focus on increased participation for underrepresented groups, better education on how to enjoy the outdoors responsibly while respecting the environment.	Embracing Ireland's Outdoors provides a strategic, collaborative framework to facilitate the consolidation and sustainable growth of the outdoor recreation sector. The strategy addresses the challenges facing the sector as well as embracing the many benefits of outdoor recreation for our communities, including the mental and physical health benefits, as well as economic and social benefits.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Strategy 2022 - 2025	This strategy is a pathway for delivery of electric vehicle (EV) charge point infrastructure. Such infrastructure will support the delivery of the Climate Action Plan ambition of almost a million EVs on Irish roads by 2030. The strategy will also help to ensure that EV charge point infrastructure provision remains ahead of demand.	This strategy reflects the urgent need for action to address climate change and the need for a strategic and just transition to sustainable ways of travelling.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
[Draft] Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2019	These Guidelines offer advice to planning authorities on planning for wind energy through the development plan process and in determining applications for planning permission.	The guidelines are also intended to ensure a consistency of approach throughout the country in the identification of suitable locations for wind energy development and the treatment of planning applications for wind energy developments.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Regional/ County/Local Level			
Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy	The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a long-term strategic planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midlands Region in order to support the implementation of the National Planning Framework.	The Eastern and Midlands Regional Economic and Spatial Strategy includes provisions for its 12 constituent local authorities: Fingal County Council; Dublin City Council; South Dublin County Council; Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council; Louth County Council; Kildare County Council; Meath County Council; Wicklow County Council; Longford County Council; Laois County Council; Offaly County Council; and Westmeath County Council.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Integrated Implementation Plan 2019-2024	The Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035, which established an overall framework for transport investment over the next two decades and was subject to full SEA and Stage 2 AA, is a key policy shaping the six-year Integrated Infrastructure Plan. The priorities in the Integrated Infrastructure Plan align with the objectives and priorities set out in the Transport Strategy, focused on improving public and sustainable transport.	The Implementation Plan identifies investment proposals for a number of areas including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bus; • Light Rail; • Heavy Rai; • Integration Measures and Sustainable Transport Investment; 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrated Service Plan; and • Integration and Accessibility. 	environmental protection and management.
NPWS Conservation Plans and/or Conservation Objectives for SACs and SPAs	<p>Management planning for nature conservation sites has a number of aims. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To identify and evaluate the features of interest for a site • To set clear objectives for the conservation of the features of interest • To describe the site and its management • To identify issues (both positive and negative) that might influence the site • To set out appropriate strategies/management actions to achieve the objectives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation objectives for SACs and SPAs (i.e. sites within the Natura 2000 network) have to be set for the habitats and species for which the sites are selected. • These objectives are used when carrying out appropriate assessments for plans and projects that might impact on these sites. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Shannon, Mighty River of Ireland, A Tourism Masterplan for the Shannon 2020 – 2030	The objective of this plan is to reposition the River Shannon as a key destination in Ireland identifying visitor experiences based on the region's natural and cultural assets.	<p>Longford is identified as part of 'Discovery Zone 2; Mid Shannon' in the Shannon Tourism Masterplan. This area stretches from Clondra in the north to Portumna in the south of the region. The area is described as an elemental zone where lakes, rivers and canals meander through wetlands, peatlands and lowland farms, creating the distinctive 'soft' landscapes of the region. Lough Ree is described as the beating heart of Mid Shannon, a wonderful mosaic of open waters, hidden bays, monastic islands and wooded shorelines, renowned for angling, cruising, sailing and kayaking.</p> <p>Specifically, for Longford and the Mid Shannon zone the Shannon Tourism Masterplan recommends Priority Project D22.3 Wet'n'Wild Peatlands of Mid Shannon. This involves developing an integrated Discovery Zone focused on peatlands, environmental and industrial heritage, recreational opportunities such as walking, hiking, cycling, guided tours and outdoor classrooms to demonstrate nature, biodiversity and the impact of climate change.</p>	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
