

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023

Environmental Report

Contents

Section 1. SEA – Introduction and background	1
1.1 Introduction	1
1.2 SEA definition	1
1.3 Legislative context	1
1.4 Implications for the Elected Members of Sligo County Council	2
Section 2. SEA Methodology	3
2.1 Stages in the SEA	3
2.2 Scoping	4
2.3 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment	5
2.4 Environmental baseline data	6
2.5 Alternative development scenarios	6
2.6 The SEA Environmental Report (ER)	6
2.7 The SEA Statement	7
2.8 Difficulties encountered	8
Section 3. County Sligo: environmental baseline	9
3.1 Brief geographical information	9
3.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna	10
3.3 Population and human health	18
3.4 Soil	19
3.5 Water	23
3.6 Materials assets	33
3.7 Air, noise and climatic factors	47
3.8 Cultural heritage	52
3.9 Landscape	55
3.10 Overlay of environmental sensitivities	57
Section 4. Strategic Environmental Objectives	59
4.1 Definition	59
4.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna	59
4.3 Population and human health	62
4.4 Soil	64
4.5 Water	65
4.6 Materials assets	69
4.7 Air and climatic factors	70
4.8 Cultural heritage	72
4.9 Landscape	73

Section 5. Context and description of the Plan	75
5.1 Legislative context	75
5.2 Alternatives	75
5.3 Structure and brief description of the Plan	76
5.4 Relationship with other plans and programmes	77
Section 6. Description of alternative scenarios	80
6.1 Demand-Led Growth Scenario (DLG)	80
6.2 Gateway-Focused Growth Scenario (GFG)	81
6.3 Hierarchically-Structured Growth Scenario (HSG)	82
6.4 Selected development scenario	82
Section 7. Evaluation of alternative development scenarios	83
7.1 Methodology	83
7.2 Evaluation of alternative scenarios	85
Section 8. Evaluation of Plan provisions	91
8.1 Methodology	91
8.2 Determination of potential interactions	92
8.3 Evaluation of amendments made to the Plan narrative	93
8.4 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 3	101
8.5 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 4	107
8.6 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 5	119
8.7 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 6	133
8.8 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 7	143
8.9 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 8	161
8.10 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 9	173
8.11 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 10	179
8.12 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 11	189
8.13 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in Chapter 12	195
8.14 Evaluation of general mini-plan policies (incl. amendments)	199
8.15 Evaluation of policies (incl. amendments) in mini-plans	209
9. Mitigation measures	213
9.1 Introduction	213
9.2 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives	213
9.3 Mitigation integrated into land-use plans	213
9.4 Mitigation through policies and objectives	214

10. Monitoring measures	216
10.1 Requirement for monitoring	216
10.2 Indicators and targets	216
10.3 Sources	216
10.4 Reporting	217
10.5 Responsibility	217
10.6 Thresholds	217
11. SEA Summary Table	221

Tables

Table 2.1	Checklist of information included in this Environmental Report
Table 3.1	Special Protection Areas in County Sligo
Table 3.2	Special Areas of Conservation in County Sligo
Table 3.3	Natural Heritage Areas in County Sligo
Table 3.4	Sites of geological importance in County Sligo
Table 3.5	Wastewater treatment capacity, current loading and proposed upgrades at treatment plants serving settlements in County Sligo
Table 3.6	Public water supplies on the EPA's Remedial Action List for Q1 2016
Table 3.7	Drinking water supply and demand for settlements in County Sligo
Table 3.8	IPPC licensed facilities in County Sligo
Table 3.9	Overall vulnerability classes
Table 7.1	Criteria for appraising the effect of Alternatives and Plan provisions on SEOs
Table 7.2	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)
Table 7.3	Evaluation of the alternative development scenarios against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)
Table 8.1	Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)
Table 10.1	Selected indicators, targets and monitoring sources
Table 11.1	Likely significant effects, mitigation measures and indicators for monitoring

Figures

Figure 2.1	County Development Plan preparation and SEA stages
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Maps

- Map 1 CORINE land cover 2012
- Map 2 CORINE land cover 2006
- Map 3 CORINE land cover changes 2006-2012
- Map 4 CORINE sensitive land cover classification (lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity)
- Map 5 SPAs, cSACs, NHAs and pNHAs and Nature Reserves
- Map 6 Natura 2000 sites in the County and within 15 km of the County boundary
- Map 7 Population in 2016 (preliminary Census figures)
- Map 8 Population change 2011-2016
- Map 9 Population density 2016
- Map 10 Soil types
- Map 11 Subsoil types
- Map 12 Sites of Geological Interest
- Map 13 Geology
- Map 14 Quarries and mineral locations
- Map 15 Recorded landslides
- Map 16 Q-Values (Biotic Index Ratings) at points on rivers
- Map 17 Lake water quality
- Map 18 WFD status of surface waters
- Map 19 Salmonid rivers and lakes
- Map 20 Groundwater quality and monitoring sites
- Map 21 Groundwater Protection Scheme
- Map 22 Aquifer vulnerability
- Map 23 Aquifer productivity
- Map 24 Bathing locations, coastal and transitional water quality
- Map 25 WFD status of transitional and coastal waters
- Map 26 WFD Register of Protected Areas
- Map 27 Rivers, lakes and flood events
- Map 28 Commissioned lands, drainage districts and benefitting lands.
- Map 29 Wastewater treatment plants, Section 4 licenses and sewer network
- Map 30 Water abstraction points, treatment plants and supply network
- Map 31 Road network

- Map 32 Air quality zones and monitoring sites
- Map 33 IPPC licensed facilities
- Map 34 Coal restriction areas
- Map 35 Record of Monuments and Places
- Map 36 Record of Protected Structures
- Map 37 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage
- Map 38 10-metre contours map of the County
- Map 39 Scenic Routes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and Sensitive Rural Landscapes
- Map 40 Overlay of environmental sensitivities

Section 1

SEA – Introduction and background

1.1 Introduction

This Environmental Report has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP).

The report represents an updated version of the Environmental Report prepared by environmental consultants CAAS in conjunction with the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017.

The purpose of the report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of decisions regarding future development in County Sligo. The SEA has been carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004), as amended. This report should be read in conjunction with the CDP.

1.2 SEA definition

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before the decisions are made. Strategic Environmental Assessment, or SEA, is the term used for describing the process of environmental assessment of plans and programmes that determine the nature and location of specific projects (e.g. roads, bridges, large housing developments).

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, in order to insure that these effects are addressed at the earliest stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

Addressing such potential effects is essential, because the type and location of future development in the County will be partly determined by the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan. By anticipating potential environmental effects, future development can be directed towards robust receiving environments, thus avoiding sensitive areas.

1.3 Legislative context

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish law through the *European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004* (SI No. 435 of 2004) and the *Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004* (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21 July 2004.

The Regulations were later amended by the *European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011* (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the *Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011* (SI No. 201 of 2011).

1.4 Implications for the Elected Members of Sligo County Council

The above legislation requires the County Development Plan to undergo SEA. The findings of the SEA were presented in the initial version of the Environmental Report (ER) which accompanied the Draft CDP during the public consultation period.

The Environmental Report was updated by way of an Addendum, to take account of changes made to the Draft Plan.

At each stage of the process, **before adopting the CDP 2017-2023**, the elected members of Sligo County Council were required to take into account the findings of the Environmental Report and the Addendum, as appropriate.

Following the adoption of the CDP, the Addendum was incorporated into the final Environmental Report (this report) to take into account changes that were made to the Draft Plan after the public display periods.

An SEA Statement has also been published. The Statement summarised the process of integrating environmental considerations into the CDP.

Section 2

SEA Methodology

2.1 Stages in the SEA

The preparation of the Draft Plan, its proposed amendments and the SEA were fully integrated due to the fact that all work has been carried out by the same team – the Development Planning Unit of Sligo County Council. **Figure 2.1** below shows the main stages in the SEA process in relation to the CDP process.

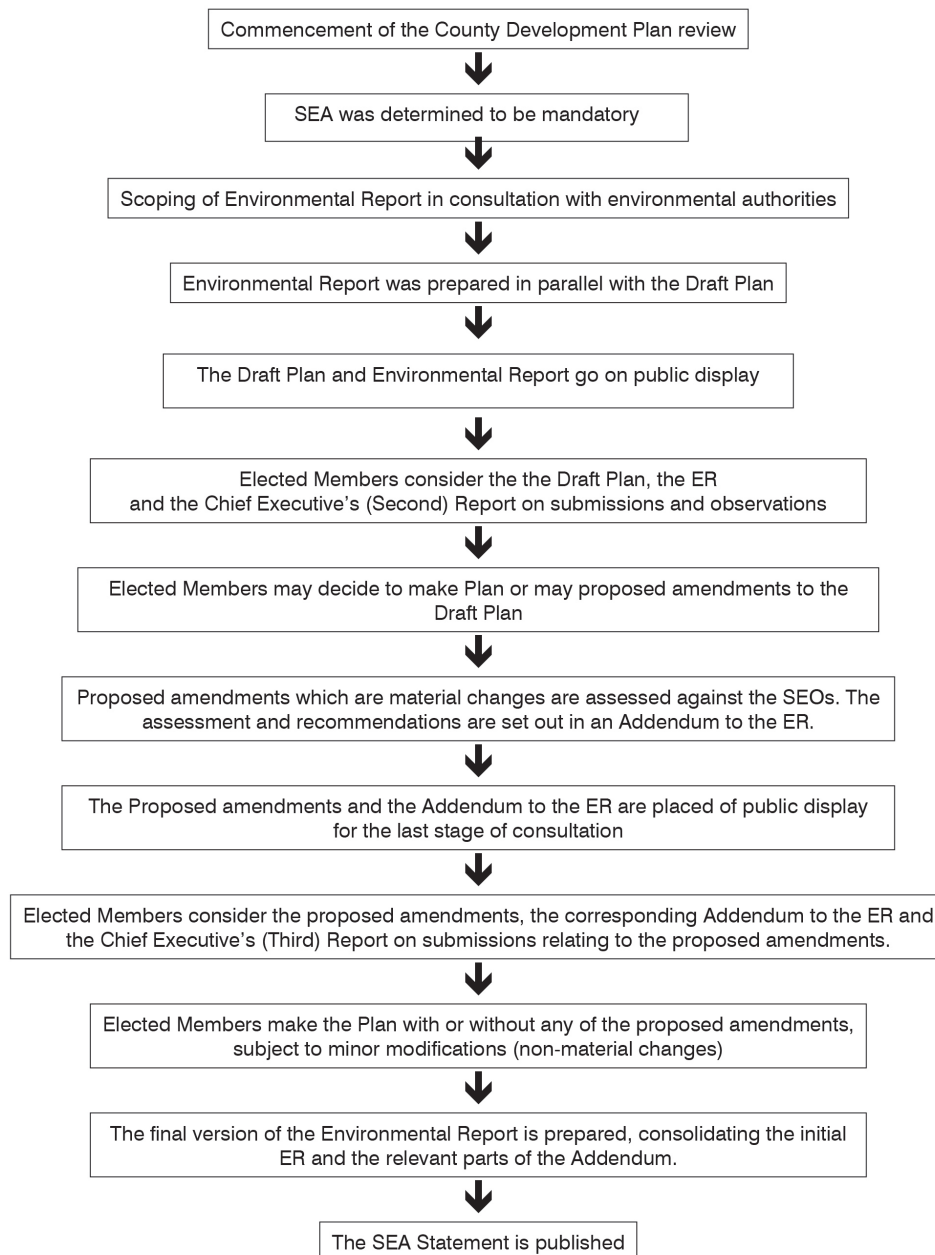


Figure 2.1 County Development Plan preparation and SEA stages

2.1.1 Draft Plan stage

The initial version of the Environmental Report related to the Draft Sligo CDP 2017-2023. The Draft Plan and associated documents were subject to public consultation for a period of 10 weeks, from 21 September to 30 November 2016

2.1.2 Proposed amendments

Amendments to the Draft Plan were proposed on foot of the submissions and observations received during public consultation.

The Proposed Amendments included 77 material changes to Volume 1 (main document) of the Draft CDP, 45 changes to Volume 2 (Mini-plans), 30 changes to the Record of Protected Structures, four changes to the Environmental Report and one change to the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

The potential environmental effects of the proposed amendments were assessed and presented in an SEA Addendum and a Natura Impact Report. The assessment and recommendations were published alongside the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan, for the last stage of public consultation.

The Proposed Amendments to the Draft *Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023* (CDP) were on public display from 11 May 2017 to 21 June 2017. During the public consultation period, Sligo County Council received 25 submissions and observations. The submission received from the EPA resulted in recommendations to omit a particular amendment from the final plan, due to its potential for significant environmental impacts.

2.1.3 Adoption of the CDP

The Elected Members adopted the new Sligo County Development Plan on 31 July 2017 without any amendments that would have had potential for significant environmental effects.

The required Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement was published shortly after the adoption of the Plan.

2.2 Scoping

Prior to commencing the preparation of the Draft Plan, it was necessary to scope the SEA and associated Environmental Report. The purpose of scoping was to identify key issues to be addressed in the environmental assessment of the Draft Plan. The environmental components which are specified under the SEA Directive are: biodiversity, fauna, flora, population, human health, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage and landscape.

2.2.1 Scoping notice

On 15 May 2015, upon commencement of pre-draft public consultation relating to the CDP review, an Issues Paper and a scoping notice were sent to the environmental authorities identified in the SEA

Regulations, inviting submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report.

The notice was sent to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR), the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM), the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG), the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht (DAHG), Leitrim County Council, Roscommon County Council, Mayo County Council and Donegal County Council.

As the Draft Plan was not likely to have significant effects on the environment in another EU Member State, trans-boundary consultations (as per Article 7 of the SEA Directive) were not undertaken.

2.2.2 Scoping submissions

Submissions were received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine.

The EPA's extensive recommendations related both to general issues and county-specific issues.

The general issues to be addressed were: water (including water quality, drinking water, wastewater, bathing water, flood prevention and management), biodiversity (Habitats Directive Birds Directive, the need for Appropriate Assessment, fisheries, green infrastructure), air, noise and climatic factors, energy conservation and renewables, landscape character assessment, transportation and infrastructure planning, waste management.

In addition to the above, the EPA highlighted certain issues specific to County Sligo, such as the substandard wastewater treatment plants in six settlements, the need to address historic landfill sites and the high levels of radon gas in many areas of the County.

The DAFM submission indicated the potential impacts of the Plan on the marine environment.

Scoping ensured that the SEA focussed on the issues relevant to County Sligo.

2.3 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) were undertaken in conjunction with the preparation the Plan.

Appropriate Assessment is required under Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora), under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and under the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).

The Draft Plan has undergone AA screening during its preparation, in parallel with SEA. It was determined that Stage 2 Appropriate Assessment was not required. The findings of the Stage 1 AA (screening) were presented in the initial *Habitats Directive Assessment Report* published alongside the Draft Plan and updated upon adoption of the CDP.

The requirement for SFRA is set out in *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities* (DEHLG, 2009). All recommendations made by the SFRA in relation to

flood risk management have been integrated into the Draft Plan and subsequently into the adopted CDP. The AA and the SFRA have informed both the Draft Plan and the SEA.

2.4 Environmental baseline data

The SEA process was informed by the environmental baseline (i.e. the current state of the environment) to facilitate the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the CDP and the subsequent monitoring of the effects of the Plan as adopted.

In order to describe the baseline in the County, data was collated from currently available and relevant environmental sources.

2.5 Alternative development scenarios

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment.

In accordance with this requirement, the planning/SEA team formulated three possible scenarios for the future development of County Sligo. These scenarios are described in Section 6 and evaluated in Section 7.

2.6 The SEA Environmental Report (ER)

In the Environmental Report, the likely environmental effects of the Plan and the alternatives are evaluated with regard to the environmental baseline.

The ER offered the Plan-makers (i.e. the elected members of Sligo County Council) and the public a guide to understanding the environmental consequences of decisions regarding future growth in the County. The Environmental Report is required to contain the information specified in Schedule 2 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended (see Table 2.1 below).

Table 2.1 Checklist of information included in this Environmental Report

Information required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Section 5
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 3
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 3, 4, 7 and 8

(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 3
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 4, 6, 7 and 9
(F) Description of the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Description of any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 2, 6 and 7
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Non-Technical Summary – separate document
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

2.7 The SEA Statement

Following the adoption of the CDP 2017-2023, an SEA Statement was published in accordance with the SEA Regulations. This Statement specified the following:

- (a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- (b) how the Environmental Report, submissions and observations made to the Planning Authority have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan;
- (c) the reasons for choosing the Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives;
- (d) the measures decided upon to monitor the environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

2.8 Difficulties encountered

The lack of a centralised environmental database, including maps, that could make all environmental baseline data for the County readily available in a consistent format, posed a substantial challenge to the SEA process.

It was necessary to conduct extensive internet searches and collect data from many sources such the websites of various government departments and EPA's EDEN database in addition to Sligo County Council's own Geographical Information System.

Section 3

County Sligo: environmental baseline

The purpose of the baseline description is to identify the current state of the environment, against which the likely effects of implementing the plan can be assessed.

The SEA Guidelines suggest that the baseline description of the current physical environment should focus on those aspects of the environment which are experiencing Plan-related problems (such as development pressures) at present, or are likely to be significantly affected by implementation of the Plan.

This section provides a description of those environmental aspects with the highest probability to be affected by implementation of the Plan. The environmental information has been collated from existing sources, without undertaking new research.

The environmental baseline is described in line with the legislative requirements, encompassing the following components: biodiversity, flora and fauna, population, human health, soil, water, air and climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between these components.

Interrelationships between environmental components are detailed as they arise under the various environmental components.

3.1 Brief geographical information

County Sligo is located in the north-west of Ireland and is bordered by counties Mayo, Roscommon and Leitrim. It has an area of 1,838 sq.km.

The population of County Sligo grew from 58,200 in 2002 to 60,894 in 2006, 65,393 in 2011 and remained nearly stationary at 65,535 in 2016. Current average population density is 35 inhabitants per square km.

Sligo Town is the main urban centre, with 19,199 persons (Census 2016). Enniscrone, Ballymote and Tobercurry, each with populations under 2,000, act as supporting towns.

Most villages are small, with populations of only a few hundred, with the exception of Ballysadare, Collooney and Strandhill, which had 1,350, 1,610 and 1,753 inhabitants respectively in 2016 (Census data).

In towns and villages there is a mix of land uses, including residential, commercial and industrial. The primary land use in the rural areas is agriculture.

County Sligo has a diverse range of natural habitats such as coastlines, lakes, rivers, bogs, woodland etc. Many of these are designated for protection under national and EU legislation.

3.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

3.2.1 Background

County Sligo supports a diversity of natural and semi-natural habitats and a wide range of plant and animal species, some of which have come under threat. Agricultural lands, woodlands and grasslands represent a variety of habitats and corridors that provide for the movement of wildlife. Woodlands like Slish Wood, Union Wood, Lough Gill Forest and Ben Bulbin Forest have significant stands of deciduous trees.

The County falls into the catchments of the Ballysadare, Moy and Garavogue rivers. These rivers, tributaries and associated lakes support good areas of biodiversity.

Man-made habitats within the Plan area are also important biodiversity areas. Gardens provide habitats for wildlife including various bird species, invertebrates, such as bees and butterflies and mammals, such as hedgehogs, mice and foxes. These species move around between gardens using hedgerows and vegetated areas. These urban green spaces, however small, are important, as they form a network of green spaces across the Plan area, linking gardens, parks, graveyards, amenity walks, railway lines and patches of woodland or scrub within which animals and plants continue to thrive.

3.2.2 CORINE land cover mapping

The CORINE (Co-ORDinated INformation on the Environment) data series was established by the European Community (EC) as a means of compiling geo-spatial environmental information in a standardised and comparable manner across the European continent. The first iteration of the data series covered the reference year of 1990, with subsequent releases covering the years 2000, 2006 and 2012.

CORINE land cover mapping for the County for the year 2012 is shown on **Map 1**. The predominant land cover is Pastures. *Areas of Peat Bogs* can be found in the north, mid-east and along the southern boundary, extending to particularly large areas in the west of the County. *Areas of Complex Cultivation Patterns, Non-Irrigated Arable Land* and *Transitional Woodland Scrub* can be found dispersed throughout the County.

Water bodies are also visible, including Lough Arrow and Lough Gara in the south-west of the County, Lough Easky and Lough Talt in the west, and Cloonacleigha and Templehouse Loughs in the centre of the County.

Land cover differences between the CORINE 2012 data (see **Map 1**) and the data for the year 2006 (see **Map 2**) are illustrated on **Map 3**. The differences reflect the increased levels of urbanisation in Ballymote, Tobercurry, Coolaney, Ballysadare, Strandhill, Collooney and Sligo City.

Throughout the County, many areas classified as *Pasture, Agriculture with Natural Vegetation, Conifer and Mixed Forests, Natural Grassland* and *Peat Bog* have changed to *Transitional Woodland Scrub* in 2006. Planting of *Coniferous Forests* has taken place since 2000, with the main cluster occurring in the east of the County.

Land cover categories which indicate lands that are likely to be most valuable to biodiversity are illustrated on **Map 4**. *Peat Bogs* make up the greatest extent of these land cover categories, followed by *Water Bodies, Transitional Wood/Scrub* and *Broad-Leaved Forest, Marshes, Moors and Heathlands, Mixed Forests* and *Natural Grasslands* make up the remaining sensitive land cover.

3.2.3 Ecological networks

Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna. The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the Natura 2000 network of designated ecological sites are maintained and it recognises the need for the management of these areas through land use planning and development policies.

Ecological networks are important in connecting areas of local biodiversity with each other and with nearby designated sites so as to prevent islands of habitat from being isolated entities. Ecological networks are composed of linear features, such as tree lines, hedgerows, rivers and streams, which provide corridors or stepping stones for wildlife species moving within their normal range. They are particularly important for mammals, especially for bats and small birds.

Key ecological corridors within the County include the following rivers (including their tributaries and lakes, where relevant):

- Garavogue
- Moy
- Owenaher
- Easky
- Owenboy
- Unshin
- Owenbeg
- Drumcliff
- Owenmore

3.2.4 Designations

Map 5 illustrates a range of designated ecological sites (Special Protection Areas, candidate/Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas and Nature Reserves) across County Sligo.

Drumcliff Bay, Sligo Bay and Ballysadare Bay are designated along with Lough Gill, Lough Arrow and Lough Gara.

Site synopses for SPAs, cSACs and NHAs are available from the National Parks and Wildlife Service at www.npws.ie.

