

Addendum II

TO THE
SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT & APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT

OF THE
**DRAFT SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN
2011-2017**

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF
PROPOSED AMENDMENTS**

&

**UPDATES TO THE SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT & DRAFT
APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT ARISING FROM SUBMISSIONS MADE
DURING THE 2ND PERIOD OF PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

for: Sligo County Council

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1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

This is the second addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Environmental Report and Draft Appropriate Assessment (AA) of the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017.

Section 2 of this document identifies, with regard to the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA, the environmental consequences of relevant Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan as agreed by the Elected Members of the Council.

Section 3 identifies updates which have been made to the SEA Environmental Report and AA which have arisen from submissions which were made on the SEA Environmental Report, Draft AA and Draft Plan while they were on public display.

It should be noted that changes are not made to the original SEA Environmental Report or Draft AA at this stage; this Addendum forms part of the documentation of the ongoing SEA/AA/Plan-making process. It supplements and should be read in conjunction with the Environmental Report and Addendum I¹. On adoption of the Plan the findings of this Addendum will be used to update the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA, as appropriate. These documents will also be amended to take account of any submissions on this Addendum and any modifications made to the Proposed Amendments by the Elected Members. The final SEA Environmental Report and AA together with an SEA Statement² will be made available to the public alongside the adopted Plan.

1.2 Process for making a new Development Plan for County Sligo

The Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan constitute a further stage in the process of making a new Development Plan for County Sligo.

The Draft Plan and accompanying SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA were put on public display in June 2010. The Manager prepared a report on the submissions received during the display period and submitted it to the Elected Members for their consideration. Addendum I to the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA was prepared at that stage.

Having considered the Draft Plan, the SEA Environmental Report, the Draft AA and the Manager's Report, the Members of Sligo County Council, by resolution, resolved to amend the Draft Development Plan in accordance with the provisions set out in Section 12(6) of the Planning and Development Act as amended. The Proposed Amendments are required to be placed on public display for a period of not less than four weeks in accordance with Section 12(7) (b) of the Planning and Development Act as amended. Written submissions or observations with respect to the Proposed Amendments which are received will be taken into consideration by the Members of the Council before the making of actual amendments to the Draft Plan.

¹ Addendum I details responses to the submissions on the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA which were made during the 1st period of public consultation (and was included in the Manager's Report on submissions and observations). It proposes updates to the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA as a result of these submissions, as appropriate.

² The SEA Statement will detail, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan.

2 Environmental Consequences of Proposed Amendments

2.1 Summary and Key Issues

A number of Proposed Amendments would be likely to improve the protection of the environment while a number would potentially conflict with this protection. Potential conflicts would be mitigated through adherence to the provisions of the Development Plan including those which have been integrated through the SEA/Plan-preparation process.

Note:

The text in black is the text as contained in the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 and is not changing.

Proposed amendments involving additional text are shown in **blue text**.

Proposed amendments involving deletion of text are shown in **red-strikethrough**

Content of the Draft Plan which does not comprise policies or objectives is not within the scope of the SEA and therefore was not evaluated in the initial SEA Environmental Report or Draft AA. Consequently proposed amendments to such content are generally not considered by this Addendum. Where supporting text, referred to in policies is being amended and where such amendments would change the evaluation provided in the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA, then such amendments are considered.

Responses to the Proposed Amendments with regard to the SEA Environmental Report are shown in **green text**.

Responses to the Proposed Amendments with regard to the AA are shown in **orange text**.

2.2 Volume I

2.2.1 Chapter 3: County Sligo in the Future – Core Strategy

A 3-2

In the strategic goal **SG-3. Conserving environmental quality**, include the following item:

e. Protect and where necessary improve water quality within the County.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of water resources, human health and biodiversity already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 3-3

The strategic goal **SG-6.a in Chapter 3**, under the heading **SG-6 Delivering improved infrastructure**, should be modified to include the text **ensuring the sustainable use of water resources**.

Ensuring the sustainable use of water resources would be likely to contribute towards the provision of adequate water services and protection of water resources.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 3-6

In **Section 3.4 Development land requirements**, modify strategic zoning policy **SP-Z-1** as follows:
SP-Z-1 Use zoning to promote the **sustainable** development of compact, livable, pedestrian-friendly settlements, with a defined commercial/retail core and an adequate economic basis

By promoting development that is sustainable, this Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the positive interaction which this policy would be likely to have on environmental components.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

2.2.2 Chapter 4: Economic Development

A 4-1

In **Section 4.2.1 Forestry**, modify policy **P-FOR-1** as follows:

P-FOR-1 Support and promote **sustainable** forestry development in County Sligo, subject to the protection of, inter alia, scenic landscapes and views, water quality, heritage features, residential amenity and public safety.

By supporting and promoting forestry development that is sustainable, this Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the positive interaction which this policy would be likely to have on environmental components.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-2

In **Section 4.2.1 Forestry**, modify objective **O-FOR-1** as follows:

O-FOR-1 Prepare an Indicative Forestry Strategy for County Sligo **in conjunction with the Forestry Service** and incorporate it in the County Development Plan. **The Strategy should provide for the maintenance of public rights of way and traditional walking routes. The Indicative Forestry Strategy shall undergo SEA and AA screening.**

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report. The undertaking of SEA and AA screening will help to ensure that environmental issues are addressed at the most appropriate level of assessment.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-3

In **Section 4.2.1 Forestry**, include the following additional forestry policy:

P-FOR-4 Encourage access to forestry, including private forestry, for walking routes, mountain bike trails, bridle paths and other non-noise generating activities.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report. The undertaking of SEA and AA screening will help to ensure that environmental issues are addressed at the most appropriate level of assessment.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-4

In **Section 4.2.1 Forestry**, include the following additional forestry policy:

P-FOR-5 Forestry should not obstruct existing rights of way, traditional walking routes and recreational and tourism facilities.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-5

In **Section 4.2.1 Forestry**, include the following additional forestry policy:

P-FOR-6 Identify existing rights of way and established walking routes before planting commences.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-6

In **Section 4.2.1 Forestry**, include the following additional forestry policy:

P-FOR-7 Forestry will not be permitted on ridgelines and will not have a negative visual impact. On steep slopes above the 300 metre line planting will be strongly discouraged and where possible existing areas under forestry will be reduced and/or redesigned following clear felling.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the preservation of existing landscapes.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-7

In **Section 4.2.2 Aquaculture, mariculture and fishing**, modify policy **P-AMF-1** as follows:

P-AMF-1 Encourage and facilitate sustainable mariculture development associated with job creation, in a manner that is compatible with other uses of the Sligo coast, and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive & provisions of the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes”.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of biodiversity already provided for by this Policy and contribute towards the protection of water resources and human health.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-8

In Section 4.2.3 **Agriculture**, modify policy **P-AGD-1** as follows:

P-AGD-1 Promote agriculture and sustainable agricultural diversification (to include recreational uses), while seeking to protect and maintain bio-diversity, wildlife habitats, water quality and nature conservation.