The Midland's Regional Enterprise Plan to 2024	It aims to build on the strong progress achieved to date with a renewed emphasis on collaboration and delivery of measurable actions.	It has a range of objectives designed to 'strengthen the attractiveness of the Midlands as a destination to visit' emphasising the importance of the different local authorities working in collaboration with Waterways Ireland, National Parks & Wildlife Services, Fáilte Ireland and Bord na Móna. It sees opportunity to capitalise on the region's unique environmental assets, wetlands and habitats in respect of emerging blueways and greenways networks with the Shannon Corridor, Lough Ree and the islands at its core to establish a Shannon Wilderness Corridor.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Longford Tourism Strategy 2017-2022	The Strategy sets out the overall Vision for tourism in County Longford over the relevant period. The primary goal of the Longford Tourism Strategy is to achieve positive outcomes in a set of identified actions over the year life of this strategy.	<p>The Vision will be achieved through the fulfilment of the following key objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing tourism infrastructure • Delivery of visitor centric experiences • Development of a Longford Tourism Brand • Generating greater awareness of Longford as a tourism destination 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Groundwater Protection Schemes	A Groundwater Protection Scheme provides guidelines for the planning and licensing authorities in carrying out their functions, and a framework to assist in decision-making on the location, nature and control of developments and activities in order to protect groundwater.	A Groundwater Protection Scheme aims to maintain the quantity and quality of groundwater, and in some cases improve it, by applying a risk assessment-based approach to groundwater protection and sustainable development.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPs), including the Longford LECP 2016-2022 and new LECP 2023-2029 [in preparation]	The overarching vision for each LECP is: "to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities	The purpose of the LECP, as provided for in the Local Government Reform Act 2014, is to set out, for a six-year period, the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and the local and community development of the relevant local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 and other Land Use Plans in force within County Longford and in other adjoining planning authorities. This includes Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Planning Schemes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outline planning objectives for land use development. • Strategic framework for planning and sustainable development including those set out in National Planning Framework and Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies. • Set out the policies and proposals to guide development in the specific Local Authority area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify future infrastructure, development and zoning required. • Protect and enhances amenities and environment. • Guide planning authority in assessing proposals. • Aim to guide development in the area and the amount of nature of the planned development. • Aim to promote sustainable development. • Provide for economic development and protect natural environmental, heritage. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Longford Heritage Plan 2019-2024 (Incorporating Longford Biodiversity Action Plan)	Aims to protect, conserve, enhance and restore heritage, biodiversity and ecosystem services across all spectrums.	<p>Plan's objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement key Strategic Actions over the lifetime of the Heritage Plan to achieve • greater awareness and protection of all aspects of the heritage of County Longford • To develop knowledge, appreciation and access to Longford's heritage through 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • research and innovation. • Promote the protection and best practice in heritage management within the county • Promote heritage education and awareness. • Support organisations and communities in promoting sustainable enjoyment of Longford's countryside, waterways and heritage • Implement the County Longford Biodiversity Action Plan. 	
'The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan' (by the National Transport Authority)	The plan aims to improve mobility in rural areas, and it will do this by providing better connections between villages and towns by linking these areas with an enhanced regional network connecting cities and regional centres nationwide.	<p>These principles include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing frequency on existing routes to attract more passengers; • Design useful and integrated timetables; • Schedule services to arrive at a centre before 09:00, particularly for work and education trips; • Allow for trips in the middle of the day for those shopping, attending health appointments, or visiting friends and family; • Schedule a return home at around 17:30 and potentially provide later services for socialising and evening retail where there is demand; • Provide services seven days a week; • Provide local routes that connect smaller settlements with the regional public transport network with integrated timetables that allow more interchange opportunities; and • Serve key locations within towns, e.g. hospitals, train stations, educational institutes, etc. 	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
County Longford Landscape Character Assessment and Landscape Character Assessments in adjoining local authorities	Characterises the geographical dimension of the landscape.	Identifies the quality, value, sensitivity and capacity of the landscape area. Guides strategies and guidelines for the future development of the landscape.	