3.2.4.1 Special Protection Areas

Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected for protection under the 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC) - referred to as the Birds Directive - by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHG), due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

There are 10 SPAs located wholly or partly within the County. These include various bogs, bays and lakes. These sites are listed on Table 3.1 below and illustrated on **Map 5** and **Map 6**.

Table 3.1 Special Protection Areas in County Sligo

SPA	Site Code
Drumcliff Bay	004013
Cummeen Strand	004035
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary	004036
Lough Gara	004048
Lough Arrow	004050
Inishmurray	004068
Ballysadare Bay	004129
Aughris Head	004133
Ardboline Island and Horse Island	004135
Sligo/Leitrim Uplands	004187

3.2.4.2 Special Areas of Conservation

Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) have been selected for protection under the European Council Directive on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (92/43/EEC) – referred to as the Habitats Directive – by the DEHLG, due to their conservation value for habitats and species of importance in the European Union.

Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) are “candidate” because they are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union. SACs, together with SPAs, are part of *Natura 2000*, which was established through the Habitats Directive as a network of protected areas throughout the EU.

It is the responsibility of each Member State to designate SACs to protect habitats and species.

There are 20 (c)SACs located wholly or partly within the County and these are listed in **Table 3.2** below and illustrated on **Map 5** and on **Map 6**.

Map 6 shows the Natura 2000 sites within County Sligo and within 15 km of the County’s boundary.

Table 3.2 Special Areas of Conservation in County Sligo

SAC	Site Code
Killala Bay/Moy Estuary	000458
Flughany Bog	000497
Ballysadare Bay	000622
Ben Bulbin, Gleniff and Glenade Complex	000623
Bunduff Lough and Machair/Trawalua/Mullaghmore	000625
Cummeen Strand/Drumcliff Bay (Sligo Bay)	000627
Lough Hoe Bog	000633
Lough Nabrickkeagh Bog	000634
Templehouse and Cloonacleigha Loughs	000636
Turloughmore (Sligo)	000637
Union Wood	000638
Bricklieve Mountains and Keishcorran	001656
Knockalongy and Knockachree Cliffs	001669
Lough Arrow	001673
Streedagh Point Dunes	001680
Unshin River	001898
Lough Gill	001976
Ox Mountains Bogs	002006
River Moy	002298
Doocastle Turlough	000492

3.2.4.3 Natural Heritage Areas

Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated due to their national conservation value for ecological or geological/geomorphological heritage. They cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. NHAs are designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000.

Proposed NHAs were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated by the DAHG. There are three NHAs located within County Sligo, these are listed on **Table 3.3** below and illustrated on **Map 5**. There are 34 proposed NHAs.

The primary mechanism for protection of proposed NHAs remains the development management process and the implementation of the County Development Plan until such time as the NHA designation process is completed.

Table 3.3 Natural Heritage Areas in County Sligo

NHA	Site Code
Slieveward Bog	001902
Carrane Hill Bog	002415
Crockauns / Keelogyboy Bogs	002435

3.2.4.4 Ramsar sites

The Convention of Wetlands of International Importance, especially as Water Fowl Habitat, was established at Ramsar in 1971 and ratified by Ireland in 1984.

The main aim of the Convention is to secure the designation, by each contracting state, of wetlands in its territory for inclusion in a list of wetlands of international importance for waterfowl.

This requires the commitment of each contracting state to a policy of protection and management of the designated wetlands, and of formulating and implementing planning so as to promote the conservation of designated wetlands and, as far as possible, the wise use of wetlands in its territory.

Currently, Ireland has 45 sites designated as Wetlands of International Importance, with a total surface area of 66,994 hectares. There are four Ramsar sites designated wholly or partially within County Sligo, spanning 4,901 hectares of wetlands. These are: Cummeen Strand, Easky Bog, Lough Gara and Killala Bay/Moy Estuary.

3.2.4.5 Statutory Nature Reserves

Statutory Nature Reserves are state-owned land, inland waters or foreshore areas forming the habitat of a species or community of flora and fauna of scientific interest or forming part of an ecosystem of scientific interest, which would benefit from protection measures, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000 and are protected under Ministerial order.

There are three of these reserves in County Sligo, both of which are state-owned. Descriptions of the three Nature Reserves are given below (source: NPWS, 2007).

Ballygilgan (Lissadell) is a large grass field of approximately 29.5 ha, sloping south-westwards from the public road from Carney to Lissadell to the shore of Drumcliff Bay. It was established in 1986. Ireland's largest mainland flock of Barnacle Geese graze on the reserve from October to May.

It is a site of international importance for Barnacle Geese due to the number it supports (c. 3,000 birds). In the summer the land is grazed by livestock.

Easky Bog, established in 1990, is situated on the northern side of the Ox Mountains. It is one of the few extensive areas (607 ha) of intermediate blanket bogs in the Country. It stretches between lowland and mountain blanket bog; the area grades into mountain blanket bog to the south while an extensive area of lowland blanket bog occurs about 2 km to the west. This site is one of the few places in the County where all three blanket bog types are more or less juxtaposed. Red Grouse and Curlew can be found and Golden Plover can be found here only during the winter when they visit from Iceland. The Irish Hare also makes its home there.

Union Wood - Part of Union Wood SAC belongs to the National Parks and Wildlife Service and has been designated as a Nature Reserve. Extending to 60 ha, it contains one of the largest remaining native Oak Woodlands in the area. Mammals that live here include Pine Marten, Red Squirrel, Badger, Fox, Bats and Fallow Deer. Birds include Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff, Jay, Raven, Gold crest, Tree creeper, Kestrel and Sparrow hawk. Buzzards are occasionally seen. A good insect population live on the dead wood, native trees and the nearby wetlands, lakes and river, including butterflies and dragonflies. Apart from Sessile Oak, other trees include native Ash, Scots Pine, Downy Birch, Holly, Rowan, Hazel, Hawthorn and Blackthorn. The ground flora is characteristic of acidic woodland: Greater woodrush is abundant, and Bilberry, Wood sorrel, Bluebell, Ramsons (Wild Garlic) and numerous lichens and ferns are also present.

3.2.4.6 Register of Protected Areas

In accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and the associated national regulations, the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have compiled Registers of Protected Areas. Under this legislation, the EHS and EPA are required to maintain and update the register as needed.

The protected areas are identified as those requiring special protection under existing national or European legislation, either to protect their surface water or groundwater, or to conserve habitats or species that directly depend on those waters. The register consists of an inventory of protected area sites representing the protected area categories outlined below:

- Waters used for the abstraction of drinking water;
- Areas designated to protect economically significant aquatic species – protected areas established under earlier EC directives aimed at protecting shellfish (79/923/EEC) and freshwater fish 78/659/EEC).
- Recreational Waters – bathing waters designated under the Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC).
- Nutrient Sensitive Areas – these comprise nitrate vulnerable zones designated under the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) and areas designated as sensitive under the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).
- Areas designated for the protection of habitats or species – where the maintenance or improvement of the status of water is an important factor in their protection. These are designated under the Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

There are a number of water-dependent habitats in the County which have been included on the Register of Protected Areas – refer to **Map 26**.

3.2.4.7 Freshwater Pearl Mussels

The Freshwater Pearl Mussel (*Margaritifera margaritifera*) is a bivalve, which is a type of mollusc or snail with a body that is almost completely enclosed between a pair of shells. The habitat of the freshwater pearl mussel in Ireland is restricted to near natural, clean flowing waters, often downstream of ultra oligotrophic lakes.

The former Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government has prepared 27 Draft Management Plans for Freshwater Pearl Mussel in accordance with Article 13 (5) of the Water Framework Directive as transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (S.I. No. 722 of 2003) and the Habitats Directive as transposed in Ireland by the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 (S.I. No. 94 of 1997). The objective of the plans is to restore the freshwater pearl mussel populations in 27 rivers, or stretches of rivers that are within the boundaries of Special Areas of Conservation.

There are no areas within the County or near the County boundary which have a specified Freshwater Pearl Mussel population and hence no Sub-Basin Management Plans have been prepared for Co. Sligo. However, the Easky River is known to contain a healthy population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel. 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).

3.2.4.8 Salmonid waters

Salmonid Waters are designated and protected under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Salmonid Water designation imposes an obligation to maintain specific water quality standards and control pollution. The main channel of the River Moy is a designated Salmonid River, along with its tributaries – the Owengarve, Mullaghanoe, Spaddagh, Trimoge, Glore, Yellow, Gweestion, Manulla, Castlebar, Deel and Corryt. These waters are identified on **Map 19**.

3.2.5 Existing biodiversity, flora and fauna problems

Changes in land cover indicated by the CORINE data (see **Map 3** for 2006-2012 changes) indicate that semi-natural areas within the County have been replaced by uses which generally include impermeable surfaces. These changes are also likely to result in losses of biodiversity and flora and fauna.

Aquatic flora and fauna are vulnerable to all forms of pollution. Any existing problems with regard to surface water quality in the County (see Section 3.5) are likely to impact upon aquatic biodiversity, flora and fauna.

With regard to terrestrial flora and fauna, any development on greenfield lands in the area will cause an impact. The replacement of natural and semi-natural habitats with artificial surfaces results in loss of flora and fauna, and therefore adversely impacts upon this environmental component.

The site synopses for certain designated sites in the County identify threats to the conservation value of the protected sites. Such threats come from overgrazing, afforestation, under-grazing and agricultural run-off.

3.2.6 Evolution of biodiversity, flora and fauna in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan, development would have no guidance regarding optimal location. Planning applications would be assessed on an individual basis, with flora and fauna, habitats and ecological connectivity protected by national and EU legislation.

In the absence of a Development Plan, there would be no integration of the ecological protection measures required by the Habitats Directive with the planning or development management of vulnerable areas. Therefore, in the absence of a Plan, it is likely that there would be less effective protection of ecological resources.

The evolution of biodiversity, flora and fauna would be dependent on the rate and extent of developments which take place.

Any future development along the edges of designated ecological sites would be likely to result in a reduction in habitats and could therefore reduce ecological connectivity on the edges of these sites.

Weakly controlled development along or adjacent to the banks of rivers or on the coastline could result in a reduction in ecological connectivity within and between these and other habitats.

Pollution of water bodies as a result of any poorly-planned development would be likely to adversely impact upon aquatic biodiversity, flora and fauna, including salmonid species and other species protected under Annex II of the Habitats Directive.

Climate change has the potential to result in the loss of habitats – including those designated as SACs and SPAs – through rising sea levels and increased surface run-off. Some of the coastal habitats which are important to bird populations could eventually be inundated.

Increased precipitation may disrupt the salinity gradients within estuarine systems and, coupled with likely increased sedimentation, disrupt spawning and nursery grounds as well as shellfish production and quality in such areas.

In the absence of a Development Plan, any greenfield development would adversely impact upon biodiversity and flora and fauna by replacing natural or semi natural habitats with artificial surfaces. The significance of such impacts would be dependent on whether such developments would result in the loss of habitats or species of importance as well as the cumulative loss and fragmentation of habitats and species. It is noted that development of brownfield sites and re-development could also have impacts on terrestrial flora and fauna.

3.3 Population and human health

3.3.1 Population

The County's population was 65,393 in 2011 and 65,535 in 2016. Sligo Town is the most populous urban area (19,199 in 2016). Electoral Divisions (EDs) including the areas of Strandhill and Tobercurry have the next highest population. These are followed by the EDs which contain Collooney, Ballymote, Enniscrone, Rosses Point, Coolaney, Ballysadare, Lissadill North (containing the village of Grange), Cliffony South and Calry.

Map 7 shows population in the County in 2016 (preliminary Census figures). **Map 8** maps population change between the 2011 and 2016.

The largest drop in population in the County occurred in the urban ED of Sligo North, which lost 344 persons (6.1%) between 2011 and 2016. The urban EDs of Sligo West and Sligo East gained 86 and 35 persons respectively. Percentage-wise, Shancough ED (close to the border with Roscommon and Leitrim) lost 19.6% of its population (30 persons).

The highest increase in population was in the Tobercurry ED, which gained 279 new inhabitants. As a percentage, the biggest gain was recorded in Temple ED (north-east of Tobercurry), containing Ballinacarrow, with 15.6% or 47 additional residents. **Map 9** maps population density in the County in 2016.

Upland areas are the least populated, with 1-7 persons per sq. km. Population density in Sligo Town is 250-1,600 persons per sq.km. Strandhill and Rosses Point EDs have densities of 60-120 persons per sq.km. Density in the remainder of the County varies from 7 to 60 persons per sq.km.

3.3.2 Human health

Hazards or nuisances to human health can arise as a result of incompatible land uses in the vicinity of built-up areas. Vectors such as air, water or soil can transport contaminants or pollutants, so that they come into contact with human beings. These factors have been considered with regard to their baseline description and the identification and evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan or the alternatives.

Radon gas

Radon is a naturally occurring radioactive gas, categorised by the World Health Organisation as a carcinogen, in the same group as asbestos and tobacco smoke. It has no taste, colour or smell. It can only be measured with special detectors. The acceptable level, or reference level, for homes in Ireland is 200 Becquerel per cubic metre (Bq/m³). For workplaces, the reference level is 400 Bq/m³.

Outside radon is diluted to very low levels. Radon can enter a home from the ground through small cracks in floors and through gaps around pipes or cables. Sligo has the highest incidence of homes with high radon levels in Ireland, with almost one in four homes measured in the county so far exceeding the acceptable level. Homes in some parts of County Sligo are more likely to have a radon problem. These parts of the county are called High Radon Areas. The EPA provides an interactive map at <http://www.epa.ie/radiation/radonmap> where people can see whether their homes are in a High Radon Area.

Specific guidance on radon prevention measures for new homes is contained in the Building Regulations, Technical Guidance Document C – site preparation and resistance to moisture (DEHLG, 1997). The guidance specifies that all homes built after 1st July 1998 must be fitted with a standby

radon sump which can be activated at a later stage to reduce any high radon concentrations subsequently found. For homes built in High Radon Areas, the installation of a radon barrier as well as a standby radon sump is required.

The radon levels cannot be influenced by the Development Plan. The existence or the absence of a Plan would make no difference to such levels. However, the Plan can bring this information to the attention of people who may wish to have their dwellings tested for radon, or to build new homes with adequate protection.

3.3.3 Existing problems

Air quality in the County meets current standards. However, there are traffic “hotspots” located along the main roads, especially at intersections in urban areas. These give rise to a harsh sensory environment which may impact upon human health (see also Section 3.7.3). IPPC licensed facilities could be potential polluters to the Plan area if the facilities do not comply with their licenses.

3.3.4 Evolution of population and human health in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan, there would be no framework for the provision of infrastructure to serve existing and future development. This could delay or hinder the provision of infrastructure, and could impact on environmental vectors to which humans are exposed. For example, a lack of appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure could adversely impact upon drinking water quality and subsequently upon human health.

3.4 Soil

3.4.1 General information

Soil is the top layer of the earth’s crust. It is formed by mineral particles, organic matter, water, air and living organisms. It is a very dynamic system which performs many functions and delivers services vital to human activities and to the survival of ecosystems.

These functions are biomass production, the storing, filtering and transforming of nutrients and water, hosting the biodiversity pool, acting as a platform for most human activities, providing raw materials, acting as a carbon pool and storing geological and archaeological heritage.

Soils in any area are the result of the interaction of various factors, such as parent material, climate, vegetation and human action. It is essentially a non-renewable resource, in that the degradation rates can be rapid whereas the formation and regeneration processes are extremely slow.

Soil is under increasing environmental pressure and is to be protected from degradation in its own right. Soil degradation or soil improvements have a major impact on surface water and groundwater protection, human health, climate change, protection of nature and biodiversity, and food safety.

To date, there is no Irish legislation which is specific to the protection of soil resources. At the moment, only a few EU Member States have specific legislation on soil protection. Soil is not subject to a comprehensive and coherent set of rules in the Union.

While in May 2014 the Commission decided to withdraw a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive, the Seventh Environment Action Programme, which entered into force on 17 January 2014, recognises that soil degradation is a serious challenge.

It provides that by 2020, land should be managed sustainably in the Union, soil adequately protected and the remediation of contaminated sites should be underway.

The programme also commits the EU and its Member States to increasing efforts to reduce soil erosion, increase soil organic matter and remediate contaminated sites.

3.4.2 Soil types

Soil types, as classified in the National Soils Map by Teagasc (Kinsealy), EPA and GSI, are shown on **Map 10**. Subsoils in the County are shown on **Map 11**.

Large expanses of blanket, cutover and fen peat occur in Sligo, particularly in the west of the County. Certain areas of peat are of international importance, supporting a large variety of rare flora and fauna.

Large areas are protected by different ecological designations identified in Section 3.2.4. Much of the County is also covered by till, in particular limestone, sandstone and shale and metaphoric till.

3.4.3 Sites of Geological Interest

The Sites of Geological Interest which have been identified are shown on **Map 12** are listed on **Table 3.4**. The sites comprise caves, dry valleys, springs and swallow holes.

Geological Heritage Sites, which are designated under the Sligo County Development Plan **2017-2023** are identified on this map also.

Table 3.4 Sites of Geological Interest in County Sligo

Site Name	Principal characteristics, critical features, key words
Mullawornia	Waulsortian complex: palaeontology
Mullawornia	Waulsortian: Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy
Ardnacassagh Quarry	Carboniferous stratigraphy
Esker North townland	Structural importance: truncated slump fold
Keel	Mineralogy: honey sphalerite
Keel and Garryman	Economic geology: zinc
Carrickboy Quarry	Waulsortian: Lower Carboniferous stratigraphy, palaeontology
Glen Lodge Stream	Youngest Silurian rocks in Longford - Down succession: Silurian stratigraphy
Cleenrah	Economic Geology: mined haematitic-Mn Shale
Kilcoursey Quarry	Carbonate mudmound, post Waulsortian
Enaghan, near Arva	Historic Iron mine
Ardagullion Quarry	Carboniferous stratigraphy

3.4.4 Geology, quarries and minerals

The geology of County Sligo is illustrated on **Map 13**. Much of the County is underlain by limestone, interspersed with bands of shale. An area of granoblastic pelite runs westwards from Lough Gill into a large area of schist in the west of the County.

Within the area of schist, monzogranite, metavolcanics and lava, granodiorite, psammite and quartzite can be found. **Map 14** shows the most recent edition of the GSI active quarry directory and mineral locations in Sligo. Within the County, there are approximately 90 sites identified as mineral location sites.

The principal operational quarries within the County are located in the Ballysadare area, Lough Gill catchment area and near Geevagh.

3.4.5 Landslides

In early 2004, the GSI established a multidisciplinary team, the Irish Landslides Working Group (ILWG), with expertise in geology, geomorphology, geotechnical engineering, planning, and GIS. One of the main objectives was to build a national database of past landslide events. The initial search of reference sources has identified 117 events. Each entry contains information according to topic (events, location, dimensions, mechanism, terrain, weather, land use, impacts and references).

There are eight recorded landslide events in County Sligo. Four of these occurred at Geevagh between 1831 and 1991. More recent events include Derrysallagh in 2008, Killoglashy in 2007 and Gleniff in 2006. These are illustrated on **Map 15**.

Other recent landslides occurred in the catchment area of Lough Talt and upstream of Kilsellagh Reservoir.

3.4.6 Existing problems

Land cover differences between the various CORINE datasets (see Section 3.2.2) indicate that some semi-natural areas within the County have been replaced by urban areas, potentially resulting in the sealing off of soil resources. Most rural areas in the County are not served by wastewater treatment plants. Developments in these areas use septic tanks to treat wastewater. It is likely that local pollution of soil is occurring in certain areas as a result of poorly maintained systems.

National regulations were introduced in 2012 to address the ongoing registration, operation and maintenance of on-site wastewater treatment systems throughout the country. These regulations are being implemented by Sligo County Council. In 2015, the Environmental Protection Agency published soil maps detailing percolation characteristics of various soils throughout the country, with associated risk classifications for groundwater and surface water pollution.

Greenfield development involves the building upon and thereby sealing off of soil, thus representing a potential environmental problem. Soil can be polluted and contaminated by agricultural sources and development which is not served by appropriate wastewater infrastructure.

Soil erosion, due mainly to surface erosion resulting from construction works and agricultural or forestry operations, has major potential to impact on water quality and fishery resources. Coastal erosion is also noted as a problem in the County. In addition to water quality and fishery, erosion can impact on infrastructure and can have health and safety implications.

3.4.7 Evolution of soil in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Development Plan, the evolution of soil would be dependent on developments which take place at random, because there would be no framework for directing growth towards brownfield sites, where such direction is appropriate.

As a result, more greenfield development would be likely to occur, resulting in the building upon and thereby sealing off of the non-renewable subsoil and soil resources. In the absence of a Plan, there would be no framework for the provision of infrastructure – such as that relating to wastewater treatment – to serve existing and future development. Therefore, soil may become polluted and contaminated by inappropriately serviced development.

3.5 Water

3.5.1 Functions of water

Water within and surrounding the County has many functions: it provides drinking water to the area's population; is essential for the growth of the commercial and agricultural sector; it sustains biodiversity, flora and fauna described under Section 3.2; it provides amenity; it is an integral part of the landscape.

3.5.2 Potential pressures on water quality

Human activities, if not properly managed, can cause deterioration in water quality. Pressures exerted by human activities include the following:

- domestic sewage and trade effluents discharged to waters from point sources, e.g. pipes from treatment plants;
- discharges arising from diffuse or dispersed activities on land;
- abstractions from waters;
- structural alterations to water bodies.

A point source pressure has a recognisable and specific location at which pollution may originate.

Examples of significant point source pressures include direct discharges from wastewater treatment plants serving urban areas, discharges from industrial, commercial and agricultural activities, landfills, contaminated lands (e.g. disused gas works) and mines.

A diffuse source pressure unlike a point source is not restricted to an individual point or location. The source of a diffuse pressure can be quite extensive.

Significant examples of diffuse pressures include surface water runoff from forestry operations and the land-spreading of organic wastes associated with the agricultural and industrial sector.

Excessive abstractions from surface waters and groundwater, for potable water supply and the commercial and industrial sector, puts increased pressure on the ability of a water body to maintain both chemical and ecological status and to achieve national targets in terms of compliance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

Structural alterations, such as river straightening, construction of embankments, weirs, dams, port facilities and dredging, can all create conditions such that a water body is no longer able to support the natural ecology which would have existed prior to such modifications.

These pressures are also referred to as morphological pressures.

3.5.3 The Water Framework Directive (WFD)

3.5.3.1 WFD requirements

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD requires that all Member States implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters - surface, ground, estuarine and coastal - and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving “good status” within timeframes specified in the Directive. All public bodies are required to coordinate their policies, functions and operations so as to maintain existing good status water bodies and improve unsatisfactory water bodies.