Promoting agricultural diversification that is sustainable, this policy would be likely to contribute towards the protection of various environmental components while contributing towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-9

In Section 4.2.3 **Diversification of agricultural activity**, modify the text of policy **P-AGD-7** as follows:

P-AGD-7 Facilitate the development of niche activities, such as those relating to food (particularly value-added products), forestry (e.g. wood products), crafts, eco-tourism and agri-tourism – e.g. farmhouse accommodation, pet farms, farm holidays, health farms, equestrian activities, bird-watching holidays; painting/photography tuition, angling tourism, field studies and hill-walking (~~with the co-operation of the landowners~~). Other pursuits that will be facilitated are: walking, cycling, mountain and other off-road biking, nature trails, wildlife trails, maritime trails, back-packing, orienteering, para- and hang- gliding, canoeing & kayaking, caving, mountaineering, rock climbing, adventure sports, swimming in waterways, wild camping, pony trekking, boating and archaeological guided walks.

By facilitating these other pursuits, the Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with various environmental components - including biodiversity - while at the same time contributing towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-10

In Section 4.2.4 **Mineral extraction and quarries**, modify policy **P-MEQ-2** as follows:

P-MEQ-2 Ensure that extraction and associated processes are carried out in a sustainable manner and do not impinge on existing rights-of-way or walking routes.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-11

In Section 4.2.4 **Mineral extraction and quarries**, modify **P-MEQ-3** as follows:

P-MEQ-3 Minimise the impact of quarrying on residential and natural amenities and water quality through rigorous licensing, development control and enforcement measures.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of water resources already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-12

In Section 4.2.4 Mineral extraction and quarries, modify objective O-MEQ-1 as follows:

O-MEQ-1 Cooperate with the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) in the identification of ~~Identify the location of~~ major mineral deposits in County Sligo through Aggregate Potential Mapping (APM) ~~with the assistance of the Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI)~~ and safeguard these resources for future extraction.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-14

In Section 4.4 Tourism, modify the text of policy P-TOU-9 as follows:

P-TOU-9 Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of natural heritage, geological and archaeological interest, coastal areas, islands, mountains, rivers, lakes and other natural amenities, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-15

In Section 4.4 Tourism development, modify the text of policy P-CZT-3 as follows:

P-CZT-3 Ensure that golf course development does not damage or encroach upon vulnerable dune systems and does not impinge on existing rights of way.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-16

In Section 4.4 Tourism development, modify the text of objective O-CZT-5 as follows:

O-CZT-5 Liaise with the National ~~Waymarked Ways Trails~~ Advisory Committee to investigate the possibility of providing a coastal path along the coastline of County Sligo and liaise with counties Mayo, Leitrim and Roscommon to set-up a study group to advance this matter. Development of a coastal path shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 4-17

In Section 4.4 Tourism Development include an additional coastal zone tourism objective as follows:

O-CZT-6 Identify existing and/or potential coastal walking routes which can be developed as a tourism product and a local amenity. These routes will ideally be permanent, of high quality and adequately managed, should allow for further expansion and provide links to other activities and facilities.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with various environmental components - including biodiversity and the landscape - while at the same time contributing towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County.

Development of new coastal walkways or intensification of use of existing walkways has the potential to impact significantly on coastal SACs and SPAs, notably through the increase in recreational disturbance of birds but also through the potential loss of habitat. Development of coastal walkways should be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and for this purpose it is recommended to include the following provision in Section 7 of the Plan:

Any proposal for the provision of new walkways or cycleways or intensification of existing walkways or cycleways - including those in coastal areas - shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

2.2.3 Chapter 5: Housing

A 5-1

In **Section 5.2 Housing strategy**, add the following general housing policy:

GP-HOU-9 Ensure that all new multiple housing development proposals, including apartment and mixed-use developments, provide adequate facilities for the storage, separation and collection of waste (organic, recyclable and landfill waste) and ensure the ongoing operation of these facilities.

This Policy would be likely to contribute towards both a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 5-5

In **Section 5.7 Rural housing**, modify the text of policy **P-RHOU-3(f)** as follows:

f. Ensuring the safe operation of key transport arteries, particularly National Primary and Secondary Routes and the rail network. Access to national roads shall be restricted in accordance with the National Roads Authority's publication *Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities.*

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 5-6

In **Section 5.7 Rural housing**, add the following paragraph to policy **P-RHOU-3**:

p. Where hedgerows forming roadside boundaries are required to be removed for road safety reasons, they should be reinstated on the new boundary line, in order to ensure the continuity of wildlife corridors.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to benefit biodiversity through the protection of ecological connectivity through remediation.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

2.2.4 Chapter 6: Community Development

A 6-1

In Section 6.1 Delivering community facilities, modify the text of policy P-CF-8 as follows:

P-CF-8 Promote social inclusion by exploring ways to integrate minority groups into the community and by supporting the development of fully-integrated communities catering for people of different ages and incomes. **The Sligo County Community Forum will have a key role in implementing this policy.**

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 6-2

In Section 6.1 Delivering community facilities, modify the text of policy P-CF-10 as follows:

P-CF-10 Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards proposals for the provision of community facilities within a wide variety of land-use zoning categories, in particular lands zoned for community facilities, village-centre-type mixed uses, residential development and commercial/enterprise uses. Any such proposal should be suitably located within the development limits of the relevant settlement and should be easily accessible for all sections of the community. **It is also acknowledged that some community facilities may be accommodated in rural areas, subject to site suitability.**