Longford County Council's Noise Action Plan 2018-2023	Noise Action Plans are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Environmental Noise Regulations 2006, Statutory Instrument 140 of 2006. These Regulations give effect to the EU Directive 2002/49/EC relating to the assessment and management of environmental noise. This Directive sets out a process for managing environmental noise in a consistent manner across the EU and the Noise Regulations set out the approach to meeting the requirements of the Directive in Ireland.	The main purpose of Noise Action Plans is to: Inform and consult the public about noise exposure, its effects and the measures which may be considered to address noise problems Address strategic noise issues by requiring competent authorities to draw up action plans to manage noise issues and their effects Reduce noise, where possible, and maintain the environmental acoustic quality where it is good	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Longford County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024	Respond to the impact that climate change is having, and will continue to have. Attempt to climate change adaptation and mitigation.	<p>The Plans' objectives include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that climate action awareness and adaptation responses are embedded within governance and management structures in Longford County Council. • Incorporate climate action awareness and responses throughout Council policy. • Ensure that structures are in place to secure continuity of service and business operations as part of adaptation mechanisms. • Ensure/increase the resilience of infrastructural assets and inform investment decisions. • Maintain the integrity of public infrastructure against negative climate change impacts and increase the design resilience of planned developments into the future. • Promote a combined climate action response to infrastructure provision. • Integrate climate action considerations into land use planning policy and influence positive behaviour. • Manage the risk of flooding through a variety of responses and to mitigate the risk and impact of flooding. • Provide for enhancement of natural environment to work positively towards climate action, to promote effective bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes and to protect heritage and cultural infrastructure. • Support climate action initiatives in line with Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) actions. <p>Build capacity and resilience within communities.</p>	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.
Eastern and Midlands Regional Waste Management Plan 2015-2021	These plans give effect to national and EU waste policy, and address waste prevention and management (including generation, collection and treatment) over the period 2015-2021.	To manage wastes in a safe and compliant manner, a clear strategy, policies and actions are required.	Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.

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<p>Fáilte Ireland Tourism plans, strategies, including those relating 'Ireland's Hidden Heartlands' Regional Tourism Development Strategy</p> <p>[and Ireland Ancient East, Dublin and Wild Atlantic Way Regional Tourism Development Strategies, various Destination Experience Development Plans and Fáilte Ireland's Corporate Plan]</p>	<p>Fáilte Ireland's work includes preparing various plans and strategies for Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, the Wild Atlantic Way, Ireland's Ancient East and other brands and initiatives. These plans are subject to their own environmental assessment processes and any project arising is required to be consistent with and conform with the provisions of all adopted/approved Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes, including provisions for the protection and management of the environment.</p>	<p>Some of Fáilte Ireland's plans and strategies include various projects relating to land use and infrastructural development, including those relating to development of land or on land and the carrying out of land use activities. Many of these projects exist already while some are not currently in existence.</p> <p>The Statutory Policies, Strategies, Plans and Programmes that provide for different projects undergo a variety of environmental assessments. These assessments ensure that environmental effects are considered, including: those arising from new and intensified uses and activities; and those arising from various sectors such as tourism.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>
<p>Various existing, planned and emerging projects provided for by the above plans and programmes</p>	<p>These projects have been provided for by higher-level plans and programmes.</p>	<p>These projects will contribute towards the development of the Plan area and/or wider area and will contribute towards environmental protection and management.</p>	<p>Implementation of the Strategy needs to comply with all environmental legislation and align with and cumulatively contribute towards – in combination with other users and bodies and their plans, programmes, etc. – the achievement of the objectives of the regulatory framework for environmental protection and management.</p>