3.5.3.2 River Basin District Management Plans and water bodies

In 2010, the first series of River Basin District Management Plans were published for the Republic and Northern Ireland for the purpose of implementing the provisions of the WFD.

At present, the functional area of Sligo County Council is located within three River Basin Districts, namely, the Western RBD, the Shannon International RBD and the North Western International RBD.

The Environmental Protection Agency has established a new catchment management department and has commenced the characterisation process for the publication of the new River Basin District Management Plans.

As part of the second cycle of the implementation of the Water Framework Directive in Ireland, the Environmental Protection Agency has carried out a review of the existing catchment areas throughout the country, with a view towards reducing the number of catchments for administration, monitoring and reporting purposes.

Work has commenced on the second cycle of the process, which may potentially result in one River Basin District Management Plan being produced for the geographical area of the Republic of Ireland. The new River Basin District Management Plan is due to be published by mid-2017.

To facilitate the process, in 2014, the DECLG published the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2014, (S.I. No. 350 of 2014). These regulations set out new governance arrangements on a tiered basis. The Environmental Protection Agency has been designated as the responsible authority for the preparation of the plan, but Sligo County Council, as a tier-three authority, will have a key role to play in terms of the implementation and enforcement of measures in the new plan when published.

3.5.3.3 Pollution Reduction Programmes

Pollution Reduction Programmes (PRPs), as published by the DECLG, were intended 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) at designated Shellfish Areas throughout the Country. The above regulations transpose Directive 2006/113/EC of the European parliament and of the Council on the quality required for shellfish waters, into national law.

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 wastewater treatment plants would be to “impose development controls where there is, or is likely to be in the future, insufficient capacity at treatment plants”.

A review of the initial programmes was recently initiated by the DECLG. At present, there are two designated shellfish waters in County Sligo, namely Sligo Bay and Drumcliff Bay. Ballysadare Bay may also be designated at some point in the future.

3.5.4 Surface water

3.5.4.1 Main water bodies

The principal lakes in County Sligo are Lough Gill, Lough Arrow, Lough Gara, Lough Easky and Lough Talt, all of which are utilised for the provision of potable water supply to urban centres, rural villages and a wide rural hinterland.

The main rivers are the Garavogue, Moy, Owenaher, Easky, Owenboy, Unshin and Owenmore.

3.5.4.2 EPA monitoring

At the beginning of 2016, new water quality monitoring arrangements were introduced nationally, which are being implemented jointly by the Environmental Protection Agency and local authorities, including Sligo County Council.

The most recent water quality data (EPA, 2012) are shown on **Map 16** and **Map 17**. The majority of Q values¹ in the County are of Good (Q4) or High (Q4-5, Q5) status.

The EPA classifies lakes according to their trophic status². Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to mesotrophic in the trophic classification of lakes, as set out by the EPA.

Mesotrophic lakes are lakes with an intermediate level of productivity, greater than oligotrophic lakes, but less than eutrophic lakes.

The eutrophic status of lakes within the County is shown on **Map 17**.

¹ The Biotic Index Values, or Q values, are assigned to rivers in accordance with biological monitoring of surface waters - low Q ratings, as low as Q1, are indicative of low biodiversity and polluted waters, and high Q ratings, as high as Q5, are indicative of high biodiversity and unpolluted waters. Good status as defined by the Water Framework Directive equates to approximately Q4 in the national scheme of biological classification of rivers as set out by the EPA.

² Nutrient enrichment, resulting in eutrophication, is the principal pressure on lake quality in Ireland. Nutrient inputs result in plant growth in lakes whose presence is quantified by a measure of the algal pigment chlorophyll. Lake trophic status, or the extent to which a lake is nutrient enriched, is determined by a consideration of the annual maximum chlorophyll values. Trophic status ranges from Oligotrophic/Mesotrophic to Moderately Eutrophic to Highly/Strongly Eutrophic to Hypertrophic.

3.5.4.3 WFD surface water status

The WFD defines “surface water status” as the general expression of the status of a body of surface water, determined by the poorer of its ecological status and its chemical status. Thus, to achieve “good surface water status” both the ecological status and the chemical status of a surface water body need to be at least “good”.

Chemical Status is a pass/fail assignment with a failure defined by a face-value exceedence of an Environmental Quality Standards (EQS) for one or more priority action substances (PAS) listed in Annex X of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The EQS values for individual PAS substances are set at European level. Good surface water chemical status means that concentrations of pollutants in the water body do not exceed the environmental limit values specified in the Directive.

Ecological status is an expression of the structure and functioning of aquatic ecosystems associated with surface waters. Such waters are classified as of “good ecological status” when they meet Directive requirements.

In the Republic of Ireland, the EPA is the responsible authority for assigning water quality status under the provisions of the Water Framework Directive

In general, surface water within County Sligo is of good status. There are also a significant number of high-status sites within the County. Nationally, the EPA has highlighted the importance of maintaining these existing high-status sites.

In addition, there are a number of water bodies where water quality must be improved to good status within specified timeframes detailed in the Water Framework Directive.

In terms of current surface water quality in County Sligo, based on 2010-2012 data, the majority of the principal lakes which are subject to the ongoing WFD monitoring programme are classified as good or high status. Lough Easky, Lough Talt and Lough Arrow are classified at good status.

Lough Gill, Lough Gara and Glencar Lake are currently classified at moderate status. Templehouse Lake is classified at bad status. A significant improvement in water quality is required within timeframes specified in the WFD. At present, Clooncleigha Lough and Dargan Lough have unassigned status.

In general, river water quality within County Sligo is at good or high status, although there are a number of moderate and poor-status sites where water quality must be improved. Tobercurry Stream, a tributary of the River Moy, is currently classified at bad status, which can largely be attributed to point source municipal discharges from Tobercurry town.

Map 18 shows the WFD Surface Water Status for the County.

3.5.4.4 Salmonid rivers

Salmonid Waters are designated and protected under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1998 (SI No. 293 of 1988). Salmonid Water designation imposes an obligation to maintain specific water quality standards and control pollution.

Map 19 illustrates the salmonid rivers in the County. The rivers form part of the River Moy complex.

3.5.5 Groundwater

Groundwater is stored in the void spaces in underground layers of rock, or aquifers. These aquifers are permeable, allowing both the infiltration of water from the soils above them and the yielding of water to surface and coastal waters. Groundwater is the part of the subsurface water that is in the saturated zone – the zone below the water table, the uppermost level of saturation in an aquifer at which the pressure is atmospheric, in which all pores and fissures are full of water.

3.5.5.1 Groundwater quality

The Environmental Protection Agency has established a national programme to monitor compliance with the groundwater provisions detailed in the Water Framework Directive. The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) define the national criteria for groundwater classification. A number of groundwater bodies in County Sligo are monitored as part of the EPA's National Monitoring Programme.

The locations of these monitoring points are shown on **Map 20**.

3.5.5.2 WFD groundwater status

For groundwater bodies, the approach to classification is different from that for surface water. For each body of groundwater, both the chemical status and the quantitative status must be determined. Both have to be classed as either “good” or “poor”. The WFD sets out a series of criteria that must be met for a body to be classed as good chemical and quantitative status.

On publication of the initial River Basin District Management Plans, a significant proportion of groundwater within County Sligo was classified at poor status. In the most recent groundwater assessment issued by the Environmental Protection Agency, based on data recorded during the period 2007-2012, all groundwater within County Sligo was classified at good status.

This is illustrated on **Map 20**.

3.5.5.3 Groundwater Protection Schemes

Groundwater Protection Schemes are county-based projects that are undertaken jointly between the GSI and the respective Local Authority. Sligo County Council engaged the Geological Survey of Ireland to prepare a Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo, which was completed in 2009.

Groundwater sources, particularly public, group scheme and industrial supplies, are of critical importance in many regions. Consequently, the objective of source protection zones is to provide protection by placing tighter controls on activities within all or part of the zone of contribution (ZOC) of the source.

All groundwater in the County is required to be protected under the River Basin Management Plans.

The Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo is shown on **Map 21**.

3.5.5.4 Aquifer vulnerability

The Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) rates aquifers according to their vulnerability to pollution. Aquifer vulnerability refers to the ease with which pollutants of various kinds can enter underground water.

Map 22 shows aquifer vulnerability data for the County.

The Groundwater Protection Scheme for County Sligo has increased confidence in terms of the classification and identification of aquifer vulnerability. Areas around Lough Gill, particularly to the south of the lake, are rated as *Extreme* (Karst/Surface Rock) along with other localised areas throughout the County. Areas of extreme vulnerability mainly occur along the south-east County boundary and along the coast from Enniscrone to Beltra.

3.5.5.5 Aquifer productivity

The GSI rates aquifers based on the hydro-geological characteristics and on the value of the groundwater resource. Ireland's entire land surface is divided into nine aquifer categories, seven of which occur in County Sligo. **Map 23** shows aquifer productivity data for the County.

The main types occurring in the County are:

- Regionally Important Karstified Aquifers – found throughout the County;
- Poor Bedrock Aquifers (generally unproductive) – a band of such aquifers stretches across the County from Ballintogher to Aclare. This classification also occurs in the east and south-east of the County;
- Locally Important Aquifers – make up the remainder of the County. These types of aquifers are capable of yielding enough water to boreholes or springs to supply domestic, commercial and industrial uses, depending on the nature and scale of the development.

3.5.6 Bathing water

3.5.6.1 Legislation

Initially, EU mandatory and guide levels for microbial parameters were set out for bathing waters in the 1976 Bathing Water Directive (Directive 76/160/EEC) as implemented in Ireland by the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations 1992 (SI No. 155 of 1992).

The Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 repealed and replaced the 1992 Regulations with effect from 31 December 2014.

The regulations provide for the transposition of EU Bathing Water Directive 2006 (2206/7/EC) into national law and aim to improve health protection for bathers, establish a more pro-active approach to the management of bathing waters and to promote increased public involvement and provision of information to members of the public.

A new, four-category classification system for bathing waters is established under the Regulations: poor, sufficient, good and excellent.

Under the Regulations, local authorities must take appropriate steps to improve existing poor category bathing waters and to increase the number of good and high category bathing waters.

Under the various provisions of the Regulations, local authorities are required to identify bathing waters, prepare and implement an annual monitoring programme, submit monitoring results to the EPA and implement management measures as deemed appropriate. The Regulations also require increased provision of public health information to the general public.

3.5.6.2 Bathing water quality

Sligo County Council has established an ongoing annual monitoring programme for Bathing Waters within County Sligo.

Based on 2013 monitoring data, as published in the Environmental Protection Agency's '*The Quality of Bathing Water in Ireland – A Report for the Year 2013 (EPA, 2014)*', all Bathing Waters achieved at least sufficient water quality status. Streedagh, Rosses Point, Dunmoran and Mullaghmore beaches were classified as excellent, while Enniscrone was categorised as good status, which should be protected.

3.5.7 Coastal, estuarine and transitional water

Coastal water comprises the area of surface water on the landward side of a line, every point of which is at a distance of one nautical mile on the seaward side from the nearest point of the baseline from which the breadth of territorial waters is measured, extending where appropriate up to the outer limit of transitional waters.

Estuarine and transitional waters are bodies of surface water in the vicinity of river mouths which are partly saline in character as a result of their proximity to coastal waters but which are substantially influenced by freshwater flows.

The Assessment of Trophic Status of Estuaries and Bays in Ireland (ATSEBI) System is used by the EPA in order to classify the quality status of transitional waters. Categories of criteria for nutrient enrichment, accelerated growth, and undesirable disturbance are used by the ATSEBI in order to classify the estuarine and coastal waters.

Intermediate water bodies are those which do not fall into the Eutrophic or Potentially Eutrophic classes. They are waters where breaches of one or two of the criteria occur. Unpolluted water bodies are those which do not breach any of the criteria.

The principal estuarine, transitional and coastal waters which may be impacted by the Plan include Sligo, Drumcliff and Ballysadare Bays and their respective estuaries. Killala Bay/Moy Estuary also borders the western coastline of County Sligo.

Waters at Sligo Bay, Ballysadare Bay, Sligo Harbour and Killala Bay are unpolluted and have remained so since 1995. The Garavogue Estuary is classified as intermediate.

The classification of these waters is indicated on **Map 24**.

3.5.7.1 WFD transitional and coastal water status

For the purposes of the Water Framework Directive, transitional (estuaries and lagoons) and coastal waters are included as surface waters.

On inspection of the most recent EPA-published data for transitional and coastal waters, for the monitoring period 2010-2012, the Garavogue Estuary, Sligo Bay, Killala Bay and Donegal Bay Southern are classified at good status. Drumcliff Estuary is classified at high status, while Ballysadare Estuary is classified at moderate status.

The WFD status of transitional and Coastal waters is shown on **Map 25**.

3.5.8 Register of Protected Areas

In addition to risk assessments, the WFD requires that Registers of Protected Areas (RPAs) are compiled for a number of water bodies or part of water bodies which must have extra controls on their quality by virtue of how their waters are used by people and by wildlife.

The WFD requires that these RPAs contain the following: areas from which waters are taken for public or private water supply schemes; designated shellfish production areas; bathing waters; areas which are affected by high levels of substances most commonly found in fertilizers, animal and human wastes - these areas are considered nutrient sensitive; areas designated for the protection of habitats or species e.g. salmonid areas; Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and, Special Protection Areas (SPAs). Waters within and surrounding the County which are listed on the RPAs are shown on Figure 3.31.

In Ireland, waters intended for human consumption are protected under the Drinking Water Regulations (S.I. 439/2000).

The actual protected areas for drinking water are not outlined within these Regulations, so the protected area for drinking waters is represented by the water body from which the water is abstracted, be it groundwater, river or lake. All groundwater underlying the County is listed on the RPA for Drinking Water.

The RPA for Water Dependent Habitats includes habitats that are dependent on water: this includes areas already listed by the National Parks and Wildlife Service as Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas.

Rivers on which certain habitats are dependant are also listed on the RPA. The SPAs and SACs identified under Section 3.2.4 are listed on the RPAs for Water Dependent Habitats (SPA) and Water Dependent Habitats (SAC).

Shellfish Production areas (as listed in the Irish Shellfish Regulations S.I.200/1994) are protected by virtue of their status as an area designated for the production of economically significant aquatic species. Protected areas within the County are illustrated on **Map 26**.

Recreational waters (bathing waters) are included in this Register, which contains all the areas listed in the Bathing Water Regulations.

3.5.9 Flooding

3.5.9.1 Causes of flooding

Flooding is an environmental phenomenon which, as well as causing economic and social impacts, could in certain circumstances pose a risk to human health. County Sligo is vulnerable to adverse effects which are exacerbated by changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events, high tides and associated flooding of the County's rivers. Local conditions, such as low-lying lands and inadequate surface water drainage, increase the risk of flooding. The risk of flooding has also been increased in the past by human actions such as the clearing of vegetation to make way for agriculture, draining of bog and wetland areas and the development of settlements in the flood plains of rivers.

Infrastructural development, culverting, forestry operations and all urban development in the floodplain present ongoing flooding hazards. Increased surface water run-off due to construction of new hard-surfaced areas is generally not as significant a problem as it was in the past in terms of its impact on peak flows, because of the implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).

3.5.9.2 EU Floods Directive

The European Communities (Assessment & Management of Flood Risks) Regulations 2010 (S.I. No. 122 of 2010) transpose into Irish law the European Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC). The Regulations, which make provision for the appointment of the Commissioner of Public Works as the competent authority under the Directive, require all public authorities and other organisations to take measures, appropriate to their functions, to promote or achieve implementation of the Directive. They set out a process for implementing flood risk management plans on a national basis and provide for greater public participation in the flood risk management process.

The OPW commenced a national CFRAM (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management) Programme in 2011, which comprises three main phases: Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment, the CFRAM Studies and the implementation and review of flood risk management plans. The preparation of the individual CFRAM reports is nearing completion. It is envisaged that implementation of the Floods Directive and the Water Framework Directive will be coordinated to promote integrated river basin management.

3.5.9.3 Flood Risk Management Guidelines

In November 2009, the DEHLG published *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*. These are aimed at ensuring a more consistent, rigorous and systematic approach which will fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system. Planning authorities are required to undertake flood risk identification, assessment and management processes as appropriate when preparing or varying development plans and local area plans and in consideration of applications for planning permission.

The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment undertaken in conjunction with the Draft Plan informed the SEA and resulted in the integration of a number of policies and objectives into the final Plan.

3.5.9.4 OPW's National Flood Hazard Mapping

Map 27 indicates the locations of the most significant flooding events in the Plan area up to 2006 (most recent available data) - accessible from the OPW's National Flood Hazard Mapping website. Flood events are recorded at various locations along the County's rivers.

The *Benefitting Land* data originates from maps prepared by the OPW to identify areas that would benefit from land drainage schemes, and typically indicate low-lying land near rivers and streams that might be expected to be prone to flooding. Benefitting lands are identified in the north of the County, near to Sligo City and Corbally. A large portion of the lands in the centre of the County are identified as Benefitting Lands, particularly along the River Moy and the Aileen River.

Drainage District and Land Commission maps are similar to the Benefitting Land Maps, but were prepared with respect to the Land Commission Embankments and Drainage District Works that predated the Arterial Drainage Schemes (1945). Drainage Districts can be found at various locations throughout the County. The only area in the County to be identified under the Land Commission is along the coast between Ballysadare and Beltra.

Map 28 identifies Drainage Districts, Benefitting Lands and Commissioned Lands. Further information on flooding in the County can be found in the accompanying Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

3.5.9.5 Future influences on flood risk

Large-scale changes in the County that could significantly influence flood risk and increase the magnitude and occurrence of flooding in the future may include:

- climate changes resulting in increased river flows and rising sea levels;
- large-scale land use changes, such as increased afforestation and drainage of upland wetlands;
- urban development increasing the speed and volume of run-off;
- changes to geo-morphological processes such as sediment transport, siltation and erosion.

3.5.10 Existing problems

The above sections identify a number of sensitivities with regard to the status of water bodies within County Sligo.

There are environmental problems in Sligo with regard to water quality, which have the potential for significant adverse impact upon human health, drinking water supplies, biodiversity and flora and fauna.

Water quality data identifies multiple points on rivers throughout County Sligo as being of Moderate, Poor or Bad Status.

Flooding has occurred at various locations within the County.

3.5.11 Evolution of Water in the absence of the Plan

Based on current data, certain surface and groundwater bodies are at a status less than *good*, which is the standard required. If growth is not accompanied by appropriate wastewater treatment capacity, then it is likely that:

- certain river and groundwater bodies will fail to meet the objectives of the WFD;
- significant adverse impacts upon the biodiversity and flora and fauna of the County could arise.

3.6 Material assets

3.6.1 Wastewater infrastructure

3.6.1.1 Relevant legislation

The treatment of wastewater is governed by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) transposed into Irish law by the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 (SI 254 of 2001). The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. The Regulations stipulate that sewage treatment facilities are in place in all towns by 2005. The treatment of wastewater is also relevant to the Water Framework Directive which requires all public bodies to coordinate their policies and operations so as to maintain the good status of water bodies which are currently unpolluted and bring polluted water bodies up to good status (see Section 3.5 Water).

In January 2014, control over the provision of water and wastewater services was transferred from Sligo County Council to Irish Water (IW). Irish Water is now responsible for the operation of public water and wastewater services, including:

- management of water and wastewater assets;
- maintenance of the water and wastewater system;
- investment and planning;
- managing capital projects.

Sligo County Council has committed to working closely with Irish Water to ensure that the provision of water and wastewater services is aligned with the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and will support future growth in the County.

The upgrading of the infrastructure will contribute towards compliance with the Water Framework Directive, EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive and Drinking Water Regulations, will help to maintain the quality of coastal waters and protect human health.

3.6.1.2 Current capacity, demand and envisaged upgrades

Table 3.5 shows information on wastewater treatment capacity and current loading in each of the designated settlements within the County. **Map 29** shows the location of WWTPs, Section 4 licenses and the sewer network in County Sligo.

Substantial spare capacity exists in the Sligo Main Drainage Scheme (22,000 PE)³ and in the Key Support Town of Enniscrone (2,396 PE), in the satellite villages of Ballysadare (2,093 PE) and Coolaney (997 PE), and in some villages such as Carney (1,846 PE) or Dromore West (1,308 PE).

Some spare capacity also exists in most villages served by wastewater treatment facilities, except for Ballinacarrow, Ballinafad and Castlebaldwin, where there is a degree of overloading.

The Key Support Towns of Ballymote and Tobercurry, together with the satellite villages of Collooney, Grange and Strandhill, are served by wastewater treatment plants which are severely overloaded.

The Irish Water Capital Investment Plan 2014-2016 includes upgrade proposals for the following plants: Ballinacarrow, Ballinafad, Ballymote, Collooney, Grange, Strandhill and Tobercurry.

Spare capacity at a wastewater treatment plant indicates that the plant is likely to be in conformance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

Plants operating over capacity are unlikely to be in conformance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive.

However, it is noted that there are many upgrades planned throughout the County.

Once completed, these upgrades will help to ensure that wastewater is treated to an appropriate standard and assist in meeting the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

³ Population equivalent (in wastewater monitoring and treatment) refers to the amount of oxygen demanding substances whose oxygen consumption during biodegradation equals the average oxygen demand of the waste water produced by one person. PE figures include waste waters from industrial sources, hotels, etc as well as domestic output.

Table 3.5 Wastewater treatment capacity, current loading and proposed upgrades at treatment plants serving settlements in County Sligo

Settlement (designation)	Design capacity (PE)	Load in 2016 (PE)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Remarks regarding planned works
Aclare (village)	750	259	491	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme, which is part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO bundle (operated by EPS)
Ballinacarrow (village)	250	302 (estimated 2016)	- 52	Upgrade works to provide a 450 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.
Ballinafad (village)	125	133 (estimated)	- 8	Upgrade works to provide a 400 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.
Ballincar (village)	refer to Rosses Point	refer to Rosses Point	refer to Rosses Point	
Ballintogher (village)	360	300 (estimated)	60	Elements of this plant may be advanced as part of the IW's MWP.
Ballymote (Key Support Town)	3,000	3,061 (estimated 2016)	- 61	Upgrade works to provide a 3,500 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.
Ballygawley (village)	no treatment plant	not applicable	n/a	No works are proposed by IW
Ballysadare (Gateway Satellite)	4,500	2,407 (2013)	2,093	An upgrade of the plant (treatment standard rather than capacity) may be included in the CIP 2017-2021. Part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO Bundle (operated by EPS)

Settlement (designation)	Design capacity (PE)	Load in 2016 (PE)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Remarks regarding planned works
Banada (village)	no treatment plant	not applicable	n/a	No works are proposed by IW
Bellaghy (urban area, joined to Charlestown)	1,200	1,356 (in 2009)	- 156 (in 2009)	No information available
Bunnannadden (village)	400	188	212	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Carney (village)	2,500	654	1,846	This plant is operated in a bundle (Response Group) together with Gorteen.
Castlebaldwin (village)	100	110 (estimated)	- 10	This Plant is not on any current or proposed IW CIP. There is a need to provide a compliant plant, possibly by converting the existing plant to a pumping station and pumping to a privately constructed plant in the village.
Cliffony (village)	800	703	97	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Cloonacool (village)	750	172	578	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme, which is part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO bundle (operated by EPS)
Collooney (Gateway Satellite)	1,400	2,564 (estimated 2016)	- 1,164	Upgrade works to provide a 3,100 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.