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 6-3

In Section 6.1 Delivering community facilities, modify objective O-CF-1 follows:

O-CF-1 Facilitate the **phased** redevelopment of the existing **Wisdom services** care facility at Cregg ~~House, Ballinacra,~~ **as to provide** an integrated residential and educational community comprising a range of facilities for those with **and without educational** intellectual disabilities and special needs, **subject to the availability of adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure."**

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of water resources, human health and biodiversity and towards the provision of adequate water services.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 6-4

In Section 6.5 Sports, recreation and open space policies, modify the text of policy P-SRO-9 as follows:

P-SRO-9 Preserve and improve access for the public to **lakes**, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of biodiversity already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 6-5

In Section 6.5 Sports, recreation and open space include the following additional policy:

P-SRO-11 **Actively promote and protect public access to the coast and designate traditional walking routes thereto as public rights of way.**

Promoting public access to the coast would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity and the landscape.

The promotion of public access to the coast has the potential to impact significantly on coastal SACs and SPAs, notably through the increase in recreational disturbance of birds but also through the potential loss of habitat. Development of coastal walkways should be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and for this purpose it is recommended to include the following provision in Section 7 of the Plan:

Any proposal for the provision of new walkways or cycleways or intensification of existing walkways or cycleways - including those in coastal areas - shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

A 6-6

In **Section 6.5 Sports, recreation and open space** include the following additional policy:

P-SRO-12 Where feasible, develop walkways/cycleways between coastal sites and green spaces in built-up areas.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity and the landscape. Such walkways/cycleways could contribute towards both a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

Development of new coastal walkways/cycleways has the potential to impact significantly on coastal SACs and SPAs, notably through the increase in recreational disturbance of birds but also through the potential loss of habitat. Development of coastal walkways/cycleways should be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and for this purpose it is recommended to include the following provision in Section 7 of the Plan:

Any proposal for the provision of new walkways or cycleways or intensification of existing walkways or cycleways - including those in coastal areas - shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

A 6-7

In **Section 6.6 Healthcare facilities**, amend policy **P-HC-4** as follows:

P-HC-4 Accommodate the provision of accessible care facilities throughout the County to cater for the specific needs of the elderly and those of young people.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 6-8

In **Chapter 6 Community facilities**, introduce the following section and associated policy:

Allotments policy

P-A-1 Facilitate the development of allotments at suitable locations throughout the County. Any such facility should be located within or close to an existing settlement and should be easily accessible.

This Policy would be likely to contribute towards both a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

2.2.5 Chapter 7: Heritage

A 7-3

In Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment), amend O-NH-1 as follows:

O-NH-1 Protect and maintain the favourable conservation status and conservation value of all natural heritage sites designated or proposed for designation in accordance with European and national legislation and in other relevant international conventions, agreements and processes. This includes sites designated or proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.

This Proposed Amendment further clarifies the requirements of the Habitat Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-4

In Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) include the following new objective for European and national designated natural heritage sites:

O-NH-1a Promote the maintenance and as appropriate achievement of favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species in association with NPWS.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of habitats and species.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-5

In Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment), amend objective O-NH-5 as follows:

O-NH-5 Establish and maintain an up-to-date planning register of all previously adopted and proposed plans/programmes and all granted and proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect ~~impact~~ (directly or through indirect or cumulative/in-combination effects ~~impact~~) on European Sites within or adjoining the county, to allow for the appropriate assessment of potential ex-situ and cumulative/in-combination' effects of proposed plans, programmes and projects on such sites.

This Proposed Amendment further clarifies the requirements of the Habitat Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-6

In Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment) include a new objective as follows:

O-NH-5a An appropriate assessment screening determination shall be made for all land use plans, related variations and projects in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government.'

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of the Natura 2000 network.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-7

In **Section 7.1.2 Habitats Directive Assessment (Appropriate Assessment)**, amend objective **O-NH-6** as follows:

O-NH-6 Support and co-operate with statutory authorities and others in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites in order to achieve their conservation objectives and where available specific regard shall be made to Conservation Management Plans and their conservation objectives/management practices where they exist.

This Proposed Amendment further clarifies the requirements of the Habitat Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-8

In **Section 7.1.3 Nature conservation outside designated sites**, replace **O-NH-11** as follows:

Existing O-NH-11

~~Improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, by conserving and encouraging the preservation and management of biodiversity and wildlife corridors and County Biodiversity Sites that link areas of high nature conservation value and which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.~~

Proposed O-NH-11

Endeavour, where considered necessary, to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 Network, by encouraging the preservation and management of features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as referred to in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. These features include those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

This Proposed Amendment further clarifies the requirements of the Habitat Directive with regard to the protection of ecological connectivity.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-10

In **Section 7.1.5 Inland waters**, under the heading **Riparian Zones**, modify the text as follows:

- for larger river channels (over 10m), a core riparian zone (CRZ) of 35-60 m (18-30 m on each side of the river) or larger where flood plains adjoin the riparian zone;
- for smaller channels (under 10 m), a core riparian zone (CRZ) of 20 m (10 m on each side of the river) or greater.
- for salmonid rivers, the core riparian zone should be a minimum of 25 m on each side of the river.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-11

In **Section 7.1.5**, modify policy **P-NH-22** as follows:

P-NH-22 Ensure that all proposed greenfield residential and commercial developments use sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) in accordance with best current practice, ensuring protection of the integrity of wetland sites in the adjoining area, including their hydrological regime.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of the integrity of wetlands already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-12

In **Section 7.1.5 Inland waters**, modify policy **P-NH-24** as follows:

P-NH-24 Ensure that proposed developments do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater dependent habitats and species

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of groundwater dependent biodiversity already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-13

Include the following policy in **Section 7.1.7 Invasive species**:

P-NH-33 Promote public awareness/engagement with regard to invasive species through awareness campaigns and the provision of targeted information on the role of the general public in the control of invasive species.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of biodiversity and water resources.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-14

In **Section 7.2 Archaeological heritage policies**, replace policy **P-AH-4** with the following:

P-AH-4 Secure the preservation in-situ or by record of:

- the archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994;
- any sites and features of historical and archaeological interest
- any subsurface archaeological features that may be discovered during the course of infrastructural/development works in the operational area of the Plan.