Settlement (designation)	Design capacity (PE)	Load in 2016 (PE)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Remarks regarding planned works
Coolaney (satellite village)	2,500	1,503	578	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme, which is part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO bundle (operated by EPS)
Culfadda (village)	150	110 (estimated)	40	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Curry (village)	400	194 (estimated)	206	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Dromore West (village)	2,500	1,192	1,308	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme, which is part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO bundle (operated by EPS).
Drumcliff (village)	150	150	0	This plant is not currently on the existing or proposed CIP. The plant is overloaded and needs to be reviewed.
Easky (village)	450	450	0	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme, which is part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO bundle (operated by EPS).
Enniscrone (Key Support Town)	5,000	2,604 (2014)	2,396	An upgrade of the plant (treatment standard rather than capacity) will be reviewed for potential inclusion in the CIP 2017–2021. The plant is part of the Enniscrone, Dromore West, Ballysadare, Coolaney, Easky, Aclare and Cloonacool DBO bundle (operated by EPS).

Settlement (designation)	Design capacity (PE)	Load in 2016 (PE)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Remarks regarding planned works
Geevagh (village)	250	221 (estimated)	29	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme, which is not on any existing or proposed CIP. The Plant needs to be reviewed.
Grange (Gateway Satellite)	280	733 (estimate 2016)	- 453	Upgrade works to provide a 900 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.
Gorteen (village)	2,500	1,023	1,477	This plant is operated in a bundle (Response Group) together with Carney.
Monasteraden (village)	400	110 (estimated)	290	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Mullaghmore (village)	320	Info. not available	Info. not available	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Riverstown (village)	600	357	243	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Rockfield (joined to Coolaney)	250	152 (estimated)	98	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Rosses Point (village) (Initial scheme was for Rosses Point / Ballincar / Cregg)	1,500	1,466 PE (2014)	34	Sligo County Council, in conjunction with Irish Water, is considering the options available for the provision of wastewater services for the area of Rosses Point and Cregg / Ballincar.

Settlement (designation)	Design capacity (PE)	Load in 2016 (PE)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Remarks regarding planned works
Sligo Main Drainage Scheme (Sligo Town)	50,000	22,000	28,000	No works are proposed by IW in relation to this scheme.
Strandhill (Gateway Satellite)	1,500	2,941 PE (estimated 2016)	- 1,441	Upgrade works to provide a 3,700 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.
Tobercurry (Key Support Town)	1,400	2,994 PE. (estimated 2016)	- 1,594	Upgrade works to provide a 3,500 PE plant are included in the IW Investment Plan for 2017-2021.
Tourlestrane (village)	no treatment plant	not applicable	n/a	No works are proposed by IW

3.6.2 Drinking water

3.6.2.1 Drinking water quality

Drinking water must be clean and wholesome. That means it must meet the relevant water quality standards and must not contain any other substance or micro-organism in concentrations or numbers that constitute a potential danger to human health.

Compliance with the drinking water requirements is determined by comparing the results of analyses submitted by water suppliers to the standard for 48 parameters specified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007. To ensure that these standards are met, each water supply must be monitored on a regular basis.

Under Section 58 of the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992, the EPA is required to collect and verify monitoring results for all water supplies in Ireland covered by the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations, 2000.

The EPA publishes their results in annual reports which include Remedial Action Lists (RALs). The RAL identifies water supplies which are not in compliance with the Regulations mentioned above.

There are three public water supplies in Sligo on the EPA's Remedial Action List for Q1 2016 – see **Table 3.6**.

Table 3.6 Public water supplies on the EPA’s Remedial Action List for Q1 2016

Name of water supply scheme	Population served	Volume supplied	RAL heading	Proposed action programme	Interim measures proposed	Date of completion
Lough Talt Regional Water Supply	11,376	7,799	Inadequate treatment for Cryptosporidium	New water treatment plant to be constructed	Installation of UV treatment	December 2018
Lough Gill Regional Water Supply	13,668	4,970	Elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations	Abandon Cairns Hill WTP and replace with the Foxes Den WTP	none	December 2016
South Sligo Regional Water Supply	1,403	1,155	Elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations	Upgrade of water treatment plant (See North Roscommon)	none	June 2017

The Lough Gill Regional Water Supply and the South Sligo Regional Water Supply are listed for having elevated levels of THMs above the standard in the Drinking Water Regulations.

THM compounds are undesirable in drinking water for two reasons. Firstly, the actual compounds themselves may pose a hazard to the health of the consumer if present in excessive amounts, as chloroform is a suspected carcinogen.

Secondly, the presence of the THM group may be an indicator of the possible presence of other organic by-products of chlorination in trace amounts. The WHO advises that “In controlling trihalomethanes, a multistep treatment system should be used to reduce organic trihalomethane precursors, and primary consideration should be given to ensuring that disinfection is never compromised”.

Lough Talt Regional Water Supply is listed for inadequate treatment for Cryptosporidium. Cryptosporidium is a protozoal parasite that causes a diarrhoeal illness in humans, known as cryptosporidiosis.

Both humans and animals serve as potential reservoirs and there are multiple routes of transmission. The consumption of contaminated water is regarded as being an important transmission route.

3.6.2.2 Status of water supply in Sligo

Relevant available information on drinking water infrastructure supply and demand was compiled for each of the designated settlements within the County and is provided in this section. It is noted that this information is imperfect, but is the best available at this time. Water abstraction points, treatment works and supply networks are identified on **Map 30**.

The Sligo & Environs Water Supply Scheme incorporates Carns Hill, Foxes Den and Kilsellagh water treatment plants.

Capacity at these plants stands at 5,400 m³/day, 11,000m³/day and 8,000 m³/day, giving a total of 24,400 m³/day. The total current average daily production is 15,096 m³/day, leaving a spare capacity of 1,450m m³/day.

The Cairns Hill plant is proposed to be decommissioned in conjunction with a capacity upgrade of 550 m³/day at the Foxes Den water treatment plant.

Water treatment works at Lough Easky, Lough Talt, South Sligo and Riverstown are operating at or below capacity.

The water treatment includes clarification, rapid gravity filtration, micro-straining, ozonization, chlorination and fluoridation.

Table 3.7 shows available information on water supply and demand at water treatment plants in the County.

Notes regarding Table 3.7

The **2016 (Draft Plan stage) population estimate** was determined as follows:

- for Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry – the 2011 census figure;
- for the villages – the highest figure of the following three: the 2011 Census figure, the 2010 estimate and the 2015 estimate. The 2010 and 2015 estimates were based on the number of houses surveyed and considered occupied, using an average household size of 2.6 persons.

The **potential additional population for the villages** was calculated on the basis of the amount of greenfield lands zoned for residential and mixed uses, an average density of 12 dwellings per hectare and an average household size of 2.5 persons, **PLUS** the potential population resulting from a full occupancy of houses that were surveyed by Council planners and found vacant in 2015, using the same household size of 2.5 persons.

The **potential additional population for Ballymote, Tobercurry and Enniscrone** was calculated on the basis of the amount of greenfield lands zoned for residential use in the respective LAPs (Draft LAP in the case of Tobercurry), an average density of 18 dwellings per hectare and an average household size of 2.5 persons.

The **estimated additional demand** (m³/day) is only for settlements and does not include any rural development within the respective water supply zones. A figure of 180 litres per person per day has been used to calculate additional demand, the same volume as that used in the Environmental Report associated with the Sligo CDP 2011-2017.

Table 3.7 Drinking water supply and demand in County Sligo's towns and villages

Scheme	Serving settlements	Current population estimate	Current 24-h production capacity (m ³ /day)	Current average daily production (m ³ /day)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Envisaged capacity at the end of the Plan's lifespan	Potential additional growth during the Plan period (persons)	Potential additional demand for settlements (m ³ /day)
Carns Hill Water Supply Scheme (to be decommissioned)	Ballintogher	313	5,400 m ³ /day	3,000 m ³ /day	2,400 m ³ /day	2,400 m ³ /day	113	1637 x 0.18 = 294 m ³ /day
	Ballygawley	321					8	
	Ballysadare	1,472					593	
	Collooney	1,838					392	
	Ransboro	107					75	
	Strandhill	1,771					456	
	Sligo City	(see below)					-	
	total (w/o Sligo)	5,882					1637	
Kilsellagh Water Supply Scheme	Ballincar	235	8,000 m ³ /day	5,096 m ³ /day	2,904 m ³ /day	8,000 m ³ /day	151	400 x 0.18 = 72 m ³ /day
	Rosses Point	949					249	
	Sligo City	(see above)					-	
	total (w/o Sligo)	1,184					400	

Scheme	Serving settlements	Current population estimate	Current 24-h production capacity (m ³ /day)	Current average daily production (m ³ /day)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Envisaged capacity at the end of the Plan's lifespan	Potential additional growth during the Plan period (persons)	Potential additional demand for settlements (m ³ /day)
Foxes Den Water Supply Scheme	Sligo City	19,452	11,000 m ³ /day	Present abstraction 7,000 m ³ /day. Following the decommissioning of the Cairns Hill WTP, this will increase to circa 10,000 m ³ /day	4,000 m ³ /day	11,000 m ³ /day	2,500	2,500 x 0.18 = 450 m³/day
Lough Easky Regional Scheme	Domore West Easky Enniscrone TOTAL	283 429 1,223 1,935	4,400 m ³ /day	2,800 m ³ /day	1,600 m ³ /day	4,400 m ³ /day	617 268 630 1,515	1,515 x 0.18 = 272 m³/day

Scheme	Serving settlements	Current population estimate	Current 24-h production capacity (m ³ /day)	Current average daily production (m ³ /day)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Envisaged capacity at the end of the Plan's lifespan	Potential additional growth during the Plan period (persons)	Potential additional demand for settlements (m ³ /day)
Lough Talt Regional Scheme	Aclare	101	10,000 m ³ /day	7,500 m ³ /day	2,500 m ³ /day	10,000 m ³ /day	150	2,946 x 0.18 = 530 m³/day
	Ballinacarrow	187					101	
	Ballymote	1,539					945	
	Banada	54					20	
	Bellaghy	159					184	
	Bunnannadden	143					186	
	Cloonacool	114					50	
	Coolaney	1,230					203	
	Curry	96					74	
	Tobercurry	1,747					990	
	Tourlestrane	68					43	
	TOTAL	5,438					2,946	

Scheme	Serving settlements	Current population estimate	Current 24-h production capacity (m ³ /day)	Current average daily production (m ³ /day)	Current spare capacity or shortfall	Envisaged capacity at the end of the Plan's lifespan	Potential additional growth during the Plan period (persons)	Potential additional demand for settlements (m ³ /day)
North Sligo Regional Scheme	Carney	390					347	
	Cliffony	483					92	
	Grange	578	3,000 m ³ /day	2,000 m ³ /day	1,000 m ³ /day	3,000 m ³ /day	275	1,064 x 0.18 =
	Mullaghmore	270					350	191 m³/day
	TOTAL	1,721					1,064	
South Sligo Regional Scheme	Gorteen	578					472	
	Monasteraden	61	1,000 m ³ /day	1,000 m ³ /day	none	1,000 m ³ /day	38	510 x 0.18 = 92
	TOTAL	639					510	m³/day
Riverstown Regional Scheme	Riverstown	437	640 m ³ /day	350 m ³ /day	290 m ³ /day	640 m ³ /day	135	135 x 0.18 = 24 m ³ /day

3.6.3 Waste infrastructure

There are no landfills currently in use in Sligo. The refuse collection service is privatised and as such, the decision as to where waste arising in the County is sent is up to the individual waste collection companies. At present, refuse is transported to Ballaghadereen Landfill, Co. Roscommon, Rathreen Landfill, Ballina, Co. Mayo, and Barna Waste, Carrowbrowne, Headford Road, Galway.

3.6.4 Transport infrastructure

Sligo City, Collooney and Ballymote are served by the Dublin-Sligo railway line. A number of bus services are in operation, with Bus Eireann providing Expressway Services, Local/Rural/Commuter and City/Town Services in the County. National roads crossing the County are the N-4, N-15, N-16, N-17 and N-59. The road network in the County is identified on **Map 31**.

3.6.5 Existing problems relating to material assets

It is the responsibility of Irish Water to meet the commitments under the Water Framework Directive (see Section 3.5.3). This could be compromised due to the shortfall in wastewater treatment capacity. Eight of the County's thirty-five wastewater treatment plants are operating at or over capacity.

The EPA publication *Urban Wastewater Treatment – A Report for the Year 2014* indicates that the wastewater treatment plants in Cliffony, Grange, Strandhill and Tobercurry failed compliance tests for BOD, COD and TSS, the reason for failure being given as “quality”. The same document shows that there is one large urban area non-compliant with the mandatory BOD, COD or nutrient standards set in the Directive and four urban areas with secondary treatment that did not meet all the standards in 2014.

In those parts of the County outside the catchment of the wastewater treatment network, developments use septic tanks to treat wastewater. On-site treatment systems which are not properly maintained have the potential to affect the environment.

The Plan includes measures which contribute towards solving the problems above relating to wastewater treatment and water supply. These measures are identified in Section 9.4 of this Report.

3.6.6 Evolution of material assets in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Development Plan, there would be no framework to provide the necessary infrastructure to serve existing and proposed development in the County, including wastewater treatment plants and sewer networks, water supply infrastructure, transport infrastructure, power lines etc.

Failure to provide sufficient infrastructure for development would be likely to result in significant adverse impacts on the environment. For example, failure to upgrade and provide new wastewater treatment infrastructure would be likely to adversely impact upon water quality. There would be indirect, but significant adverse impacts upon biodiversity, flora and fauna, drinking water supplies and human health.

3.7 Air, noise and climatic factors

3.7.1 Ambient air quality

Air quality is dependent on many factors, including local and national weather conditions as well as point and diffuse sources of air pollutants. In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives have established air quality standards for a wide variety of pollutants.

These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry and, in sufficient amounts, could affect the well-being of an area's inhabitants. The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles to this European approach are set out under the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996 as transposed into Irish law under the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 (Ambient Air Quality Assessment and Management) Regulations 1999 (SI No. 33 of 1999). These regulations have been regularly reviewed. In 2011, new regulations were introduced by the DECLG. The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 2011) make provisions necessary for the implementation of Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality. The Regulations provide for the maintenance of ambient air quality where it is good and the improvement of ambient air quality in other cases with respect to certain pollutants. The regulations also make provision for the establishment of limit values and alert thresholds for concentrations of certain pollutants in ambient air, provisions for monitoring and provision of information to the general public.

Under the regulations, the Environmental Protection Agency has been designated as the responsible authority for assessing air quality in the Republic of Ireland. The EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants detailed in schedules of the regulations including, Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Carbon Monoxide and Lead.

Four “daughter” Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants. The first two of these directives cover: sulphur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide and oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and lead; and, carbon monoxide and benzene. Two more daughter Directives deal with ozone, polyaromatic hydrocarbons, arsenic, nickel, cadmium and mercury in ambient air.

In order to comply with these directives, the EPA measures the levels of a number of atmospheric pollutants. For the purposes of monitoring in Ireland, four zones are defined in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011. The main areas defined in each zone are:

- Zone A: Dublin conurbation
- Zone B: Cork conurbation
- Zone C: 23 other cities and large towns (including Sligo Town)
- Zone D: Rural Ireland, i.e. the remainder of the State – small towns and rural areas of the country (excluding Zones A, B and C)

The Plan area falls into Zones C and D. There is only one air quality monitoring site in Sligo, located in the car park in front of the Regional Hospital. These zones are shown on **Map 32**, along with the location of the air quality monitoring point. The air quality index calculated by the EPA from these monitoring stations is categorised as good, fair, poor or very poor. The EPA report Air Quality in Ireland 2014: Key indicators of ambient Air Quality indicates that air quality monitoring for Zones C and D on the concentration of regulated pollutants is ‘good’.

3.7.2 IPPC licensed facilities

The EPA has been licensing certain large-scale industrial and agriculture activities since 1994. Originally the licensing system was known as Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licensing, governed by the Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1992. The Act was amended in 2003 by the Protection of the Environment Act, 2003 which gave effect to the Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) Directive. Detailed procedures concerning the IPPC licensing process are set out in the EPA Acts 1992 to 2013 and the associated licensing regulations.

IPPC licences aim to prevent or reduce emissions to air, water and land, reduce waste and use energy/resources efficiently. An IPPC license is a single integrated license which covers all emissions from the facility and its environmental management. All related operations that the license holder carries in connection with the activity are controlled by this license. Before a license is granted, the EPA must be satisfied that emissions from the activity do not cause a significant adverse environmental impact.

There are nine IPPC licensed facilities in County Sligo. These are identified on **Map 33** and detailed in the following table.

Table 3.8 IPPC licensed facilities in County Sligo (source: EPA)

Reg. Number	Name of Facility	Location	Class of Activity
P00-73-01	Cold Chon (Galway) Ltd	Deepwater Quay, Sligo	Manufacturing road products
P00-90-02	Elanco Ireland	Finisklin Industrial Estate, Sligo	Animal health
P02-69-02	Basta Parsons Ltd.	Tobercurry, Co. Sligo	Manufacturing
P03-53-01	Supershrone Ltd.	Hazelwood	Sawmill
P03-82-01	Antoine Kiernan	Carrowclushy, Ballymote, Co. Sligo	Piggery
P04-65-02	G. Bruss GmbH Dichtungstechnik	Rathedmond, Sligo	Manufacturing
P06-43-03	AbbVie Ireland NL B.V.	Ballytivnan, Sligo	Pharmaceuticals
P0828-01	Top Chem Pharmaceuticals Ltd.	Ballymote Business Park, Ballymote, Co.Sligo	Pharmaceuticals
P0135-01	Saehan Media (Irl) Ltd.	Hazelwood, Co. Sligo	Manufacturing

3.7.2.1 Coal restriction areas

The Initial Air Pollution Act, 1987 (Marketing, Sale and Distribution of Fuels) Regulations, 1990 introduced a ban on the marketing, sale and distribution of bituminous coal in sixteen towns and cities around the country (Dublin from 1990, Cork 1995, Arklow, Drogheda, Dundalk, Limerick and Wexford 1998, Celbridge, Galway, Leixlip, Naas and Waterford 2000, Bray, Kilkenny, Sligo and Tralee 2003). The origins of the coal bans date from the start of the 1990s when the main air quality problem facing Ireland was the occurrence of "winter smog" (smoke and sulphur dioxide emissions) resulting from widespread use of bituminous coal in major urban areas, notably Dublin, leading to serious health effects for people. Smoke and Sulphur Dioxide (SO₂) levels showed considerable improvement once the ban was introduced and it was decided in subsequent years to extend the ban further in order to achieve and preserve good air quality in the selected areas.

The Air Pollution Act (Marketing, Sale, Distribution and Burning of Specified Fuels) Regulations 2012 were issued by the DECLG in 2012. These Regulations revoke and replace, with some amendments, previous regulations issued during the period 1998 -2011. In County Sligo, the Regulations make further boundary revisions that enlarge existing specified areas. The Regulations introduce a ban on the residential burning of specified bituminous fuels in private dwellings in specified areas to complement the existing ban on the marketing sale and distribution. The Regulations are enforced by authorised local authority staff. **Map 34** shows the Coal Restriction Areas in County Sligo.

3.7.3 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. It can seriously harm human health and interfere with daily activities at school, at work, at home and during leisure time. Areas within the County which are commonly affected by noise are urban areas and areas along roadsides.

The European Council Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and its transposition into Irish law in the form of the Noise Regulations (2006) require that strategic maps be produced for sources of road, train, and airport noise above certain thresholds.

The only noise source which requires an action plan in County Sligo is road traffic noise.

Strategic noise mapping was undertaken in 2007 by the National Roads Authority for a 4.8-km section of the N-4 extending from just south of the Carrowroe roundabout to the N-4/N-15/N-16 junction north of Hughes Bridge (known as the Inner Relief Road). The results of this assessment were incorporated into the Noise Action Plan for County Sligo prepared by Sligo County Council in 2009.

The results were presented as maps and summary tables of statistics showing the estimated area, number of dwellings and people exposed to long-term road traffic noise within the area covered by the noise maps.

The Noise Action Plan proposed noise levels for the onset of this assessment of 70 dB Lden (level during the day, evening, night), and 57 dB Lnight. An initial assessment indicated that there was no exposure above the Lden threshold, and there was an exposure of up to an estimated 146 people above the Lnight threshold.

3.7.4 Climatic factors

3.7.4.1 Climate change and greenhouse gases

Climate change refers to any change in climate over time, whether due to natural variability or as a result of human activity.

The release of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere as a result of human activities adds to natural climate variability by increasing the naturally occurring greenhouse effect.

This greenhouse effect occurs in the atmosphere and is caused by greenhouse gases which exist naturally in the atmosphere.

The greenhouse gases retain the radiation which is released from the earth as a result of heating by the sun.

This retention maintains a global temperature which is suitable for ecosystems and life.

Climate change is not limited to changes in temperature or weather - it can also mean changes in the occurrence of extreme and unstable weather conditions, storms and floods, droughts and coastal erosion.

On 24 October 2014, the European Council approved the *2030 Framework for Climate and Energy*, proposed by the European Commission with the following objectives:

- a binding EU target of at least 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2030, compared to 1990;
- a binding target of at least 27% of renewable energy used at EU level;
- an energy efficiency increase of at least 27%, to be reviewed by 2020 having in mind an EU level of 30% for 2030;
- the completion of the internal energy market by reaching an electricity interconnection target of 15% between Members States and pushing forward important infrastructure projects.

For 2015, the EPA estimated the total national greenhouse gas emissions at 58.25 million tonnes CO₂ equivalent (greenhouse gases other than CO₂, i.e. methane, nitrous oxide and so-called F-gases), which was 0.5% lower than the emissions in 2013.

Agriculture remains the single largest contributor, at 33.1% of the total (19.29 million tonnes), followed by Transport at 19.5% (11.34 million tonnes), Energy at 19.1% (11.1 million tonnes), Industrial and Commercial sectors at 15.8%, Residential sector at 9.9% and Waste at 2.7%.

The most significant change in sectoral emissions was in the Residential sector, with a 10.1% decrease in emissions, mainly from decreased solid fuel consumption

Transport continues to be the dominant growth sector with emissions 2.5% higher in 2014 than in 2013.

3.7.4.2 Potential effects of changing climate

The EPA-commissioned Research Report (No. 159) *Ensemble of Regional Climate Model Projections for Ireland* (2015) indicates that by the middle of this century:

- Mean annual temperatures will increase by 1–1.6°C, with the largest increases seen in the east of the country.
- Hot days will get warmer by 0.7–2.6°C compared with the baseline period.
- Cold nights will get warmer by 1.1–3.1°C.
- Averaged over the whole country, the number of frost days is projected to decrease by over 50%.
- The average length of the growing season will increase by over 35 days per year.
- Significant decreases in rainfall during the spring and summer months are likely.
- Heavy rainfall events will increase in winter and autumn.
- The energy content of the wind is projected to decrease during spring, summer and autumn. The projected decreases are largest for summer, with values ranging from 3% to 15%.
- Storms affecting Ireland will decrease in frequency, but increase in intensity, with increased risk of damage.

3.7.5 Existing problems

Traffic hotspots within the County area are likely to have elevated levels of air pollution and noise due to traffic congestion, particularly when traffic is queuing for long periods of time. Transport-related emissions continue to be the dominant growth sector. The main effects of implementing the Plan on climatic factors relate to greenhouse gas emissions arising from transport. Localised air pollution incidences and noise pollution are both likely to occur when demolition and construction take place, especially if suppression techniques are not introduced.

Changes in sea level and/or changes in the occurrence of severe rainfall events as a result of climate change could adversely impact upon the County's inhabitants, its biodiversity and its economy (see also Section 3.5.9 Flooding).

3.7.6 Evolution of Air and Climatic Factors in the absence of the Plan

Increases in the use of cleaner fuels, better engine technology and maintenance are generally reducing the pollution emitted by motor vehicles. However, this reduction is probably offset by the growing number of cars. Increases in car numbers, as well as higher volumes and incidences of traffic congestion may lead to additional air and noise pollution in the future.

If new development occurs in the County in a dispersed pattern, adverse impacts upon air quality and noise levels, and resultant impacts upon human health, would be likely to arise if unmitigated. In the absence of the Plan, objectives relating to energy efficiency, renewable energy and a reduction in local transport-related emissions to air may not be realised. The Plan promotes development in urban areas which are close to existing and proposed high-quality public transport linkages. The population of such urban areas would be less dependent upon private modes for local transportation. As a consequence, there would be less transport-related greenhouse gas emissions.

3.8 Cultural heritage

3.8.1 Definition

Heritage, by definition, means inherited properties, inherited characteristics and anything transmitted by past ages and ancestors. It covers everything, from objects and buildings to the natural environment.

Cultural heritage includes physical buildings, structures and objects, complete or in part, which have been left on the landscape by previous and current generations.

Human interaction with the land is evident from the earliest of times up to the present in County Sligo, from agricultural landscapes to archaeological remains and growing settlements.

With over 6,500 known archaeological sites and monuments, County Sligo has one of the highest densities of archaeological remains in Ireland.

3.8.2 Archaeological heritage

3.8.2.1 Sites and monuments

Archaeology is the study of past societies through the material remains left by those societies and the evidence of their environment. Archaeological heritage consists of such material remains (whether in the form of sites and monuments or artefacts in the sense of moveable objects) and environmental evidence. As it can be used to gain knowledge and understanding of the past, archaeological heritage is of great cultural and scientific importance.

Archaeological sites and monuments vary greatly in form and date. Examples include earthworks of different types and periods (e.g. early historic ringforts and prehistoric burial mounds), megalithic tombs from the Prehistoric period, medieval buildings, urban archaeological deposits and underwater features.

Archaeological sites may have no visible surface features. The surface features of an archaeological site may have decayed completely or may have been deliberately removed, but archaeological deposits and features may survive beneath the surface.

The archaeological record includes megalithic sites, Fulachta Fiadh, Early Christian ecclesiastical sites, churches and graveyards, medieval buildings, castles, industrial archaeology sites and underwater sites such as wrecks.

3.8.2.2 Record of Monuments and Places

Sligo's archaeological heritage is protected under the National Monuments Acts (1930-2004), Natural Cultural Institutions Act 1997 and the Planning Acts. The Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) is an inventory, put on a statutory basis by amendment to the National Monuments Act 1994, of sites and areas of archaeological significance, which are numbered and mapped.

The term 'monument' includes all man-made structures of whatever form or date except buildings habitually used for ecclesiastical purposes. All monuments in existence before 1700 A.D. are automatically considered to be historic monuments within the meaning of the Acts.

There are a large number of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places within the County.

Associated with each Recorded Monument is a Zone of Archaeological Potential (ZAP) which in some cases may be quite extensive. Its associated ZAP indicates where archaeology is known to be present. For more complex and extensive archaeological sites, there is often potential for archaeology outside of the ZAP.

Sligo has a number of significant archaeological and historical landscapes, the most notable being the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill), Carrowkeel and Inishmurray.

The group of megalithic tombs at Carrowmore represents one of four major passage tomb cemeteries in Ireland. There are approximately 30 passage-tombs, which date from around 4000 BC or earlier, as suggested from excavations. This site formed an important ritual centre for the Stone Age inhabitants of the Cuil Irra (Knocknarea) peninsula and perhaps further afield.

Monuments of later periods, barrows (earthen burial mounds) and ringforts occur in the vicinity of the cemetery area with a number of isolated passage-tombs on the eastern edge of Sligo Town.

Map 35 shows the RMP for County Sligo.

3.8.3 Architectural heritage

3.8.3.1 Definition

The term architectural heritage is defined in the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments Act 1999 as follows: all structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings; groups of structures and buildings; and, sites which are of technical, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest.

Examples of note in the County include Lissadell House, Markree Castle, City Hall Sligo, the many bridges, shop and pub fronts and coastal structures including the Metal Man Beacon at Rosses Point.

3.8.3.2 Record of Protected Structures

The Record of Protected Structures (RPS) is legislated for under Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

Protected Structures are defined as structures, or parts of structures that are of special interest from an architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical point of view.

In relation to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the following are to be protected:

- the interior of the structure;
- the land lying within the curtilage of the structure;
- any other structures lying within that curtilage and their interiors; and,
- all fixtures and features which form part of the interior or exterior of any structure or structures referred to above.

Structures listed on the Record of Protected Structures are indicated on **Map 36**, which includes additions made upon the adoption of the CDP 2017-2023.

3.8.3.3 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) and established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999.

The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage.

NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister for the DAHRRGA to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Records of Protected Structures (RPS).

The spatial distribution of monuments listed on the NIAH is illustrated on **Map 37**. Clusters occur in Sligo City, Collooney, Ballysadare, Ballymote, Riverstown and Tobercurry.

3.8.4 Existing cultural heritage problems

Threats to cultural heritage might include the cumulative impact of large-scale development in the County, development which involves material alteration or additions to protected structures, brownfield development and development on sites adjoining protected monuments, places or structures.

3.8.5 Evolution of cultural heritage in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of the Plan, the evolution of cultural heritage would be dependent on developments which take place without guidance as to optimal location. Such developments would have no guidance as to optimal locations.

Planning applications would be assessed on an individual basis, with cultural heritage protected by national legislation relating to archaeological and architectural protection.

Beneficial impacts upon cultural heritage, which would be likely to arise as a result of the Plan provisions, would not necessarily occur in its absence.

3.9 Landscape

3.9.1 Definition

Landscape consists of all the visible features of an area of land, often considered in terms of their aesthetic appeal. Landscapes are made up of a number of layers:

- land form, which results from geological and geo-morphological history;
- land cover, which includes vegetation, water, human settlements;
- visible marks of historical, cultural, religious and other forms of interactions between humans and with land form or land cover.

Remarkable landscapes in County Sligo include Ben Bulbin (526 m), Truskmore (645 m), Knocknarea and the Ox Mountains.

Map 38 shows the 10-m contours in County Sligo.

3.9.2 Scenic Evaluation Study

CAAS, on behalf of Sligo County Council, prepared a Scenic Evaluation Study for the County in 1997.

The purpose of the study was to map the areas of County Sligo according to their capacity to absorb new development without disproportionately changing the distinctiveness and character of the overall landscape.

This resulted in a map that was the basis for the Landscape Characterisation Map, which formed part of the Sligo County Development Plan 1999-2004, CDP 2005-2011 and CDP 2011-2017.

The map has been slightly amended as part of successive development plan reviews. **Map 39** is the most recent version of the Landscape Characterisation Map.

The County Development Plan uses four main landscape classifications, as detailed below.

3.9.2.1 Normal Rural Landscapes

Areas with natural features (e.g. topography, vegetation) which have the capacity to absorb a wide range of new development forms – these are the main farming areas of the County.

3.9.2.2 Sensitive Rural Landscapes

These are areas that tend to be open in character, highly visible, with intrinsic scenic qualities and a low capacity to absorb new development – e.g. Knocknarea, the Dartry Mountains, the Ox Mountains, Aughris Head, Mullaghmore Head etc.

3.9.2.3 Visually Vulnerable Areas

These area distinctive and conspicuous natural features of significant beauty or interest, which have extremely low capacity to absorb new development – examples are the Ben Bulbin plateau, mountain and hill ridges, the areas adjoining Sligo’s coastline, most lakeshores etc.

3.9.2.4 Scenic Routes

In general, these are public roads passing through or close to Sensitive Rural Landscapes, or in the vicinity of Visually Vulnerable Areas, and affording unique scenic views of distinctive natural features or vast open landscapes. There are also several other roads also with intrinsic scenic qualities.

3.9.3 Cuil Irra Peninsula – heritage landscape

The Cuil Irra (Knocknarea) peninsula lies to the south-west of Sligo Town. Providing a focus at the centre of the peninsula is the megalithic cemetery at Carrowmore, which comprises an oval-shaped cluster of 30 monuments surrounding the centrally placed cairn of “Listoghil”.

To the west of the peninsula, and overlooking Carrowmore megalithic cemetery from the summit of Knocknarea Mountain, is the iconic flat-topped cairn known as Miosgán Meadhbha (Maeve’s Cairn).

To the east of Cuil Irra and again overlooking Carrowmore are two large cairns on the summit of Carns Hill. The cairns are comparable in size to Maeve’s Cairn on the summit of Knocknarea.

3.9.4 Existing landscape problems

Generalised landscape problems include the cumulative visual impact resulting from developments, particularly one-off houses.

Such developments, which individually often do not have adverse impacts, cumulatively have the potential to impact significantly upon sensitive landscapes.

This problem becomes acute in areas such as the coastal zone, around Lough Gill and in north County Sligo, where lands with views across water bodies or towards Ben Bulbin are much sought after and experience intense pressure for development.

3.9.5 Evolution of landscape in the absence of the Plan

In the absence of a Plan, development would be likely to occur on a one-off, dispersed basis. As outlined above, this could have significant cumulative impacts on the landscape.

Safeguarding the landscape resources would be possible to a limited degree, through the development management process.

3.10 Overlay mapping of environmental sensitivities

3.10.1 Methodology

In order to identify where most sensitivities within the County occur, a number of the environmental sensitivities described in previous sections were weighted and mapped overlapping each other. **Map 40** provides an overlay of environmental sensitivities in County Sligo.

Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from acute vulnerability (brown) extreme vulnerability (red) to high vulnerability (dark orange) to elevated vulnerability (light orange) to moderate vulnerability (yellow) to low vulnerability (green).

Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities, there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration.

A weighting system applied through Geographical Information System (GIS) software was used in order to calculate the vulnerability of all areas in the County.

Equal value is given to all environmental components (landscape, water, biodiversity etc.), with the following environmental sensitivity factors each attributed 5 points:

- ecological designations (candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas), Nature Reserves and Salmonid Rivers;
- heritage designations (entries to Records of Protected Structures, entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and entries to the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage);
- sites of geological importance;
- Sensitive Rural Areas, Scenic Routes and Visually Vulnerable Areas;
- entries to the Register of Protected Areas (RPA);
- areas at risk from flooding (historic events, benefitting lands and alluvial soils);
- surface waters and groundwater with poor or bad WFD status; and
- regionally and locally important aquifers which are highly or extremely vulnerable to pollution.
- CORINE sensitive land cover classes likely to be most valuable to biodiversity.

The sensitivity of each area of the County is determined by the number of sensitivity factors:

5 points correspond to one sensitivity factor;

10 points correspond to two sensitivity factors;

20 points correspond to four sensitivity factors and so on.

Table 3.9 Overall vulnerability classes

Score	Vulnerability class
0-5	Low
10-15	Medium
20-25	High
30-35	Extreme
40-45	Acute

Although there are limitations and elements of subjectivity to the overlaying of sensitivities, the overlay mapping was useful for identifying the areas where conflicts between development and environmental sensitivities would be likely to occur if unmitigated.

3.10.2 Conclusions

The largest area of extreme and acute vulnerability occurs in the north of the County, in the vicinity of Ben Bulbin. This can be attributed to designated sites, landscape vulnerability, geological heritage sites and waters listed on the RPA.

Areas between Kesh and Lough Arrow in the south-east of the County are also vulnerable due to the presence of Carrowkeel Megalithic Cemetery, waters listed on the RPA, the presence of SACs and SPAs, sites of geological importance, sensitive landscapes and aquifers of extreme vulnerability.

Geological heritage sites, designations, landscape vulnerabilities and waters listed on the RPA contribute towards the high and extreme sensitivity of areas around Ballinacorney, Tobercurry, Achonry, Ballygawley and around the Ox Mountains.

Some of the County's bays are of high vulnerability due to their ecological designation.

The CDP does not include any proposals for new development on greenfield lands in areas of high, extreme or acute vulnerability.

Section 4

Strategic Environmental Objectives

4.1 Definition

Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are methodological measures derived from environmental protection objectives established at national or international level (e.g. through EU Directives). SEOs are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated, in order to identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if unmitigated. A number of SEOs are linked to indicators, which can facilitate the monitoring of the environmental effects of implementing the Plan when adopted, as well as to targets that the Plan can help work towards.

The primary source used in formulating the SEOs was Table 4.B of the *SEA Guidelines* (DEHLG, 2004). This list has been amended to give effect to objectives that are considered relevant to this Plan. The use of SEOs, although not a statutory requirement, does fulfil obligations set out in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004).

4.2 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

4.2.1 International, European and national strategic actions

4.2.1.1 UN Convention on Biological Diversity 1992

The United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity 1992 (CBD) requires the promotion of the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

4.2.1.2 National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016

The preparation and implementation of Ireland's second *National Biodiversity Plan 2011-2016* (DAHG, 2011) complies with an obligation under the UN Convention on Biological Diversity. A third National Biodiversity Action Plan is currently in preparation.

The overall goal of the Plan is to secure the conservation, including where possible the enhancement and sustainable use of biological diversity in Ireland and to contribute to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity globally. Objectives following on from this goal are to:

- conserve habitat diversity, including all sites of special biodiversity importance;
- conserve species diversity;
- conserve genetic diversity, both wild and domesticated;
- contribute to the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and to advancing other obligations of the CBD in the EU, regionally and internationally.

4.2.1.3 Birds Directive 1979

The 1979 European Council Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds (79/409/EEC), referred to as the Birds Directive, seeks to protect, manage and regulate all bird species naturally living in the wild within the European territory of the Member States, including the eggs of these birds, their nests and their habitats, and to regulate the exploitation of these species.

Special Protection Areas (SPAs), given protection under the Directive, have been designated by the DAHRRGA due to their conservation value for birds of importance in the European Union.

4.2.1.4 Habitats Directive 1992

The European Council Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Fauna and Flora (92/43/EEC), referred to as the Habitats Directive, aims to ensure the conservation of certain natural habitats and species which are at favourable conservation status. Article 10 of the Habitats Directive recognises the importance of ecological networks as corridors and stepping stones for wildlife, including for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of species of flora and fauna.

The Directive requires that ecological connectivity and areas of ecological value outside the network of designated ecological sites are maintained. It recognises the need for the management of these areas through land-use planning and development policies.

The obligation to undertake Appropriate Assessment derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. Appropriate Assessment is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a plan or project, alone and in combination with other plans and projects, on the integrity of a Natura 2000 site in view of its conservation objectives.

The Habitats Directive seeks to establish Natura 2000, a network of protected areas throughout the EU. The network consists of all SACs and SPAs.

4.2.1.5 Wildlife Act 1976 and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000

The national designation for wildlife is the Natural Heritage Area (NHA). These areas cover nationally-important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geo-morphological features, wildlife plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. Under the Wildlife Amendment Act (2000), NHAs are legally protected from damage from the date they are formally proposed for designation. Proposed NHAs (pNHAs) were published on a non-statutory basis in 1995, but have not since been statutorily proposed or designated. A process is underway to resurvey and formally designate some pNHAs as NHAs.

Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection through:

- Forest Service requirement for NPWS approval before paying afforestation grants on pNHA lands; and/or
- recognition of the ecological value of pNHAs by planning and licensing authorities.

Statutory Nature Reserves are state-owned land, inland waters or foreshore areas forming the habitat of a species or community of flora and fauna of scientific interest or forming part of an ecosystem of scientific interest, which would benefit from protection measures, established under the Wildlife Act, 1976 and the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000. Statutory Nature Reserves are protected under Ministerial order.

4.2.1.6 Freshwater Fish Directive 1978

Salmonid Waters are designated and protected under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988 (SI No. 293 of 1988), which implemented the European Council Directive on the quality of fresh waters needing protection or improvement in order to support fish life (78/659/EEC), referred to as the European Freshwater Fish Directive, as amended and codified.

The objective of this designation type is the maintenance of water quality for salmon and trout freshwater species. Salmonid Water designation imposes an obligation to maintain specific water quality standards and control pollution.

The 1988 Regulations defined Salmonid Waters as being waters capable of supporting Salmon (*Salmo Salar*), Trout (*Salmo trutta*), Char (*Salvelinus*) and whitefish (*Coregonus*). By 1996, 22 rivers in Ireland were designated as Salmonid Waters. Designation of a river's main channel has occurred in 21 of these rivers with only one river (Moy River) being a catchment area.

The 1988 Regulations were superseded by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC, which expands the scope of water protection to all waters and sets clear objectives that good status must be achieved for all European waters, including Salmonid Waters, by 2015.

4.2.2 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO B1: To ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive.

Indicator B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.

Target B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.

SEO B2: To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.

Indicator B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.

Target B2: No significant macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat or parts thereof, which are important on a County level and which provide functional connectivity, to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.

SEO B3: To sustain existing 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.

Indicator B3: Population of the County involved in land management.

Target B3: Sustain the population of the County involved in land management.

Note:

The impact of implementing the Plan on aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna is also influenced by both impacts upon the quality of surface water bodies (which relates to SEO W1) and the provision of appropriate levels of wastewater treatment infrastructure (this relates to SEO M1).

4.3 Population and human health

4.3.1 Population

In order to promote sustainable development and allow for public transport systems to function more effectively, as directed by higher-level policy documents including the National Spatial Strategy, it is essential to consolidate the physical growth of settlements in County Sligo.

This can be achieved through the development or redevelopment of vacant, derelict and underutilised lands, in particular where they are close to public transport routes.

The DEHLG's *Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas Guidelines* (2008) recommend that planning authorities promote higher residential densities, particularly on brownfield sites and in proximity to town centres and public transport corridors.

The impacts of implementing the Development Plan on both the spatial distribution of population and the nature of development with regard to greenfield and brownfield development relates to **SEO P1**, which aims to maximise sustainable brownfield development and minimise greenfield development.

4.3.2 Human health

4.3.2.1 Impacts

The impact of implementing the Development Plan on human health is determined by the impacts which the Plan will have upon environmental vectors (e.g. air, water, soil). Such impacts would be influenced by:

- the extent to which new development is accompanied by appropriate infrastructure - this relates to SEOs M1 and M2;
- impacts upon the quality of water bodies - these relate to SEOs W1 and W2;
- the extent of development provided by the Plan which would increase flood risk - this relates to SEO W3;
- the effects on human beings of the noise generated by the land uses provided for by the Plan.

4.3.2.2 Emission limits

Emission limits for discharges to air, soil and water are set with regards to internationally recognised exposure limit values. These are generally set to be lower than the safe exposure limit, in order to provide protection.

In the event that a land-use plan began to have adverse health effects on surrounding populations, it is likely that it would have been identified as being in breach of such emission standards at a very early stage, long before the manifestation of any adverse health effects in the population.

Nonetheless, for the sake of consistency with the requirements of the SEA Regulations, this section includes an objective, indicator and target for human health.

4.3.3 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed for the environmental components of *population and human health*.

SEO P1: Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands.

Indicator P1: Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan.

Target P1: Reduced availability of brownfield land (subject to availability on the open market, the demand for such land and the ability for such lands to be sustainably re-used) at the end of the Development Plan lifespan.

SEO HH1: To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses.

Indicator HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency.

Target HH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.

4.4 Soil

4.4.1 Protection of soil

Soil is potentially threatened by erosion, decline in organic matter, local and diffuse contamination, sealing, compaction, decline in biodiversity, salinisation, floods and landslides.

The EU Thematic Strategy on the protection of soil included a proposal for a Soil Framework Directive (subsequently withdrawn in 2014), which would have ensured the protection of soil, based on the principles of preservation of soil functions, prevention of soil degradation, mitigation of its effects, restoration of degraded soils and integration into other sectoral policies by establishing a common framework and actions.

The Seventh Environment Action Programme, which entered into force on 17 January 2014, provides for sustainable land management in the EU Member States, soil protection, the remediation of contaminated sites, reduced soil erosion and an increase in soil organic matter.

Soil should be used in a sustainable manner which preserves its capacity to deliver ecological, economic and social services, while maintaining its functions so that future generations can meet their needs.

4.4.2 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The formulation of SEO P1, relating to the protection of soil from pollution or contamination, has taken into account the above policy context.

SEO S1: To prevent pollution and contamination of soil

Indicator S1: Number of instances of pollution and contamination of soil

Target S1: No significant instances of pollution and contamination

4.5 Water

4.5.1 The Water Framework Directive 2000

Since 2000, Water Management in the EU has been directed by the Water Framework Directive 2000/60/EC (WFD). The WFD has been transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (SI No. 722 of 2003). The WFD requires that all member states implement the necessary measures to prevent deterioration of the status of all waters – surface, ground, estuarine and coastal – and protect, enhance and restore all waters with the aim of achieving good status by 2015.