Preservation relates to archaeological sites or objects and their settings. Preservation in-situ is most effectively achieved by the refurbishment of existing buildings, in situations where it is possible to retain the greater part of existing structures without the need for new foundations.

This Proposed Amendment clarifies the legislative requirements with regard to the protection of archaeological heritage.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-19

In **Section 7.3 Built/architectural heritage**, replace **P-BH-14** and **P-BH-15** with the following:

P-BH-14 Protect important non-habitable structures such as historic bridges, harbours, railways, roadside features (such as historic milestones, cast-iron pumps and post-boxes), street furniture, historic gardens, stone walls, landscapes, demesnes and curtilage features, in cases where these are not already included in the Record of Protected Structures.

This Proposed Amendment integrates the provisions of 2 policies into 1 and would not change the sum benefit of the original policies on the protection of architectural heritage.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-21

In **Section 7.4 Landscape Character**, include the following additional policy:

P-LCAP-11 Preserve the status of traditionally open/unfenced landscapes. Fencing in upland or amenity areas will not normally be permitted unless such fencing is essential to the viability of the farm and conforms to best agricultural practice. The nature of the material to be used, the height of the fence and in the case of a wire fence the type of wire to be used will be taken into account. Barbed-wire will not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the preservation of existing landscapes.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-22

In **Section 7.4 Landscape Character**, include the following additional policy:

P-LCAP-12 Where possible, preserve the open character of commonage and other hill land and secure access thereto.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the preservation of existing landscapes and would have the potential to conflict with the protection of biodiversity.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 7-23

In **Section 7.4 Landscape character**, modify objective **O-LCAP-1** as follows:

O-LCAP-1 Undertake a Landscape Character Assessment for County Sligo within the lifetime of this Plan, in accordance with the principles of the European Landscape Convention and best practice guidance.

The effects of this Proposed Amendment are uncertain as the provisions and implications for development of such an Assessment are unknown.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 7-24

In **Section 7.4 Landscape character**, insert an additional objective as follows:

O-LCAP-8 Liaise with adjoining planning authorities to ensure that development plan policies are consistent in the protection and management of landscape.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of existing landscapes.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

2.2.6 Chapter 8: Transport

A 8-1

In **Chapter 8 Transport and mobility**, modify policy **SP-MOB-7** as follows:

SP-MOB-7 Plan for the future traffic and transportation needs in Sligo and ensure that new development does not compromise the expansion of rail and road corridors in the County. Proposed road realignment/improvement lines and associated corridors shall be preserved free from development that would prejudice the implementation of the road scheme.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-2

In **Chapter 8 Transport and mobility**, replace the text of policy **SP-MOB-8** as follows:

Existing policy

~~Protect the carrying capacity, operational efficiency and safety of national roads by ensuring that development proposals accessing onto the N4, N15, N16, N17 and N59 are restricted in accordance with the National Roads Authority's publication Policy Statement on Development Management and Access to National Roads.~~

Proposed policy

Protect the traffic carrying capacity of national roads, the level of service they deliver and the period over which they continue to perform efficiently, by avoiding the creation of new access points or the generation of increased traffic from existing accesses onto the N4, N15, N16, N17 and N59 outside the 50 km/h speed limit, in accordance with the National Roads Authority's publication *Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities.*

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 8-3

In **Chapter 8 Transport and mobility**, modify strategic mobility objective **SO-MOB-2** as follows:

SO-MOB-2 Develop a strategy to promote and facilitate greater use of sustainable modes of travel such as walking and cycling, in line with the Department of Transport's *Smarter Travel, Cycle* and *Walking* Strategies

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-4

In **Section 8.2 Public transport**, modify policy **P-PT-5** as follows:

P-PT-5 Support local, community transport services *in consultation with the local communities.*

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-5

In **Section 8.3 Road network**, modify policy **P-N2000-4** as follows:

P-N2000-4 Demonstrate how each route has taken due account of, and accommodated ecological and legal considerations ~~and legislative requirements~~, including the requirements of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive.

This Proposed Amendment further clarifies the requirements of the Habitat Directive.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-6

In **Section 8.3.1 National primary and secondary roads**, modify objective **O-NR-2** as follows:

O-NR-2 Restrict new access points onto national roads in accordance with NRA publication ~~Policy Statement on Development Management and Access to National Roads~~ *Spatial Planning and National Roads (Draft) Guidelines for Planning Authorities.*, in order to maintain traffic capacity, minimise traffic hazard and protect and maximise public investment in such roads.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-7

In **Section 8.3.1 National primary and secondary roads**, operate the following modifications to **Table 8.B:**

- a. N4 scheme should read "Collooney to Castlebaldwin" instead of "Castlebaldwin to Cloonamahon"
- b. Add the N17 scheme "Collooney to Tobercurry Bypass" (no completion date)
- c. N17 ~~Collooney to Charlestown~~ should read "Tobercurry Bypass to Charlestown (including bypass at Bellaghy/Charlestown)";
- d. N15 and N16 schemes should read "Sligo to Leitrim County boundary" instead of "Sligo City to Leitrim County boundary";
- e. The N4/N15 "Sligo City to Borough Boundary & Environs" should read "Sligo to Borough Boundary & Environs"
- f. N4/N15 ~~Sligo City Bypass~~ should read "Sligo Bypass".

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-10

In **Section 8.4 Cycling and pedestrian movements**, include the following additional policy:

P-CW-4 Consider the use of off-road routes, such as disused railway lines and bridle paths, for both walking and cycling to improve access to rural tourist attractions.

This Policy would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County and towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency. This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity.

Development of new walkways/cycleways or intensification of use of existing walkways/cycleways has the potential to impact significantly on SACs and SPAs, notably through the increase in recreational disturbance of birds but also through the potential loss of habitat. Development of walkways/cycleways should be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and for this purpose it is recommended to include the following provision in Section 7 of the Plan:

Any proposal for the provision of new walkways or cycleways or intensification of existing walkways or cycleways - including those in coastal areas - shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

A 8-11

In **Section 8.4 Cycling and pedestrian movements**, include an additional policy as follows:

P-CW-5 Protect and promote Greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way.