4.5.2 Quality standards for surface waters

The European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) institute a wide-ranging set of environmental standards for Irish surface waters. The Groundwater Regulations establish environmental objectives to be achieved in groundwater bodies and include groundwater quality standards and threshold values for the classification of groundwater and the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration in groundwater quality.

The Surface Waters Regulations apply to all surface waters – including lakes, rivers, canals, transitional waters, and coastal waters – and provide, inter alia, for:

- the establishment of legally-binding quality objectives for all surface waters and environmental quality standards for pollutants;
- the examination and, where appropriate, review of existing discharge authorizations by public authorities to ensure that the emission limits laid down in authorisations support compliance with the new water quality objectives/standards;
- the classification of surface water bodies by the EPA for the purposes of the Water Framework Directive;
- the establishment of inventories of priority substances by the EPA, and
- the drawing up of pollution reduction plans by coordinating local authorities (in consultation with the EPA) to reduce pollution by priority substances and to cease or phase out discharges, emissions or losses of priority hazardous substances.

In addition, the Regulations require that a public authority shall not, in the performance of its functions, undertake those functions in a manner that knowingly causes or allows deterioration in the chemical status or ecological status (or ecological potential as the case may be) of a body of surface water.

In order to satisfy the overall WFD objective of ‘good status’, a surface water body must achieve the requirements of the good ecological and chemical status.

Ecological status comprises: biological quality elements, physiochemical conditions and hydro-morphological quality elements. The overall ecological status of the water body is determined by the lowest level of status achieved across all quality elements. Chemical status assessment is based on compliance with the standards laid down for priority substances by Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards in the field of water policy (the Surface Waters Regulations give effect to the environmental standards established by this Directive).

4.5.3 Quality standards and threshold values for groundwater

Detailed provisions to achieve the aims of the WFD for groundwater have been presented in a Groundwater ‘Daughter’ Directive (Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration). This Directive sets up environmental objectives of good groundwater quantitative and chemical status.

The WFD requires that threshold values are established by Member States for all pollutants and indicators of pollution which characterise groundwater bodies classified as being at risk of failing to achieve good groundwater chemical status under the WFD.

Threshold values are required to be established in a way that, should the monitoring results at a representative monitoring point exceed the thresholds, will indicate a risk that one or more of the conditions for good groundwater chemical status – with regard to the ability of groundwater to support human uses and with regard to waters used for the abstraction of drinking water - are not being met.

Article 3 of the 2006 Daughter Directive requires that the assessment of the chemical status of groundwater use both quality standards identified in Annex I of the Directive and threshold values to be set by individual member states.

Groundwater quality standards are environmental quality standards expressed as the concentration of a particular pollutant, group of pollutants or indicator of pollution in groundwater, which should not be exceeded in order to protect human health and the standards for two pollutants:

- Nitrates - 50mg/l
- Active substances in pesticides, including their relevant metabolites, degradation and reaction products - 0,1 µg/l and 0,5 µg/l (total).

‘Pesticides’ means plant protection products and biocidal products as defined in Article 2 of Directive 91/414/EEC and in Article 2 of Directive 98/8/EC, respectively.

‘Total’ means the sum of all individual pesticides detected and quantified in the monitoring

Irish groundwater threshold values are included in the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations 2010 (SI No. 9 of 2010).

4.5.4 Bathing water

EU mandatory and guide levels are set out for bathing waters in the 1976 Bathing Water Directive (Directive 76/160/EEC), which was implemented in Ireland by the Quality of Bathing Water Regulations 1992 (SI No. 155 of 1992). The purpose of the Bathing Water Regulations is the protection of human health, local authorities.

The Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC), which entered into force in March 2008, seeks to preserve, protect and improve the quality of the environment and protect human health by complementing the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). The 2006 Bathing Water Directive is implemented by the Bathing Water Quality Regulations 2008 (SI No. 79) of 2008.

The 2006 Directive established a classification system for bathing water quality based on four classifications, ‘poor’, ‘sufficient’, ‘good’ and ‘excellent’, and generally requires that a classification of ‘sufficient’ be achieved by 2015 for all bathing waters.

This classification system is related to EU guide and mandatory standards specified in the 1976 EU Bathing Water Directive (76/160/EEC) by the EPA.

Mandatory values are values which must be observed if the bathing area is to be deemed compliant with the Directive. The ‘good’ classification is related to compliance with guide and mandatory values, the ‘sufficient’ classification is related to compliance with the mandatory values only, whereas the ‘poor’ classification is non-compliance with mandatory values.

Compliance with guide values exceeds guidance with mandatory values and can be regarded as quality objectives which bathing sites should endeavour to achieve.

4.5.5 Flooding

4.5.5.1 EU Floods Directive

European Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks aims to reduce and manage the risks that floods pose to human health, the environment, cultural heritage and economic activity. The Directive applies to inland waters as well as all coastal waters across the whole territory of the EU. The Directive is to be implemented in conjunction with the Water Framework Directive and flood risk management plans and river basin management plans should be coordinated.

The Directive required Member States to carry out a preliminary assessment by 2011 in order to identify the river basins and associated coastal areas at risk of flooding. For such zones, flood risk maps were required to be drawn up by 2013. Flood risk management plans, focused on prevention, protection and preparedness were required to be established by 2015.

The statutory public consultation on the draft *Flood Risk Management Plans* commenced in July 2016. The FRMPs are expected to be finalised by the end of 2016.

4.5.5.2 DEHLG Flood Risk Management Guidelines

In November 2009, the DEHLG issued *The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, aimed at ensuring a more consistent, rigorous and systematic approach which will fully incorporate flood risk assessment and management into the planning system.

The Guidelines have the following recommendations for planning authorities:

- to avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, particularly flood plains, unless there are proven sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where flood risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level, without increasing flood risk elsewhere;
- to adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management when assessing the location for new development based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risk; and,
- to incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.

4.5.5.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

The County Development Plan is accompanied by a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), which has been undertaken by the Council in accordance with the requirements and recommendations of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.

4.5.6 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO W1: To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters

Indicator W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)

Target W1i: To achieve ‘good status’ in all bodies of surface waters by 2015 and to not knowingly allow deterioration in the status of any surface water

Indicator W1ii: Mandatory and guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)

Target W1ii: To achieve – as a minimum– mandatory values and, where possible, to achieve guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)

SEO W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater

Indicator W2: Groundwater quality standards and threshold values under Directive 2006/118/EC

Target W2: Compliance with groundwater quality standards and threshold values under Directive 2006/118/EC

SEO W3: To comply with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2009)

Indicator W3: Number of developments granted permission on lands where a significant flood risk has been identified.

Target W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands where a significant flood risk has been identified, in compliance with the *Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities*.

4.6 Material assets

4.6.1 Water Services Act 2013

The Water Services Act 2013 established Irish Water as a subsidiary of Bord Gáis Éireann. The Act provides the Commission for Energy Regulation with a function to advise the government in relation to the development of policy regarding the regulation of the provision of water services.

Irish Water is expected to produce and implement multi-annual Capital Investment Plans (CIP) which will synchronise with River Basin Management Plan (RBMP) cycles. The six-year CIPs are to be guided by a 25-year Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP), which must set strategic objectives for Irish Water and address capacity deficits. The WSSP strategic objectives must also take into account demographic and economic trends.

4.6.2 Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive 2001

The treatment of wastewater is governed by the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC) (amended by Directive 98/15/EEC) transposed into Irish law by the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations 2001 (SI No. 254 of 2001). The Directive aims to protect the environment from the adverse effects of the wastewater discharges by ensuring that wastewater is appropriately treated before it is discharged to the environment. The Regulations stipulated that sewage treatment facilities were to be in place in all towns by 2005.

Appropriate treatment is essential in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.

4.6.3 Drinking Water Regulations 2007

The environmental baseline with regard to drinking water demand and supply is identified in Section 3 of this Report. Measures have been integrated into the County Development Plan to help ensure a clean and wholesome water supply.

The European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 require the compliance of water intended for human consumption with 48 parameters.

4.6.4 SEOs, Indicators and Target

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO M1: To serve new development with adequate wastewater treatment.

Indicator M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan.

Target M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan

SEO M2:	<u>To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean</u>
Indicator M2:	Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health, as a result of implementing the Plan.
Target M2:	Absence of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health, as a result of implementing the Plan.

4.7 Air and climatic factors

4.7.1 Impacts

The impact of implementing the Plan on air quality and climatic factors will be determined by the impacts which the Plan has upon greenhouse gas emissions arising from the traffic levels to which SEO C1 relates.

Road transport is the source of most noise and emissions to air. It also uses large amounts of energy. Although transport primary energy use had fallen in Ireland by 28% between 2007 and 2012, Transport remains the largest energy-consuming sector with a 35% share of primary energy in 2014 (according to SEAI's *Energy in Ireland – Key Statistics 2015*).

Land-use planning contributes to the number and length of journeys. By addressing journey length through land-use planning, noise, energy consumption and emissions to air can be minimised.

Furthermore, by concentrating populations, greenfield development and its associated impacts can be minimised, and the cost of service provision can be reduced.

4.7.2 Air quality

In order to protect human health, vegetation and ecosystems, EU Directives set down air quality standards in EU Member States for a wide variety of pollutants.

These pollutants are generated through fuel combustion, in space heating, traffic, electricity generation and industry. Above certain levels, such pollutants could affect the well-being of the County's inhabitants.

The EU Directives include details regarding how ambient air quality should be monitored, assessed and managed.

The principles of this European approach are set out in the Air Quality Framework Directive 1996, while four daughter Directives lay down limits or thresholds for specific pollutants.

4.7.3 Climatic factors

Ireland's commitment to the Kyoto Protocol, which is an international, legally-binding agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is to limit the growth in annual emissions to 13% above 1990 levels by the period 2008 to 2012.

There is a European target of a 20% reduction in GHG emissions compared to 2005 levels by 2020, which has also been adopted by the Irish government.

The renewed programme for government published in October 2009 stated a target of 3% annual average reduction in GHG emissions.

In 2014, the European Council approved a Framework for Climate and Energy, which sets specific objectives to be met by 2030, including a binding EU target of at least 40% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, compared to 1990.

4.7.4 Noise

Noise is unwanted sound. The European Council Environmental Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and its transposition into Irish law in the form of the Noise Regulations (2006) require that strategic maps be produced for sources of road, train, and airport noise above certain thresholds.

The Directive does not set limit value and does not prescribe measures to be used. These remain at the discretion of the competent authorities.

The Noise Action Plan for County Sligo prepared by Sligo County Council in 2009 included maps and specified noise levels (refer to Section 3.7.3).

4.7.5 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEO, Indicator and Target has been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO C1: To reduce travel-related emissions to air and encourage sustainable forms of transport.

Indicator C1: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-motorised means.

Target C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-motorised means

4.8 Cultural heritage

4.8.1 Archaeological heritage

4.8.1.1 Valletta Convention 1992

The European Convention on Protection of the Archaeological Heritage is known as the Valletta Convention of 1992. This was ratified by Ireland in 1997 and requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.

4.8.1.2 National Heritage Plan for Ireland 2002

The core objective of the National Heritage Plan for Ireland (DAHG 2002) is to protect Ireland's heritage. In this regard, the polluter pays and the precautionary principle are operable.

4.8.1.3 National Monuments Acts

Archaeology in Ireland is protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930 to 2004. Recorded monuments are protected by inclusion on the list and marked on the map which comprises the Record of Monuments and Places, set out by county, under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994 by the Archaeological Survey of Ireland.

The definition includes Zones of Archaeological Potential (ZAPs) in towns and all other monuments of archaeological interest which have so far been identified. Any works at or in relation to a recorded monument requires two months' notice to the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs (DAHRRGA) under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994.

Direct impacts on National Monuments in State or Local Authority care, or subject to a preservation order, require the consent of the Minister for DAHRRGA under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930, as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.

4.8.2 Architectural heritage

4.8.2.1 Planning and Development Act 2000

Records of Protected Structures (RPS) are legislated for under Section 51 of the Planning and Development Act 2000. The Records include structures which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest.

4.8.2.2 Architectural Heritage and Historic Monuments Act 1999

The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the DEHLG, which was established on a statutory basis under the provisions of the Architectural Heritage (National Inventory) and Historic Monuments (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1999. Its purpose is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently, as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. The NIAH provides the basis for the inclusion of particular structures in local authorities' Records of Protected Structures.

4.8.3 SEOs, Indicators and Targets

The following SEOs, Indicators and Targets have been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the above strategic actions and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO CH1: To protect the archaeological heritage of the County including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context

Indicator CH1: Percentage of protected entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including Zones of Archaeological Potential, and their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)

Target CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including Zones of Archaeological Potential, and their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant

SEO CH2: To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the County's architectural heritage

Indicator CH2i: Percentage of protected entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)

Indicator CH2ii: Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs

Target CH2i: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)

Target CH2ii: Add entries to the Record of Protected Structures and make additional ACAs, where appropriate

4.9 Landscape

The County's landscapes, in particular landscapes which are most vulnerable and sensitive to change, are protected through policies contained in the County Development Plan 2017-2023.

Ireland signed and ratified the European Landscape Convention (2000) in 2002 with the Convention entering into force in Ireland in 2004.

4.9.1 The European Landscape Convention (ELC) (2000)

The most significant policy development regarding landscape character and its assessment and protection has been the adoption of the European Landscape Convention in 2000 (ratified by Ireland in 2002).

The Convention potentially requires that signatories must first recognise landscapes in law and establish policies aimed at their protection, management and planning. The Convention defines “landscape” as an area, as perceived by people, whose character is the result of the action and interaction of natural and human factors. The definition applies to all landscapes – rural, urban, peri-urban or degraded – and to all scales of landscape.

The aims of the Convention include: to conserve and maintain the significant or characteristic features of a landscape, justified by its heritage value derived from its natural configuration or from human activity; to harmonise changes in the landscape which are brought about by social, economic and environmental processes; and to enhance landscapes.

4.9.2 National Landscape Strategy for Ireland 2015-2025

Ireland signed and ratified the Council of Europe’s European Landscape Convention (ELC) which came into effect on 1 March 2004. The Convention has been ratified by thirty-eight countries. It obliges Ireland to implement policy changes and objectives concerning the management, protection and planning of the landscape. The National Landscape Strategy will be used to ensure compliance with the ELC and to establish principles for protecting and enhancing it while positively managing its change. It is a high-level policy framework to achieve balance between the protection, management and planning of the landscape by way of supporting actions. A key objective of the strategy is the integration of landscape into our approach to sustainable development.

4.9.3 SEO, Indicator and Target

The following SEO, Indicator and Target has been identified and developed with regard to the objectives of the strategic actions mentioned above and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

SEO L1:	<u>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 scenic routes.</u>
Indicator L1:	Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development granted permission under the Plan.
Target L1:	No avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development granted permission under the Plan.

Section 5

Context and description of the Plan

5.1 Legislative context

Under Section 9 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, every planning authority must make a development plan, setting the framework for all future development in the planning authority's area for the stated period, for the whole functional area of the authority, every six years.

The Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023 (CDP) sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Sligo, in accordance with the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

As a result of the implementation of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 and consequent abolition of Sligo Borough Council, Sligo County Council has extended its jurisdiction over the Sligo and Environs area, for which two development plans were previously prepared jointly by the two planning authorities (in 2004 and in 2010).

The CDP presents the Council's outlook for the future development of County Sligo for the period up to 2023, within a long-term perspective.

5.2 Alternatives

Sections 6 and 7 of this report identify, describe and evaluate alternative development scenarios for the Plan, taking into account the SEOs identified in Section 4.

The evaluation of the alternatives results in the identification of potential environmental effects.

These environmental effects are considered alongside planning, social and economic effects, leading to the selection of a preferred alternative.

5.3 Structure and brief description of the Plan

5.3.1 Structure of the Sligo County Development Plan 2017-2023

The CDP consists of a written statement and a set of maps, as required by legislation. The Plan is structured in two volumes, with the following contents:

Volume 1 – Main written statement (contains strategic and general policies and objectives)

Chapter 1 – County Sligo today: the planning issues

Chapter 2 – Strategic Environmental Assessment

Chapter 3 – Core Strategy

Chapter 4 – Economic development

Chapter 5 – Housing

Chapter 6 – Community facilities

Chapter 7 – Heritage

Chapter 8 – Transport and mobility

Chapter 9 – Environmental infrastructure

Chapter 10 – Environmental quality

Chapter 11 – Energy and telecommunications

Chapter 12 – Town and village design

Chapter 13 – Development management standards

Appendices

Volume 2 – Mini-plans (contains general policies, specific objectives zoning and other maps for thirty-two villages)

Chapter 1 – Mini-plans: general policies

Chapters 2 to 33 – Mini-plans: text and maps

5.3.2 Brief description of the Plan

The County Development Plan 2017–2023 sets out the strategic framework for sustainable development in the County, in spatial, social, economic and environmental terms.

The Plan builds on the review of the Sligo CDP 2011-2017, taking into account recent changes as well as national, regional and local policy developments. The Core Strategy of the CDP is consistent with the provisions of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and Border Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs).

In accordance with these higher-level planning frameworks, the Core Strategy prioritises growth in the City of Sligo and consolidation of the County’s main towns, while seeking to support rural areas mainly by strengthening a range of villages throughout the County.

Census 2016 showed that the overall population of County Sligo, at 65,535 persons, has remained almost at the same level as in 2011, when there were 65,393 inhabitants in the County.

The lack of growth was clearly reflected in the lack of residential development on zoned land in the County’s towns and villages.

Having anticipated this stagnation, the CDP 2017-2023 retains the Core Strategy of the CDP 2011-2017, with very little change in the zoning and development objectives for the 32 villages subject to mini-plans (included in Volume 2 of the CDP).

The strategic and general policies contained in Chapters 4 to 11 of the CDP have been updated in line with government documents, ministerial guidance and legislative developments published before September 2016. The only new section in the CDP is the chapter on **Town and village design** (Chapter 12).

5.4 Relationship with other plans and programmes

The County Development Plan sits within a hierarchy of strategic plans. It must comply with higher-level plans, such as the NSS and the RPGs (still in existence at the time of preparation and adoption of the CDP 2017-2023), and it sets the framework for lower-level plans, such as local area plans.

5.4.1 Higher-level plans and programmes

A review of national and regional policy documents was carried out as part of the preparation of the Plan. The review focused on relevant plans, strategies and frameworks and helped in the formulation of both Plan policies and SEA objectives.

The key documents reviewed were as follows:

- *The National Spatial Strategy* (2002)
- *The Border Regional Planning Guidelines* (2010-2022);
- *The National Heritage Plan* (2002) and the *National Biodiversity Plan* (2011)
- *Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020*;
- *Investing in our Transport Future - Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport* (2015)

- *Building on Recovery: Infrastructure and Capital Investment 2016-2021*
- *Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan (WSSP) and Capital Investment Plan (CIP) 2014-2016*
- *The Waste Management Plan for the Connacht-Ulster Region 2015-2021*
- *River Basin Management Plans 2010-2016*
- *The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2012);*
- *OPW's Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA)*
- *Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) studies*
- *The National Energy Efficiency Action Plan 2014*
- *The Energy White Paper - Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030*

5.4.2 Other plans, policies and programmes

At Draft Plan consultation stage, the EPA has indicated that the following national plans, policies and programmes would have been relevant to consider:

— **National Bioenergy Plan** (Draft 2014, Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, now DCCAE) recognises that meeting the demand for biomass from indigenous sources could deliver significant economic and employment benefits. This document has been reviewed and considered not directly relevant to the Draft CDP 2017-2023.

— **Renewable Electricity Policy and Development Framework** (DCCAE) – this document has not been published yet, not even in draft form.

— **National Mitigation Plan** (Draft 2017, DCCAE)

This document was not available during the preparation of the Draft CDP or the Second Chief Executive's Report, which contained recommendations for amendments. Upon review of the *Draft National Mitigation Plan*, published in March 2017, it was noted that the implications for the County Development Plan have been largely addressed in the Draft CDP.

— **National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector** (Draft 2016, DTTAS) – this document was not available during the preparation of the Draft CDP. Upon review of the *Draft National Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for the Transport Sector*, published in November 2016, it was noted that the recommendations regarding siting criteria for future alternative fuels infrastructure developments are adequately covered in the provisions of the Draft CDP.

— **Food Wise 2025** (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 2015) is a 10-year strategic plan that identifies a number of actions that will facilitate the growth of the agri-food industry and addresses these areas specifically under the headings of human capital, competitiveness, market development and innovation.

This document has been reviewed and is not considered directly relevant for the County Development Plan. Any land-use or infrastructure development issues have been adequately addressed under the CDP provisions regarding agricultural developments, the rural economy and resource-based enterprises.

— **The National Peatland Strategy 2015-2025** (National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, 2015) aims to provide a long-term framework within which all of the

peatlands within the State can be managed responsibly in order to optimise their social, environmental and economic contribution to the well-being of the population.

The purpose behind the Strategy is to set down clear principles which will guide Government policy in relation to all Irish peatlands. These principles will be applied through their incorporation into the more detailed sectoral plans, policies and actions adopted and undertaken for each policy area.

This document has been reviewed and is not considered directly relevant for the County Development Plan. Any issues related to peatlands have been adequately addressed under the CDP provisions regarding the protection of natural heritage, habitats and water quality.

— ***Forestry Programme 2014-2020*** (Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 2015) represents Ireland's proposals for 100% State aid funding for a new Forestry Programme for the period 2014 – 2020. This document has been reviewed and is not considered directly relevant for the County Development Plan. Any issues relating to forestry will continue to be addressed through responses to referrals received from the Forest Service or through the development management process, as appropriate.

— ***Forests, products and people – Ireland's forest policy – a renewed vision*** (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, 2014) sets out an updated national forest policy strategy which reflects and takes account of the substantial changes that have occurred in Irish forestry since the previous similar publication in 1996.

This document has been reviewed and is not considered directly relevant for the County Development Plan. Any issues relating to forestry will continue to be addressed through responses to referrals received from the Forest Service or through the development management process, as appropriate.

5.4.3 Lower-tier land-use plans

Local area plans must be prepared by planning authorities for designated Census towns with a population over 2,000 or for areas identified for significant future development. These plans must be consistent with the County Development Plan.

With the exception of Sligo City, there are no towns in the County with a population higher than 2,000 persons.

Sligo County Council has so far prepared and reviewed the local area plans for Ballymote (LAP 2012-2018) and Enniscrone (2014-2020). A draft local area plan for Tobercurry failed to be adopted by the Members in 2015. It is expected that this draft will be reviewed and adopted within the lifetime of the CDP 2017-2023.

Previously adopted local area plans for Bellaghy-Charlestown and Strandhill have been reduced to mini-plans for Bellaghy and Strandhill, respectively.

The Sligo and Environs Development Plan 2010-2016, currently incorporated into the CDP, will be renewed in the form of a local area plan for Sligo and Environs, to be prepared within the lifetime of the CDP 2017-2023.

Previously adopted local area plans for Sligo's Hazelwood-Ballinode and North Fringe areas have expired, but may be revised and republished as masterplans in the future.

Section 6

Description of alternative development scenarios

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the Plan) are identified, described and evaluated in relation to their likely significant effects on the environment.

These alternatives must be realistic, capable of implementation, and should represent a range of different approaches within statutory and operational requirements of the Plan.

Taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the CDP, three development scenarios were formulated.

The Demand-Led Growth, the Gateway-Focused Growth and the Hierarchically-Structured Growth scenarios provide alternative visions of how future growth might occur in County Sligo.

As the CDP is required by legislation to be reviewed and replaced by a new development plan every six years, a Do-Nothing scenario was not considered.

6.1 Demand-Led Growth Scenario (DLG)

This approach would involve demand-led growth, with minimal intervention in terms of strategic planning. It would result in over-zoning in certain settlements, especially in those very close to Sligo City, and in increased numbers of one-off housing in the nearby countryside.

As growth is allowed to occur in villages like Strandhill, Ballincar or Rosses Point and in the surrounding rural areas, Sligo City would be weakened by the continued loss of population.

The infrastructure and services in the growing settlements would be subject to severe pressure associated with continuing population increase.

Most likely, the provision of the necessary infrastructural and social facilities to service these expanding communities would not occur in tandem with new residential developments.

The DLG Scenario would, therefore, result in the undermining of population growth in Sligo City and in the Key Support Towns, with subsequent loss of economies of scale and synergies capable of fostering sustainable urban growth. More descriptively, this scenario would result in:

- population growth occurring predominantly in a few settlements where over-zoning and consequent substantial housing development would take place;
- significant overloading imposed on the existing infrastructure and facilities in those villages attracting development, which in turn will lead to negative environmental and social impacts;
- the continued stagnation of Sligo City and even loss of population to certain villages and rural areas in the Sligo Sub-Region;

- the hindrance of growth in Key Support Towns and lack of consolidation of smaller villages through shortage of new residents, as newly-formed households are drawn into overgrown satellites of Sligo or choose to settle in rural locations outside of towns and villages but close to Sligo City;
- high probability of non-compliance with the Water Framework Directive and other environmental legislation;
- loss of biodiversity and landscape character, as dispersed development is allowed to occur outside settlements and one-off housing is permitted in all but the most scenic locations;
- significant long-term adverse impacts on the quality of life, following the loss of viability of services in the Gateway and other settlements across the County.

6.2 Gateway-Focused Growth Scenario (GFG)

This approach involves concentrating growth in the Gateway City of Sligo. The RPG residential land provision for County Sligo would be allocated almost entirely to Sligo City. New development outside the Gateway would be strictly controlled, with the exception of rural or resource-based activities such as agriculture, forestry, quarrying and projects related to renewable energy.

The concentration of growth in the Gateway has the potential to create a city with the critical mass that would help it to compete with larger cities in attracting investment and jobs. This approach would be inevitably detrimental to other settlements within the County, particularly to the Key Support Towns of Tobercurry and Ballymote, where the scarcity of employment opportunities would result in population decline.

In summary, this scenario would result in:

- substantial concentration of residential growth, services and facilities in Sligo City to promote population and economic growth ;
- lack of development in Key Support Towns and depopulation of smaller villages, as newly-formed households are attracted into the Gateway City;
- significant pressure placed on the existing infrastructure in the City, which may lead to negative environmental impacts if capacity is exceeded;
- severe traffic congestion within the urban area unless improved transport infrastructure is provided in tandem with population growth;
- rural population decline leading to increasing vacancies and dereliction in smaller settlements;
- undermining of the social, cultural and economic wellbeing of rural communities.

6.3 Hierarchically-Structured Growth Scenario (HSG)

The main elements of the HSG Scenario are the development of the Gateway as envisaged in the National Spatial Strategy and the consolidation of three key towns that provide services to extensive rural areas.

This scenario involves the implementation of a long-term, strategic planning approach promoting a balanced development pattern across the County, structured upon a hierarchy of settlements with well-defined roles. **Tier 1** in the hierarchy is the Gateway, which functions in tandem with its satellite villages. Key Support Towns are on **Tier 2**, with **Tier 3** consisting of villages serving rural communities.

In order to direct specific amounts of growth into Tier 1 and Tier 2 locations, development in non-strategic locations (Tier 3) would be confined to levels that do not undermine the potential of the Gateway and Key Support Towns.

The Key Support Towns would see growth in a reasonable proportion to their existing population.

In Tier 3 villages, only small-scale residential development would be facilitated, in order to attract new residents and support local services.

Under this scenario:

- the loss of Gateway population could be halted and possibly reversed, as a result of additional residential and economic development; growth in Gateway satellites would be carefully managed;
- Key Support Towns would develop in proportion to their strategic role and size;
- there would be limited population growth in smaller villages;
- development would be allowed only in settlements where the necessary infrastructure exists or where new infrastructure is planned or proposed in tandem with new development;

6.4 Selected development scenario

Having regard to the overall principles which underpin the concept of sustainable development, it is considered that Scenario HSG sets out the preferred approach to the development of County Sligo over the period 2017 to 2023. This approach achieves a proper balance between economic, environmental and social considerations.

Section 7 of this Report provides a detailed evaluation of the three development scenarios with regard to their environmental and planning effects, and demonstrates that the HSG Scenario is the optimal development approach for County Sligo for the period 2017 to 2023.

Section 7

Evaluation of alternative development scenarios

The objective of this section is to assess the relative merits of the three development scenarios for accommodating future growth in County Sligo. The scenarios are evaluated with regard to their potential to improve, conflict with or have a neutral interaction with the receiving environment.

7.1 Methodology

Scenarios are evaluated in a succinct and focused way for environmental effects against both the existing environment (which is described in Section 3) and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs, which are specified in Section 4).

In order to comply with the SEA Directive, SEOs have been grouped under relevant ‘parent’ components, such as water, landscape etc.

The alternative scenarios described in Section 6 are evaluated using compatibility criteria in order to determine whether or how they are likely to affect the status of these SEOs – see **Table 7.1**.

Table 7.2 brings together all the SEOs which have been developed from international and national policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives.

The SEOs and the alternative scenarios are arrayed against each other to identify which interactions, if any, would cause impacts on specific components of the environment – refer to **Table 7.3**.

Table 7.1 Criteria for appraising the effect of Alternatives and Plan provisions on SEOs

Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – likely to be mitigated	No Likely interaction with status of SEOs
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Table 7.2 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)

SEO code	SEO
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B3	To sustain existing 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
P1	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands and to maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
HH1	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses
S1	To prevent pollution and contamination of soil
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater
W3	To comply with the provisions of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DEHLG, 2009)
M1	To serve new development with appropriate wastewater treatment
M2	To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
C1	To reduce travel-related emissions and encourage sustainable forms of transport
CH1	To protect the archaeological heritage of the County including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and their context
CH2	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the County's architectural heritage
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

7.2 Evaluation of alternative scenarios

7.2.1 Demand-Led Growth Scenario (DLG)

7.2.1.1 Environmental effects

Adverse

Continued growth in overdeveloped satellite villages such as Strandhill, Rosses Point, Collooney and other settlements close to Sligo, most of which have wastewater loadings that exceed available treatment capacity or have no treatment plants at all, would have a negative effect on surface water, groundwater and estuarine water quality. Dispersed development in the rural areas surrounding Sligo City and its satellites would give rise to continued cumulative pressure on:

- groundwater and surface water quality;
- archaeological and architectural heritage;
- landscapes and visual amenity;
- the continuity and integrity of extensive linear habitats, such as hedges and streams.

The generally dispersed settlement pattern would lead to increased levels of environmental effects associated with additional commuting, which include:

- increased energy consumption;
- increased emissions to air;
- increased noise.

Increased levels of cumulative effects due to the provision and maintenance of extensive and more heavily trafficked roads – including effects on water quality, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage – would be likely to occur. There would be lower levels of efficiency and higher levels of operating costs with regard to the supply of environmental services to a dispersed population.

Beneficial

Growth would occur away from the immediate environs of Sligo City, which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental sensitivities (water and ecology) within the County.

7.2.1.2 Planning effects

Oversized dormitory settlements would not be properly served in terms of commercial, social, community and recreational facilities, which would not be developed in advance or in tandem with new housing. Most residents of these settlements would have to commute to Sligo for work or school.

Proliferation of one-off houses in the rural area surrounding Sligo would put additional pressure on the local road network and water supply infrastructure. Undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would be at odds with national and regional planning policy. No economies of scale would be achieved and there would be no synergies capable of fostering sustainable urban growth.

The cost of maintaining roads and providing environmental infrastructure (essentially water and wastewater treatment facilities) to more dispersed locations in the County would increase.

7.2.2 Gateway-Focused Growth Scenario (GFG)

7.2.2.1 Environmental effects

Adverse

Growth would concentrate heavily on Sligo and its immediate environs, which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental sensitivities (water and ecology) within the County.

Additional infrastructural capacity would need to be provided in the Gateway in order to mitigate effects on the estuarine water quality, water-dependent habitats and human health.

Although restricting growth outside the Gateway, this scenario does allow for a minimal amount of development in smaller settlements. Such growth would potentially conflict with various aspects of the environment (biodiversity and flora and fauna, human health, water resources, landscape and visual amenity and cultural heritage).

However, such conflicts would be mitigated by adherence to good environmental management practices and protection measures integrated into the scenario.

Beneficial

The curtailment of growth in Gateway Satellites such as Strandhill, Rosses Point, Collooney and other villages close to Sligo, most of which have wastewater loadings that exceed available treatment capacity or have no treatment plants at all, would the pressure on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality, ecology, landscape and cultural heritage.

Because of the concentrated nature of development envisaged by this scenario, there would be a lower extent of environmental effects associated with commuting – energy consumption, noise, emissions to air – and there would be a more efficient use of existing and planned environmental infrastructure.

7.2.2.2 Planning effects

There would be benefits for retail, business and general economic competitiveness arising from the halting and possible reversing of population loss in the Gateway. Commuting would decrease, as more people would live closer to their places of work or study. All categories of infrastructure could be provided in a more efficient, cost-effective manner in the Gateway.

The further growth of satellites to the detriment of the Gateway would be curtailed, while vacancy rates outside Sligo City would fall significantly.

The Key Support Towns would continue to lose jobs and population, leading to a decline in local retail and service provision.

Small villages would continue to suffer depopulation and loss of services, which would also affect communities living in rural areas, outside towns and villages. Many rural residents would have to travel longer for shopping or social services.

7.2.3 Hierarchically-Structured Growth Scenario (HSG)

7.2.3.1 Environmental effects

Adverse

Substantial growth would be directed into Sligo and its immediate environs, which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental sensitivities (water and ecology) within the County.

Potentially, additional infrastructural capacity may need to be provided in the Gateway in order to mitigate effects on the estuarine water quality, water-dependent habitats and human health.

By distributing growth shares outside the Gateway, this scenario allows for certain amounts of development in most settlements.

Such development would potentially conflict with various aspects of the environment (biodiversity and flora and fauna, human health, water resources, landscape and visual amenity and cultural heritage).

However, such conflicts would be mitigated by adherence to good environmental management practices and protection measures integrated into the scenario.

In order to avoid or mitigate adverse effects on the environment, this type of development would require the provision of appropriate environmental infrastructure with adequate capacity to new populations; minimising increases in travel-related greenhouse emissions to air and reducing car dependency; and minimising greenfield development.

Beneficial

The curtailment of growth in Gateway Satellites such as Strandhill, Rosses Point, Collooney and other villages close to Sligo, most of which have wastewater loadings that exceed available treatment capacity or have no treatment plants at all, would reduce increases in pressures on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality, ecology, landscape and cultural heritage.

The three Key Support Towns would receive growth shares in proportion to their existing population and in accordance with their specific economic and social functions. Smaller villages would also be consolidated.

By distributing population and potential employment growth to Key Support Towns, there would be a lower extent of environmental effects associated with commuting – energy consumption, noise and emissions to air – and there would be a more efficient use of existing and planned environmental infrastructure.

7.2.3.2 Planning effects

There would be benefits for retail, business and general economic competitiveness arising from the halting and possible reversing of population loss in the Gateway. The further growth of satellites to the detriment of the Gateway would be curtailed.

Local retail and employment consolidation would be facilitated by the development of Key Support Towns in proportion to their size and strategic roles. Commuting would decrease, as more people would live closer to their places of work or study. Services in smaller villages would be retained and supported as an effect of small-scale population growth in these villages.

All categories of infrastructure could be provided in a more efficient, cost-effective manner in consolidated urban areas. Well-serviced towns and villages could become more attractive to some of those who would otherwise settle in rural areas, further decreasing commuting and improving economies of scale in the provision of environmental infrastructure.

Overall, it is considered that the Hierarchically-Structured Growth Scenario is in accordance with the NSS principle of promoting growth in the Gateways while supporting the role of smaller towns and villages at local level.

7.2.4 Evaluation and selection of optimal development scenario

Table 7.3 summarises the evaluation of the three development scenarios against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs).

The optimal variant that emerged from the evaluation process is the Hierarchically-Structured Growth (HSG) scenario. The HSG scenario was chosen for the Development Plan by the plan-making team having regard to:

1. the environmental effects which were identified by the Strategic Environmental Assessment;
2. planning effects, including social and economic effects.

This scenario achieves a good balance between potential environmental impacts and conformance with relevant national and regional planning objectives.

With the integration of appropriate mitigation measures (including those which are identified in Section 9 of this report), potential adverse environmental effects arising from implementing this scenario would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

7.2.5 Evaluation of Plan provisions intended to implement the selected development scenario

Section 8 evaluates the Plan policies and objectives, which are intended to implement the selected HSG scenario. Some of these provisions are likely to have a range of beneficial effects with regard to the protection of the environment, while some are likely to have a range of potentially adverse effects. The latter will be mitigated by other provisions integrated into the Plan.

Some provisions are likely to have a range of both beneficial effects and potentially adverse effects (which will be mitigated by other Plan provisions).

7.2.6 Notes referred to in Table 7.3

Wastewater

The avoidance of significant impacts upon the County's water resources and upon aquatic biodiversity, flora, fauna and human health is dependent on compliance of new developments with Plan provisions which require development in designated settlements to be served by wastewater treatment infrastructure with adequate capacity. This would enable compliance with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive, Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

Water abstraction

With regard to the treatment and disposal of wastewater, limitations in the assimilative capacity of water bodies can be dealt with via engineering solutions. However, the capacity of water bodies to allow abstraction of water for human use without compromising the ability of the water bodies to meet legislative requirements (such as the Water Framework Directive) is limited and cannot be overcome by engineering solutions. Measures which recognise this limitation have been integrated into the Plan.

Table 7.3 Evaluation of alternative development scenarios against SEOs

	Likely to Improve status of SEOs	Probable Conflict with status of SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential Conflict with status of SEOs – would be mitigated
<p>Scenario 1</p> <p>Demand-Led Growth</p>	<p>B1, B2, W1 (concentration of growth away from Sligo and its immediate environs - this area has the highest concentration of ecological and water sensitivities in the County)</p> <p>B3 (dispersed development strategy contributes to the sustenance of existing rural management practices and the communities that support them)</p>	<p>C1 (dispersed development leading to significant additional commuting)</p> <p>P1 (little or no reuse of brownfield lands; little or no consolidation of settlements)</p> <p>L1 (substantial impact on landscapes, resulting in irreversible changes)</p>	<p>B1 B2 M1 M2 W1 W2 W3 HH1 S1 CH1 CH2 (cumulative adverse effects on water, soil, biodiversity, human health, areas at risk from flooding, landscape and cultural heritage as a result of dispersed development on the outskirts of settlements, particularly in the north-east of the County)</p> <p>See Section 7.2.6 Notes</p>
<p>Scenario 2</p> <p>Gateway-Focused Growth</p>	<p>B1 B2 P1 W1 W2 M2 HH1 S1 L1 CH1 CH2 (restricting growth in settlements outside the Gateway would have cumulative beneficial effects on the protection of water, human health, soil, biodiversity, landscape and cultural heritage)</p> <p>C1 (Gateway focused growth and concentrated nature of development could facilitate less commuting)</p>		<p>B1 B2 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 HH1 S1 CH1 CH2 (heavy concentration of growth in Sligo and its immediate environs, which is the area with the highest concentration of ecological and water sensitivities in the County; potential conflicts between substantial growth which is allowed by this alternative and various aspects of the environment, which would need to be mitigated)</p> <p>See Section 7.2.6 Notes</p>
<p>Scenario 3</p> <p>Hierarchically-Structured Growth</p>	<p>B1 B2 W1 W2 M1 M2 S1 L1 CH1 (directing specified amounts of growth into serviced settlements would have cumulative beneficial effects on the protection of water, soil, biodiversity and landscape)</p> <p>C1 (urban- focused growth and concentrated nature of development could facilitate less commuting)</p> <p>B3 (structured settlement strategy contributes to the sustenance of existing rural management practices and the communities that support them)</p> <p>P1 (consolidation, containment and management of growth would contribute towards the sustainable reuse of brownfield lands)</p>		<p>HH1 CH2 (potential conflicts between various degrees of growth in the Gateway, Key Support Towns and smaller villages and various aspects of the environment, which would need to be mitigated)</p> <p>See Section 7.2.6 Notes</p>

Section 8

Evaluation of Plan provisions

8.1 Methodology

This section evaluates the Plan’s policies and objectives, including the adopted amendments arising from public consultation on the Draft Plan. Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) are used for this purpose, as outlined under Section 7.2. Use has also been made of the environmental baseline descriptions and the maps of the individual components provided in Section 3.

The assessment of amendments made to the narrative (i.e. not to policies or objectives) of any chapter is presented in Section 8.3.

The adopted amendments to policies and objectives are indicated in blue (additions) or red (deletions) in the tables included in Sections 8.4 to 8.15.

The interactions between the SEOs and the policies and objectives of the Plan determine the likely significant effects of implementing the Plan. These effects include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects.

Table 8.1 below lists the SEOs developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives.

Table 8.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs)

SEO Code	SEO
B1	To ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive
B2	To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the protection of macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species
B3	To sustain existing 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
P1	To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and maximise the use of the existing built environment rather than developing greenfield lands
HH1	To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from exposure to incompatible land uses
S1	To prevent pollution and contamination of soil
W1	To maintain and improve, where possible, the status of surface waters
W2	To prevent pollution and contamination of groundwater

SEO Code	SEO
W3	To comply with the provisions of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DEHLG, 2009)
M1	To serve new development with appropriate wastewater treatment
M2	To serve growth areas with drinking water that is both wholesome and clean
C1	To reduce travel-related emissions and encourage sustainable forms of transport
CH1	To protect the archaeological heritage of the County including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and their context
CH2	To preserve and protect the special interest and character of the County's architectural heritage
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

8.2 Determination of potential interactions

Certain Plan policies and objectives are evaluated as having a potential conflicting interaction with the status of SEOs. The interaction and environmental impacts, if any, will be determined by the nature and extent of individual projects or multiple projects, lower-tier plans and subsequent development, and site-specific environmental factors.

These impacts may be evaluated as part of a lower-tier environmental assessment or through the development management process.

Avoidance of conflict is dependent upon the Council managing development in a way which does not conflict with the status of SEOs.

Provided other Plan measures are complied with, conflicts with SEOs would be avoided.