The promotion of greenways would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County and towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency. This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity.

The promotion of greenways has the potential to impact significantly on SACs and SPAs, notably through the increase in recreational disturbance of birds but also through the potential loss of habitat. Development of greenways should be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and for this purpose it is recommended to include the following provision in Section 7 of the Plan:

Any proposal for the provision of new walkways or cycleways or intensification of existing walkways or cycleways - including those in coastal areas - shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

A 8-12

In **Section 8.4 Cycle and pedestrian movements**, modify the text in **Objective O-CW-1** as follows:

O-CW-1 Provide, improve and extend cycle and pedestrian routes on existing roads, proposed roads, roads being upgraded and green corridors, where feasible and practical, subject to compliance with Habitats Directive.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-13

In **Section 8.4 Cycle and pedestrian movements**, modify the text in **Objective O-CW-5** as follows:

O-CW-5 Implement the relevant policies of the Department of Transport's National Cycle Policy Framework and support the provision of a National Cycle Network.

The provision of a National Cycle Network would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County and towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency. This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity.

Development of new cycleways or intensification of use of existing cycleways has the potential to impact significantly on SACs and SPAs, notably through the increase in recreational disturbance of birds but also through the potential loss of habitat. Development of cycleways should be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and for this purpose it is recommended to include the following provision in Section 7 of the Plan:

Any proposal for the provision of new walkways or cycleways or intensification of existing walkways or cycleways - including those in coastal areas - shall be screened for the requirement of an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.

A 8-14

In **Section 8.4 Cycle and pedestrian movements**, include the following additional objective:

O-CW-6 Implement the relevant provisions of the Department of Transport's Walking Policy, when published.

The implementation of provisions of the Department of Transport's Walking Policy would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County and towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 8-15

In **Section 8.4 Cycle and pedestrian movements**, include the following additional objective:

O-CW-7 Provide appropriate facilities for pedestrians and for people with special mobility needs.

The provision of appropriate facilities for pedestrians and for people with special mobility needs would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County and towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 8-16

In **Section 8.4 Cycle and pedestrian movements**, include the following additional objective:

O-CW-8 Prepare a Transport Plan for Sligo to include all modes of transport, in line with the Department of Transport's guidelines, when published.

The effects of this Proposed Amendment are uncertain as the provisions and implications for development of such a Transport Plan are unknown.

This plan shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive

A 8-17

In **Section 8.4 Cycle and pedestrian movements**, include an additional objective as follows:

O-CW-9 Support the development of a foot- and cycleway (greenway) alongside the disused railway line from Claremorris to Collooney, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, insofar as such route does not compromise the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor.

The development of this greenway would be likely to contribute towards the sustenance of existing rural management practices in the County and towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency. This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 8-18

In **Section 8.6 Port and harbours**, modify **objective O-PH-2** as follows:

O-PH-2 Carry out improvements at Mullaghmore, Enniscrone and Pullacheeny Harbours and maintain and improve other piers and harbours, as resources allow, **subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of the Natura 2000 network.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 8-19

In **Section 8.6 Port and harbours**, modify **objective O-PH-3** as follows:

O-PH-3 Maintain navigation aids and tidal gauges as necessary for the benefit of the maritime and coastal communities, **subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of the Natura 2000 network.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

2.2.7 Chapter 9: Environmental Infrastructure

A 9-2

In **Section 9.1** replace wastewater policy **P-WW-8** as follows:

Existing policy

~~Ensure compliance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Code of practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single House (2009).~~

Proposed policy

All proposals for on-site Treatment Systems shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e.≤10)". (EPA 2009) and/or Treatment Systems for Small Communities, business, Leisure Centres and Hotels", and any guidance documents issued by the County Council.

This Proposed Amendment clarifies requirements for on-site treatment systems.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-3 (MSR-8)

In **Section 9.1**, add the following new wastewater policy:

P-WW-15 Discourage the use of pumping stations in private developments. Storm overflows from pumping stations serving private developments shall not be permitted.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the provision of adequate water services and the protection of water resources, biodiversity and human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 9-4 (MSR-9)

In **Section 9.1**, modify wastewater objective **O-WW-2** as follows:

O-WW-2 Complete the planning and construction of new **wastewater** treatment plant at Ballintogher, Bunnanadden, Cliffony, Ballinacarrow, Mullaghmore and Ballygawley, subject to necessary approvals and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-6

In **Section 9.3 Wastewater**, modify policy **P-WW-18** by inserting the recommended wording:

P-WW-18 ...individual developments proposing to use on-site wastewater treatment will be considered subject to appropriate scale, assessment, design and conditions, **taking groundwater vulnerability into account...**

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of groundwater already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-7

In **Section 9.3 Wastewater**, modify objective **O-WW-6** as follows:

O-WW-6 Achieve compliance with the *Urban Wastewater Treatment (Amendment) Regulations 2004* with regard to wastewater collection, treatment and discharge **and implement the relevant recommendations set out in *Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons – A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007* (EPA).**

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the provision of adequate water services and the protection of water resources, biodiversity and human health.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-14 (MSR-14)

In **Section 9.5 Waste management**, modify waste management policy **P-WM-7** as follows:

P WM-7 Encourage and enforce initiatives under Waste Management Regulations made under the Waste Management Acts 1996 **to 2010** and implement the polluter pays principle, proximity principle, precautionary principle and the principle of shared responsibility in all waste management initiatives **and investigations.**

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-15 (MSR-15)

In **Section 9.5 Waste management**, replace waste management objective **O-WM-1** as follows:

Existing objective

~~Implement the Connacht Waste Management Plan and provide, or assist the private sector in the provision of the necessary waste management infrastructure, as outlined in Table 9.C.~~

Proposed objective

Implement the Connacht Waste Management Plan and strive to provide, or assist the private sector in the provision of the necessary waste management infrastructure required for the achievement of the targets.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-16 (MSR-16)

In **Section 9.5 Waste management**, modify waste management objective **O-WM-6** as follows:

O-WM-6 Where resources allow, carry out risk assessments in accordance with the EPA published code of practice Environmental Risk Assessments for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites for any historic unregulated waste disposal sites identified and develop appropriate remediation plans for such sites.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 9-17 (MSR-17)

In **Section 9.5 Waste management**, add the following waste management objective:

O-WM-7 Promote the roll-out and encourage the use of the third bin for organic waste.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 9-18 (MSR-17)

In **Section 9.5 Waste management**, add the following waste management objective:

O-WM-9 In relation to any proposals for development of lands that may be contaminated or filled with waste (e.g. reclaimed / filled lands), require the applicants to engage specialist environmental consultants to investigate and assess the presence and extent of contamination, and to recommend remediation measures for agreement with the Local Authorities.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of soil and water resources, biodiversity and human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 9-19 (MSR-17)

In **Section 9.5 Waste management**, add the following waste management objective:

O-WM-10 Require the preparation of Waste Management Plans for the construction stages of developments where deemed necessary.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency as well as the protection of soil and water resources, biodiversity and human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

2.2.8 Chapter 10: Environmental Quality

A 10-3

In **Section 10.1 Water quality**, modify policy **P-WQ-2** as follows:

P-WQ-2 Ensure that all development proposals have regard to the policies and objectives of the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme to ensure the protection of groundwater resources and groundwater dependent habitats and species

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of groundwater dependent biodiversity already contributed towards by this Policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-4

In **Section 10.1 Water quality**, amend policy **P-WQ-3** as follows:

P-WQ-3 Ensure compliance with the provisions of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009, ~~and proposed national Groundwater Quality Regulations~~ the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I.9 of 2010) and the Groundwater Directive (2006/118/EC) on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration.

By adding the Groundwater Directive, this Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of water resources already contributed towards by this policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-5 (MSR-21)

In **Section 10.1 Water quality**, modify water quality policy **P-WQ-9** as follows:

P-WQ-9 Require that all proposals for on-site wastewater treatment systems be designed and constructed in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency document Code of Practice – Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (p.e. ≤ 10) (EPA 2009)

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-6

In **Section 10.1 Water quality**, insert an additional water quality policy as follows:

P-WQ-11 Ensure compliance with European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2009.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of water resources, biodiversity and human health.

This policy will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 10-7

In **Section 10.1 Water quality**, modify objective **O-WQ-4** as follows:

O-WQ-4 Seek to achieve consistency between development management and environmental pollution control measures, **taking adaptation to climate change into account.**

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-8 (MSR-23)

In **Section 10.1 Water quality**, modify water quality objective **O-WQ-10** as follows:

O-WQ-10 Require that all discharges to waters and sewers be licensed in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Water Pollution) Acts 1977 & 1990, European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 and ~~proposed national Groundwater Regulations~~ European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-9

In Section **10.2 Coastal management**, insert an additional policy for development in coastal areas as follows:

P-DCA-4 Any development proposal in coastal areas will be subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, including the assessment of potential cumulative, in-combination effects in association with other, plans, programmes, projects and works.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of water resources already contributed towards by this policy.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 10-10

In Section **10.3 Air quality**, replace policy **P-AQ-5** with the following:

P-AQ-5 Ensure all new developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise odour nuisance from the development.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 10-11

In Section **10.3 Air quality**, add a new policy as follows:

P-AQ-7 Protect the air quality in the County and promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 10-12

In Section **10.4 Noise control**, replace policy **P-NC-2** as follows:

Existing policy

~~**P-NC-2** Ensure that restaurant, takeaway and bar developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise the impact of noise from the development.~~

Proposed policy

P-NC-2 Ensure all new developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise noise nuisance from the development.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the protection of human health already contributed towards by this policy.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 10-15

In Section **10.6 Climate change**, modify policy **P-FRM-2** as follows:

P-FRM-2 Establish a 20-metre-wide strip/buffer zone around lakes and along both sides of all rivers, and a 50-metre-wide buffer zone from soft shorelines. Development proposals will be required to maintain these buffer zones free from development...

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen both the minimisation of flood risk and protection of environmental components - including human health - which are already contributed towards by this policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-16

In Section **10.6 Climate change**, modify policy **P-FRM-12** as follows.

P-FRM-12 Assess flood risk in Local Area Plans in accordance with the *Flood Risk Management Guidelines* (OPW and DoEHLG 2009) in a manner that is appropriate to the scale and circumstances of each area and having regard to the priorities set out in the SFRA that accompanies this Plan.

By adding reference to the DEHLG Guidelines this Proposed Amendment would be likely to strengthen the minimisation of flood risk and protection of environmental components - including human health - which are already contributed towards by this policy.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 10-17

In Section **10.6 Climate change**, include an additional flood risk management objective as follows:

O-FRM-4 Undertake Stage II Flood Risk Assessments when reviewing local area plans, in accordance with the OPW/DoEHLG's *Flood Risk Management Guidelines*, subject to availability of relevant OPW mapping.

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the minimisation of flood risk and the protection of environmental components - including human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

2.2.9 Chapter 11: Energy and Telecommunications

A 11-2

In Section **11.1 Energy**, add the following at the end of policies **SP-EN-1** and **P-REN-2**:

"... subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive"

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to contribute towards the protection of the Natura 2000 network.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 11-3

In **Section 11.1 Energy**, modify policies **P-REN-2** and **P-EL-1** by include the term “sustainable” in their text.

By making provisions sustainable, potential conflicts between development and environmental components would be more likely to be avoided or reduced.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 11-4

In **Section 11.1 Energy**, include an additional renewable energy policy as follows:

P-REN-3 Support existing and new enterprises who wish to use renewable energy to serve their own needs by on-site energy production, subject to normal planning criteria.

Supporting the development of on-site renewable energy production could potentially impact upon environmental components including architectural heritage, protected views and prospects and human health.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

2.3 Volume II

2.3.1 Chapter 13: Mini Plans General Policies

A 13-1

In **Section 13.5 Community facilities**, add the following policy:

G. Facilitate the development of allotments in the buffer zone and at other suitable locations. Any such facility should be located within or close to existing settlements and should be easily accessible.

This Policy would be likely to contribute towards both a minimisation of increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reductions in car dependency.

This objective will not have any direct, indirect or cumulative impacts on any of the Natura 2000 Sites with the potential to be affected by the Plan.

A 13-2

Amend the **Zoning Matrix** to include **allotments** as a possible use and make it **open to consideration** in suitable zoning categories.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 13-3

In **Section 13.8 Buffer zones**, modify policy **13.8.A** by inserting an additional bullet point as follows:

- excluding from development lands at risk of flooding

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 13-4

In **Section 13.8 Buffer Zones**, modify the text of **policy 13.8.E** as follows:

E. Within the Buffer Zone, proposals for one-off rural housing will be accommodated only in case of proven need, ~~i.e.~~ of immediate family members of ~~local farming~~ **locally-resident families** who wish to build on their own land and have no suitable option on their holdings outside the buffer zone.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 13-5

Amend the **Zoning matrix** to indicate that a **transport depot** will be **open to consideration** within lands zoned for **business and enterprise**.

This Proposed Amendment would not change the assessment in the Environmental Report.

This Proposed Amendment does not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

2.3.2 Proposed Amendments to Zoning Maps

Note that Proposed Amendments to Zoning Maps would not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

2.3.2.1 Introduction

38 Proposed Amendments to the Zoning Detail Maps of 17 Mini Plans are considered in this section. For each of these 17 Mini Plans, Appendix I of this Addendum includes a table detailing changes in areas of land zoned between the Draft Plan that was originally placed on public display and the Draft Plan which is now Proposed to be Amended.

Strategically and in the context of the County Development Plan, the amendments do not propose to significantly shift the balance between areas of zonings which would be less likely to favour built development (i.e. 'open space', 'buffer zone' and 'sports and playing fields') and areas of zonings which would be more likely to favour built development (i.e. 'residential uses', 'mixed uses', 'community facilities', 'business and enterprise' and 'utilities'). Any potential conflicts which would be likely to arise would be mitigated through compliance with other measures which have already been integrated into the Draft Plan, including those which have arisen as part of the SEA/AA-Plan preparation processes.

20 of the Proposed Amendments would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of the environment; 8 of the Proposed Amendments would be likely to benefit the protection of the environment; and, 10 of the Proposed Amendments would be likely result in no additional interactions with environmental components.

2.3.2.2 Likely to Benefit Protection of Environment

Proposed Amendments A 20-3, A 24-2, A 27-6, A 29-1, A 31-1, A 33-4, A 36-1 & A 42-4

By changing the zoning of lands from zonings which would be more likely to favour new built development (i.e. 'residential uses', 'mixed uses', 'community facilities', 'business and enterprise' and 'utilities') to zonings which would be less likely to favour built development (i.e. 'open space' and 'buffer zone'), these amendments would be likely to contribute towards:

- the provision of adequate water services - and consequently the protection of water resources;
- minimising increases in flood risk;
- minimising increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reducing car dependency;
- the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna - including ecological connectivity;
- the protection of cultural heritage; and,
- the protection of the landscape.

2.3.2.3 Likely to Potentially Conflict with Environment

Proposed Amendments A 15-5, A 15-6, A 15-7, A 16-1, A 17-4, A 17-6, A 17-8, A 17-9, A 20-2, A 21-1, A 24-3, A 27-5, A 33-3, A 33-5, A 33-6, A 33-7, A 36-2, A 40-2, A 42-5 & A 43-1

By changing the zoning of lands from zonings which would be less likely to favour new built development (i.e. 'open space' and 'buffer zone') to zonings which would be more likely to favour built development (i.e. 'residential uses', 'mixed uses', 'community facilities', 'business and enterprise' and 'utilities'), these amendments would be likely to potentially conflict with:

- the provision of adequate water services - and consequently the protection of water resources;
- minimising increases in flood risk;
- minimising increases in travel related greenhouse emissions and reducing car dependency;
- the protection of biodiversity and flora and fauna - including ecological connectivity;
- the protection of cultural heritage; and,
- the protection of the landscape.

2.3.2.4 No Additional Interactions

Proposed Amendments A 15-4, A 17-3, A 17-5, A 17-7, A 25-1, A 27-4, A 35-1, A 38-3, A 42-2 & A 42-3

By changing the zoning of lands to zonings which would be likely to favour new built development to a similar extent as the original zonings (e.g. from 'residential uses' to 'community facilities'), these Proposed Amendments would not be likely to result in additional interactions with environmental components.

2.3.3 Proposed Amendments to Objectives Maps

Note that Proposed Amendments to Objectives Maps would not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

A 17-11

Amend **Ballincar Objectives Map** as shown on Map 4, by including an additional walkway / cycleway along the Teesan stream (marked **103a**).

This Proposed Amendment would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of biodiversity.

A 38-1

In (Mullaghmore Mini Plan) **Section 38.7 Business and enterprise**, add the following objective:

E. Encourage the consolidation of caravan, camping and mobile home park facilities on and between the sites of existing facilities to the south-west of the development limits (i.e. on the land marked as ENT 1 on objectives map). Such facilities shall only be permitted subject to standard assessment and development management criteria, and particularly subject to satisfactory proposals regarding wastewater treatment and disposal.

A 38-2

Amend **Mullaghmore Objectives Map** as shown on map 3, by adding site ENT-1 (marked **109b**) to indicate the extent of the lands referred to in the proposed amendment A 38-1.

Proposed Amendments A 38-1 and A 38-2 would be likely to potentially conflict with the provision of adequate water services and the protection of biodiversity, human health, the landscape and water resources.

A 42-1

Delete **Section 42.5.A** of Rosses Point Mini-Plan (text shown in red below):

~~Encourage the establishment of a multi-purpose community facility on lands marked CF 1.~~

A 42-6

Amend **Rosses Point Objectives Map** as shown on Map 4, by removing the 'CF1' designation from the lands outlined in **submission no. 4**.

The above 2 Proposed Amendments would be likely to remove potential conflicts between the provision of this community facility and the protection of environmental components.

2.3.4 Proposed Amendments to the Record of Protected Structures

The omission of c. 30 entries to the Record of Protected Structures would be likely to potentially conflict with the protection of architectural heritage however the Draft Plan includes a number of provisions that would contribute towards the protection of these structures.

Note that Proposed Amendments to the Record of Protected Structures would not change the assessment provided in the Appropriate Assessment.

3 Updating of the SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA Arising from Submissions

The following identifies updates to the SEA Environmental Report (ER) and Draft AA which have arisen from submissions which were made on the Draft Plan, SEA Environmental Report and Draft AA while they were on public display.

A) To update Section 3.2.4.8 of the SEA ER as follows:

....There are no areas within the County or near the County boundary which have a specified Freshwater Pearl Mussel population and hence a Draft Sub-Basin Management Plan, however; the Easky River is known to contain a healthy population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel³. Even though this river is not designated for the species, Freshwater Pearl Mussel is afforded protection under Section 23 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended Section 31, 2000).

B) To add the following text to Section 3.5.3 of the SEA ER:

Pollution Reduction Programmes are carried out to improve water quality in designated Shellfish Areas and also to ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (as amended) for the designated shellfish growing waters at designated Shellfish Areas and with Article 5 of Directive 2006/113/EC of the European parliament and of the Council on the quality required for shellfish waters.

The PRPs stem from the work undertaken in the characterisation reports carried out under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD characterisation reports provide prioritised lists of pressures/impacts/effects on water quality. The PRPs take these prioritised lists and address each issue with specific measures from the National Toolkit to help ensure that compliance with the relevant water quality standards is achieved. The National Toolkit has been derived from earlier work carried out on the River Basin Management Plans under the WFD, reflecting the common objective to improve water quality in the two Directives. An example of such a measure for waste water treatment plants would be to "impose development controls where there is, or is likely to be in the future, insufficient capacity at treatment plants".

C) To insert the following sentence into Section 3.6.5 of the SEA ER:

Measures have been integrated into the draft Plan which contribute towards solving the problems above relating to waste water treatment and water supply - these measures are identified in Sections 9.4.7 and 9.4.8.

D) To replace the version of the Overlay Map that appears in the SEA ER as Figure 3.45 with a version that includes coastal designated sites and the Water Framework Directive Coastal Risk Assessment.

E) To include a sub-section in Section 3 of the SEA ER specifically summarising inter-relationships between the relevant environmental components detailed else where in the report.

³ Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Submission on the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017, dated 8 September 2010

F) To update Section 4.2.1.5 of the SEA ER as follows:

Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection, in the form of:

- ~~o Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) plans which require conservation of pNHAs and operate for a period of 5 years;~~
- o Forest Service requirement for NPWS approval before they will pay afforestation grants on pNHA lands; and/or,
- o Recognition of the ecological value of pNHAs by Planning and Licensing Authorities.

G) To update SEO L1 as follows:

SEO L1: To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most sensitive to change - including seascapes and coastscapes - and protected views and routes.

H) To add the following sentence to Section 7.2 of the SEA ER:

Each of the schematic diagrams of the 3 alternative scenarios were considered alongside the Overlay Mapping of environmental sensitivities in order to show locations where conflicts would be likely to occur in the future. It is noted that this mapping does not take account of all factors such as waste water treatment capacity or the assimilative capacity of individual sections of rivers. The Overlay Mapping and the mapping of individual environmental components were considered by the Council during the preparation of the draft Plan.

I) To include the following sentence at the end of Section 10.5 of the SEA ER:

Indicators and targets will be reviewed during the preparation of the preliminary monitoring evaluation report.

J) Updating the AA - Assessment of the cumulative impact of the mini-plans will be clarified by inclusion of a table in the screening statement that indicates where more than one plan will impact on a particular Natura 2000 site. An additional policy will be included to emphasise the requirement to examine cumulative impacts of the implementation of the mini-plans identified in this table.

Appendix I Changes in Areas of Land Zoned

This Appendix includes a table for each of the 17 Mini Plans quantifying the changes in areas of land zoned between the Draft Plan that was originally placed on public display and the Draft Plan which is now proposed to be amended. Only land uses which are to change are within the relevant settlements are considered. All values given are hectares.

Ballinacarrow

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	6.2	6.3
Mixed Uses	3.2	3.6
Community Facilities	2.44	2.54
Open Space	1	0.7
Buffer Zone	143	142.7

Ballinafad

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Buffer Zone	91	88
Sports and playing fields	0	3

Ballincar

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	19.3	22
Mixed Uses	2.8	1.4
Community Facilities	0.5	0.75
Buffer Zone	77	75.35

Ballysadare

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Community Facilities	18.6	16.3
Business and Enterprise	7.9	10.6
Buffer Zone	218	220.3
Sports and playing fields	4.3	1.6

Banada

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Mixed Uses	1.3	2.1
Buffer Zone	64	63.2

Castlebaldwin

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Community Facilities	1.6	1.2
Buffer Zone	125	125.4

Cliffoney

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	10.8	10.75
Mixed Uses	4.2	4.3
Community Facilities	2.1	2.05

Collooney

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	40.5	40.9
Community Facilities	6.4	6.15
Business and Enterprise	38.1	36.65
Buffer Zone	297	298.3

Culfadda

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Business and Enterprise	0.7	0
Buffer Zone	113	113.7

Dromore West

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Buffer Zone	359	365
Sports and playing fields	6	0

Easky

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Open Space	2.6	38.6
Buffer Zone	297	327
Tourism related uses	1.6	1.7

Gorteen

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	29.1	27.7
Mixed Uses	6.1	7.5

Grange

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	19.3	26
Community Facilities	8.9	11.3
Buffer Zone	415	406.08
Commercial uses	0.46	0.22

Mullaghmore

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Buffer Zone	125	121.3
Strategic land reserve	0	3.7

Rathcormack

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Business and Enterprise	2.16	2.86
Buffer Zone	117	116.3

Rosses Point

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Residential Uses	38.3	38.05
Community Facilities	3	3.1
Buffer Zone	95	95.15

Tourlestraun

Land Use	Area Zoned in the Draft Plan	Area Zoned in the Amended Draft Plan
Community Facilities	0.66	1.21
Buffer Zone	69	68.45