8.3 Evaluation of amendments made to the Plan narrative

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Throughout the Plan				
A-0-1 Throughout the final Plan, replace ' <i>Habitats Directive Assessment</i> ' with Appropriate Assessment and ' <i>Natura 2000 sites</i> ' with European Sites , where appropriate.				All SEOs
Chapter 2. Strategic Environmental Assessment				
A-2-1 In the final Plan, change the name of Chapter 2 (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)) to Chapter 2 (Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)) , and insert a subsection summarising the appropriate assessment process and its conclusion.				All SEOs
A-2-2 In Section 2.4 of the final Plan, include a brief summary of the EPA scoping submission received at pre-draft stage.				
A-2-3 In the final Plan, add a subsection summarising the key outputs from the SEA, Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment processes which influenced the Plan policies and objectives.				
Chapter 3. Core Strategy				
A-3-1 In the introduction to Chapter 3 County Sligo: Core Strategy , insert and highlight the following text after the last paragraph on p. 15 of the Draft Plan: All the policies and objectives for development contained in Volume 1 and Volume 2 of this Plan are subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive and, where relevant, those of the Birds Directive, EIA directive and relevant national legislation.				All SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
A-3-2 In Section 3.5 Local area plans (p. 30 of the Draft Plan), include additional text explaining the requirement to comply with Section 10(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended by the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015) relating to areas in need of regeneration.				All SEOs
A-3-4 In Section 3.7 Implementation , subsection 3.7.3 Bonds (p. 34 of the Draft CDP), modify the text to make it in accordance with the requirements set out in the Department's Circular Letter PL 11.2013.				All SEOs
A-3-5 In Section 3.7.5 Monitoring and reporting of the final Plan (see renumbering indicated under A 3-6), include a reference to the monitoring measures described in Section 10 of the Environmental Report and summarised in Table 10.1 of the ER				All SEOs
A-3-6 In Section 3.7 Implementation (p. 34 of the Draft Plan), insert a new subsection containing details on the vacant site levy.				All SEOs
Chapter 4. Economic development				
A-4-3 In Section 4.4. Tourism Development , modify Section 4.4.2 Trends and assumptions for the future (p. 47 of the Draft Plan) by updating the numbers of tourist accommodation premises.				
A-4-4 Modify Box 4.D in Section 4.4.5 Cultural tourism (p. 50 of the Draft CDP) by adding another potential project: Spanish Armada Visitor Centre - Conservation, management and interpretation of the Spanish Armada wrecks site at Streedagh and development of a visitor centre.			B1 B2 S1 W2 L1	All other SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Chapter 5. Housing				
A-5-1 In Section 5.3 Housing in rural areas (p. 72 of the Draft Plan), modify the text of subsection 5.3.1 Rural housing policy areas by clarifying the criteria for assessing applications.				All SEOs
A-5-4 Modify the title of Section 5.5 (p.79 of the Draft Plan) as follows: Section 5.5 Special needs housing Housing for persons with diverse needs				All SEOs
A-5-5 Modify Section 5.5.2 (p.79 of the Draft Plan) of the Draft Plan by updating the information on the Strategic Plan for Housing People with a Disability.				All SEOs
Chapter 6. Community facilities				
A-6-1 In Section 6.4 Arts and cultural facilities (p. 90 of the Draft Plan), insert a subsection on public libraries.				All SEOs
A-6-4 In Section 6.7 Outdoor recreation , subsection 6.7.4 Outdoor recreational amenities (p. 94 of the Draft CDP), add relevant text and a table under the heading Public rights of way .				All SEOs
A-6-5 In Section 6.7 Outdoor recreation , subsection 6.7.4 Outdoor recreational amenities (p. 94-95 of the Draft Plan), insert a subsection explaining the nature of Permissive Trails .				All SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>A-7-3 In Section 7.1 Natural heritage and biodiversity, subsection 7.1.5 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows (p. 108-109 of the Draft CDP), make the following changes:</p> <p>7.1.5 Trees, woodlands and hedgerows</p> <p>Hedgerows constitute an important natural and historic resource, given their contribution to landscape quality, their ecological importance as wildlife habitats, corridors between habitats and historical significance as townland and field boundaries. Hedgerows are afforded protection under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act, 2000, which prohibits the cutting of hedges during the bird nesting period (1st March to 1st September).</p>				All SEOs
<p>A-7-5 In Section 7.3 Architectural Heritage, subsection 7.3.2 Protection of non-habitable structures (p. 120 of the Draft CDP), insert additional text listing items of street furniture which are part of the built and cultural heritage.</p>				All SEOs
<p>A-7-6 In Section 7.3 Architectural Heritage, subsection 7.3.4 Town and village streetscapes (p. 120 of the Draft CDP), insert additional text defining vernacular built heritage.</p>				All SEOs
<p>A-7-8 In Section 7.4 Landscape character, subsection 7.4.3 Current knowledge and policy (p. 124 of the Draft CDP), add clarifications to the definitions of Normal rural Landscapes and Scenic Routes.</p>				All SEOs
<p>Chapter 8. Transport and mobility</p>				
<p>A-8-1 In Section 8.1 National and regional transport policy (p. 127 of the Draft Plan), insert reference to the Spatial Planning and National Roads guidance document.</p>				All SEOs
<p>A-8-4 In Section 8.2 Road network, subsection 8.2.1 National primary and secondary roads (p.132 of the Draft Plan), add clarification regarding national primary roads.</p>				All SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
A-8-4 In Section 8.2 Road network , subsection 8.2.1 National primary and secondary roads (p.132 of the Draft Plan), add clarification regarding national primary roads.				All SEOs
Chapter 9. Environmental infrastructure				
A-9-1 In Section 9.5 Waste management (p. 161 of the Draft Plan) insert a new subsection detailing the location and the current state of Historic landfills in Co. Sligo.				All SEOs
A-9-4 Modify the text of Table 9.C Wastewater treatment plants in County Sligo (p. 151-157 of the Draft CDP) in accordance with the updates provided by Irish Water.				All SEOs
Chapter 10. Environmental quality				
A-10-1 In Chapter 10 Environmental quality , Section 10.2 Air quality (p. 170 of the Draft Plan), insert an additional subsection containing information on radon gas .				All SEOs
A-10-2 In Section 10.4 Coastal environment , subsection 10.4.1 Coastal zone (p.172 of the Draft Plan), modify the definition of the coastal zone and associated areas.				All SEOs
A-10-3 In Section 10.4 Coastal environment , subsection 10.4.4 Developments on the foreshore and nearshore (p. 173 of the Draft Plan) replace the definition of the foreshore with an extended version.				All SEOs
A-10-4 In Box 10.A Proposed coastal protection works (p. 176 of the Draft Plan,) modify the description of proposed works at Pullaheeny.	L1			All other SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
A-10-6 In Section 10.6 Climate Change , subsection 10.6.2 Legislative Context (p.179 -180 of the Draft Plan), modify the text to reflect the most up-to-date stage of the preparation of the National Mitigation Plan.				All SEOs
A-10-7 In Section 10.6 Climate Change , subsection 10.6.3 Role of the Local Authority (p. 180-181), insert the text requiring the repair of old bridges in preference to replacement.	P1 CH2			All other SEOs
A-10-9 In Section 10.7 Flood risk management (p. 183 of the Draft Plan), insert minor references to aquifers and karst areas.				All SEOs
A-10-10 In Section 10.7 Flood risk management , subsection 10.7.2 Progress in flood risk assessment , (p. 184 of the Draft Plan), update the text to reflect the current stage in the procedure for adopting the Flood risk Management Plans.				All SEOs
Chapter 11. Energy and telecommunications				
A-11-1 In Section 11.1 Energy , subsection 11.1.7 Electricity transmission (p. 191 of the Draft CDP), add text reflecting the current stage of preparation of Grid Development Strategy.				All SEOs
Chapter 13. Development management standards				
A-13-1 In Section 13.2 General development standards , subsection 13.2.14 Undergrounding of cables (p. 218 of the Draft Plan), modify the first paragraph by adding reference to Architectural Conservation Areas .	CH2			All other SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
A-13-2 In Section 13.2 General development standards , subsection 13.2.15 Illumination and spread of light (p. 218-219 of the Draft Plan) inserting additional details on external illumination and floodlighting .				All SEOs
A-13-3 In Section 13.3 Residential development in urban areas , subsection 13.3.15 Accommodation for dependent relatives , make minor modifications to the text describing design requirements.				All SEOs
A-13-4 In Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (p. 230 of the Draft CDP), modify the text by adding a subsection listing " normal planning considerations ".				All SEOs
A-13-5 In Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas , subsection 13.4.2 Site selection – locating a house in the landscape (p. 230 – 231 of the Draft Plan), add clarifications regarding site characteristics for rural houses.				All SEOs
A-13-6 In Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas , delete Table 13.A which details some principles of vernacular rural house design.				All SEOs
A-13-7 In Section 13.4.3 Rural house design , under the heading Design Statement (p. 233 of the Draft Plan), remove the paragraph recommending the employment of registered architects to build rural houses.				All SEOs
A-13-8 In Section 13.5 Retail development standards , subsection 13.5.9 Shop fronts and signage (p. 239 - 240 of the Draft Plan), add the two more standards to the existing list.				All SEOs
A-13-9 In Section 13.8 Transportation, roads and parking , subsection 13.8.1 Access onto national roads (p. 246 of the Draft Plan), delete the paragraph relating to exceptions from restriction of access onto national roads.				All SEOs

Text or description of proposed amendment or text of amended policy/objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
A-13-10 In Section 13.8 Transportation, roads and parking , subsection 13.8.3 Entrances and sightlines (p. 248 of the Draft Plan), modify the Rural housing subsection by inserting details relating to road safety and the preservation or replacement of roadside boundaries.	B3 P1 L1			All other SEOs
A-13-11 In Section 13.8 Transportation, roads and parking , subsection 13.8.5 Car parking requirements, layout and design (p. 249 of the Draft Plan), insert an additional subsection on charging points for electric vehicles .	C1			All other SEOs
A-13-12 In Section 13.8 Transportation, roads and parking , subsection Car parking standards (p. 249 of the Draft Plan), modify Table 13.B Car parking standards by adding the words " gross floor area " where previously omitted.				All SEOs
Appendices				
A-A-1 At the end of the final Plan, insert a new Appendix H containing the ICOMOS Charter.				All SEOs
A-A-2 At the end of the final Plan, insert a new Appendix I (capital "i") explaining the status of the policies and objectives contained in the SEDP 2010.				All SEOs

8.4 Evaluation of policies (including amendments) in Chapter 3 – Core Strategy

Strategic Settlement policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Urban and rural settlement				
SP-S-1 Pursue the further development of Sligo as a Gateway City and economic driver for the North-West region.	B3 P1 C1		All other SEOs	
SP-S-2 Promote economic development in the Key Support Towns of Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone.				
SP-S-3 Support the development of settlements with special functions – Easky, Mullaghmore, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Enniscrone, Coolaney – and encourage other towns and villages to specialise in niche activities.				
SP-S-4 Strengthen existing rural communities by facilitating sustainable rural settlement in accordance with the National Spatial Strategy and the Sustainable Rural Housing – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, April 2005)	B3		All other SEOs	

Strategic Settlement policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Retail				
SP-S-6 Reinforce the economic roles of the County's main urban centres by facilitating retail development on the basis of the Retail Hierarchy which designates the following: Tier 1 Sligo City – Primary Retail Centre Tier 2 Tobercurry, Ballymote, Enniscrone – Key Support Retail Centres	P1 C1			All other SEOs
Green belts				
SP-S-5 Prevent inappropriate development around towns and villages by establishing green belts which shall serve the following general purposes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consolidate the settlements within development limits and retain their visual identity distinct from the surrounding countryside; ▪ reserve land for future planned expansion of settlements and for the provision of major infrastructure (e.g. transport); ▪ protect heritage, water quality and the recreational amenity of rural areas surrounding settlements; ▪ focus attention on lands within settlements which are zoned for development and likely to contribute to the regeneration of these areas. 	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 L1			CH1 CH2
Transportation				
SP-S-7 Integrate transportation and land-use planning in order to reduce the need to travel (especially by car) and reduce GHG emissions, by promoting the consolidation of development in settlements with adequate services and facilities.	P1 C1			All other SEOs

Strategic Settlement policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Urban regeneration objective				
<p>A-3-2 In Section 3.5 Local area plans insert the following:</p> <p>Urban regeneration objective</p> <p>It is an objective of Sligo County Council to:</p> <p>O-REG-1 Identify areas in need of regeneration in Sligo City and, if appropriate, in the Key Support Towns of Ballymote, Enniscrone and Tobercurry, as part of the process of review or preparation of the respective local area plans.</p>	P1 C1 CH2			All other SEOs

Strategic Zoning Policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>SP-Z-1 Use zoning to promote the sustainable development of the Gateway City of Sligo and a hierarchy of compact, attractive, pedestrian-friendly settlements, with vital commercial cores and adequate economic bases. No lands shall be zoned for development in isolation, outside the development limits of settlements.</p>	All SEOs			

<p>Strategic Zoning Policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>SP-Z-2 Ensure that the amount of land zoned for residential uses in the County is consistent with the requirements of the Core Strategy as set out in Section 3.4 of this Plan, as derived from the recommendations of the Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010.</p> <p>Any land proposed for zoning in excess of the above requirements shall be included in a Strategic Reserve for potential development after the lifetime of this Plan.</p>	<p>B3 P1 C1</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>	
<p>SP-Z-3 Revise the housing land allocation for Sligo County and for Sligo City (as part of the preparation of the Sligo and Environs LAP), if required by the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy due to replace the Border Regional Planning Guidelines.</p>				<p>All SEOs</p>
<p>SP-Z-4 On lands included in the Strategic Land Reserve, permit the development of the following, insofar as they do not adversely impact on the potential for comprehensive and co-ordinated development of surrounding lands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – individual houses for landowners, including their sons and daughters, who wish to build a first home for their permanent occupation on the landholding associated with their principal family residence where they have lived for a minimum period of seven years; – social and special-needs housing; – community facilities and other non-residential developments compatible with residential uses. – student accommodation. – 	<p>B3</p>			<p>All other SEOS</p>

<p>Strategic Zoning Policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>SP-Z-5 Provide a clear demarcation between settlement built-up areas and the surrounding countryside through the setting of development limits and appropriate measures to define and strengthen the edge of towns and villages (refer to Urban development and expansion policies in Chapter 12. Town and village design).</p>	<p>B3 P1 C1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>SP-Z-6 Establish green belts around towns and villages to preserve the visual identity of the settlements, protect designated nature conservation sites, landscape, archaeology, valuable natural amenity areas, water and natural resources, while allowing for the possible further expansion of settlements in the long-term.</p>	<p>B3 P1 C1</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>	

8.5 Evaluation of policies and objectives (incl. amendments) in Chapter 4 – Economic development

Strategic policies for economic development	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SP-ED-1 Ensure that sufficient and suitable land is reserved for new enterprise development at key locations in Sligo City, Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone, and promote the Key Support Towns as secondary employment centres, after Sligo City.	B3 P1 C1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1	
SP-ED-2 Promote the integration of employment with other land uses and the transportation network and ensure, in particular, that employment-intensive uses are located in proximity to existing and planned strategic routes, where public transport is most viable.	P1 HH1 C1		B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1	
SP-ED-3 Facilitate the development of small-scale enterprise space in villages where good access, infrastructure and services are readily available or can be provided at a reasonable cost.	B3 P1 C1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1	
SP-ED-4 Adopt a flexible approach to start-up businesses and resource-based, small-scale enterprise activities outside towns and villages, in recognition of their increasing importance in providing employment and stimulating economic activity within rural communities.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1
SP-ED-5 Ensure that a high standard of design, layout and amenity is provided and maintained at locations selected for enterprise development.				All SEOs
SP-ED-6 Liaise with the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to ensure a co-ordinated approach to the provision of necessary infrastructure and services to support enterprise and industrial development.			B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1 C1	B3

<p>Rural development and diversification policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-RDD-1 Facilitate farm diversification and the development of rural resource-based enterprise (such as organic farming, equestrian activities, bird watching, biomass and energy production, poultry, mushroom growing, flower growing etc.), subject to normal planning considerations and the protection of the environment.</p> <p>Where a proposed development needs to locate near an existing natural resource, it will be necessary to demonstrate that it can be accommodated without damage to the environment, natural or built heritage, visual amenity, and that it will not have a negative impact on the character of the area.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	
<p>P-RDD-2 Adopt a flexible approach to proposals for complementary economic enterprises undertaken to supplement income from farming. Such enterprises may be established at existing farm locations, subject to appropriate scale and intensity of development, having regard to traffic, environmental, landscape and residential amenity considerations.</p> <p>Where the enterprise is not dependent on a rural location, and the scale and intensity grow beyond family or personal income needs, it will be required, where appropriate, to relocate to a nearby town or village.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>		<p>B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	
<p>P-RDD-3 Facilitate tele-working by rural dwellers who are not farmers, subject to normal planning considerations. Such activities would generally involve providers of professional services whose work can be carried out from a home office using high-speed broadband.</p>	<p>B3</p>			<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>
<p>P-RDD-4 Support the continuance of the Rural Transport Programme as an essential service to people in rural areas, who would otherwise be excluded because transport is not available, accessible or affordable to them locally.</p>	<p>B3 C1</p>			<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 P1</p>

Rural development and diversification policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-RDD-5 Encourage the growth or expansion of existing rural based small-scale industry and enterprise in rural County Sligo.</p> <p>Where an existing rural-based enterprise proposes to expand in its current location, it will be necessary to demonstrate that such expansion can be accommodated without damage to the environment, natural or built heritage, human health, visual and residential amenity, and that it will not have a negative impact on the character of the area.</p>	B3 HH1 S1		B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1	M1 M2

Forestry policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-FOR-1 Support sustainable forestry development in County Sligo, subject to the protection of scenic landscapes and views, water quality, heritage features, residential amenity and public safety.</p>	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M2 L1		W3	P1 M1 C1 CH1 CH2
<p>P-FOR-2 Discourage new forestry development, except for broadleaf, in proposed/candidate and adopted NHAs, SACs and SPAs, in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, along designated Scenic Routes and in water quality-sensitive areas. (Broadleaf forestry will be open to consideration in these areas and in all proposed and adopted NHAs, SPAs and SACs, will be subject to consultation with the DECLG and shall have regard to any management plans prepared by the Department.)</p>				

Forestry policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-FOR-3	Require identification of existing rights-of-way and established walking routes before planting commences. Forestry should not obstruct existing rights-of-way, traditional walking routes, recreational and tourism facilities.	B2 C1			B3 L1 B1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 P1 L1

Aquaculture, mariculture and fishing policy		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-AMF-1	Facilitate sustainable fishing, aquaculture and 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, the provisions of EC (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1	P1 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2

Mineral extraction and quarrying policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-MEQ-1 Protect all known unworked deposits from development that might limit their scope for extraction (e.g. one-off housing)	C1		B3	B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1
P-MEQ-2 Ensure that extraction and associated processes are carried out in a sustainable manner, which minimises the impact on residential amenities, natural environment and water quality, and do not impinge on existing rights-of-way or walking routes.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1			
P-MEQ-3 Seek the reuse of worked out quarries for recreational, industrial, ecological and other uses, following appropriate restoration.	B3			B1 B2 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 C1 L1
P-MEQ-4 In respect of development proposals on or in the proximity of quarry sites, the Council will require that appropriate investigations are carried out into the nature and extent of old quarries (where applicable), the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and the risks associated with site development works. Adequate measures to mitigate these risks shall be submitted as part of the planning application.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 L1			C1 P1 CH1 CH2 W3

<p>Tourism development policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-TOU-1 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourism facilities, subject to location, siting and design criteria, the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and other planning considerations.</p> <p>Development that might be detrimental to scenic and heritage assets, in cSACs, SPAs, proposed NHAs, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes and Visually Vulnerable Areas, and along designated Scenic Routes will be strictly controlled.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			
<p>P-TOU-2 Support the development of high-quality tourist accommodation, especially hotels and guesthouses, and ensure high standards of architectural and urban design in all new tourist accommodation and facilities.</p>	<p>B3 CH2</p>		<p>B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	
<p>P-TOU-3 Ensure that all built elements of agri-tourism developments are appropriately designed, satisfactorily integrated into the landscape, conserve natural heritage, protect the environment and do not have a negative impact on the visual/scenic amenity of the countryside, on natural heritage or on the environment.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			
<p>P-TOU-4 Provide signposting, interpretative signs, information boards and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas (refer also to Section 6.7 Outdoor Recreation in Chapter 6).</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3</p>		<p>HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	
<p>P-TOU-5 In recognising the special amenity value of mountains, moorlands and forests, valleys and lakes, it is the Council's policy to facilitate the use of these areas for activities such as touring, sightseeing, mountaineering, and hill-walking.</p> <p>This will be done in co-operation with state agencies, local community groups and other interested bodies and. In this regard, the Council will seek to improve access and create public rights of way, within the available financial resources (refer also to Section 6.7 Outdoor Recreation in Chapter 6).</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3</p>		<p>HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	

Tourism development policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-TOU-6 Promote walking, rambling and cycling as tourism activities within the Plan area. (refer also to Section 6.7 Outdoor Recreation in Chapter 6).	C1 B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1	
P-TOU-7 Explore the provision of sustainable medium- and long-distance walking routes, in co-operation with adjoining local authorities (refer also to Section 6.7 Outdoor Recreation in Chapter 6 and Section 8.3 Cycle and pedestrian movements in Chapter 8).	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
P-TOU-8 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.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
P-TOU-9 Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County and its potential for niche tourism products by facilitating the development of cultural events, infrastructure and activities.	B3		B1 B2 HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	

Coastal zone tourism policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CZT-1 Ensure that future caravan, camping and parking facilities in coastal areas will not be visually intrusive or impact on sensitive coastal environments (e.g. sand dune systems), by requiring, inter alia, appropriate siting, layout, design and natural screening, and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 C1 L1	

Coastal zone tourism policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
On beaches, within dunes and in other vulnerable areas, manage and control car parking, vehicular and pedestrian movements in compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive where relevant.					
P-CZT-2	Promote awareness of the sensitivity of the coastal environment through the provision of heritage appreciation programmes, public information boards and other appropriate means.	B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 M1 L1 HH1			W3 M2 C1 CH1 CH2 P1
P-CZT-3	Maintain and develop small piers and harbours along the Sligo Coast, subject to funding and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 L1 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2	C1 C2 M2

Wild Atlantic Way objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-WAW-1	Along the Wild Atlantic Way, identify existing and 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.	C1		B1 B2 B3 W1 W2 W3 L1	HH1 S1 CH1 CH2 M1 M2 P1

Wild Atlantic Way objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-WAW-2 At designated locations, provide facilities and access points for controlled water-sports activities, in a manner that avoids conflict with nature conservation and activities such as swimming, sailing, fishing and mariculture.	B3 B1 B2 HH1 L1 W1		W3 P1 CH1 CH2	S1 W2 M1 C1 M2
O-WAW-3 Provide Signature Discovery Point infrastructure at Mullaghmore, subject to appropriate siting and design.			B1 B2 L1	All other SEOs
O-WAW-4 Monitor the future development of the County's section of the Wild Atlantic Way touring route to ensure that the scenic and tourism value of this important amenity is maintained. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies, local community groups and other bodies interested in protecting the coastal environment and in improving access and visitor management to the Wild Atlantic Way.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L3			P1 W3 M1 M2

Tourism development objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-TOU-1 Secure the establishment of a flagship visitor attraction in the County, subject to normal development control standards and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3		HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1	
O-TOU-2 Examine the feasibility of providing walkways on upland areas (e.g. Dartry Mountains, Bricklieves and Ox Mountains etc.), subject to availability of resources and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3			HH1 P1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1 C1

<p>Strategic retail planning policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>SP-RP-1 Consolidate Sligo City's role as a regional shopping centre and the Primary Retail Centre (Tier 1) in County Sligo.</p>	<p>P1 C1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>SP-RP-2 Ensure that additional retail floor space is provided in line with the projected requirements outlined in Table 4.F and in the County Sligo Retail Planning Strategy (2016).</p>				
<p>SP-RP-3 Support the provision or extension of retail facilities in the Key Support Retail Centres (Tier 2) of Tobercurry, Ballymote and Enniscrone.</p> <p>The location of new retail outlets with a floor space greater than 500 sq.m. will be subject to the sequential approach. The Council will encourage site assembly to support convenience retail provision in these key locations.</p>				
<p>SP-RP-4 Facilitate small-scale retail development in villages, provided that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • there is no significant adverse impact on the vitality and viability of the Key Support Retail Centres of Tobercurry, Ballymote, Enniscrone, and • the proposals are of appropriate scale and are acceptable in terms of design, impact on residential amenity, servicing and parking arrangements. 				
<p>SP-RP-5 In Local Retail Centres (Tier 4a), Supporting Retail Centres (Tier 4b) and smaller villages (Tier 5) generally discourage any retail outlet in excess of 500 sq.m. net retail floor space, including extensions that would enlarge an existing development over this threshold. Development over this size is clearly intended to serve more than a local catchment and would therefore be more suitably located in a higher-tier centre.</p>				

Retail planning policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-RP-1 Assess all proposals for retail development in accordance with the requirements of the <i>Retail Planning Guidelines (2012)</i>.</p>	<p>P1 C1 CH2</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-RP-2 Generally require the retention of retail/service outlets (e.g. general food stores, news-agents, post offices, pharmacies, pubs, restaurants and cafés) within town and village centres, with the exception of commercial operations that are no longer viable or are more appropriately located elsewhere (e.g. petrol filling stations).</p>				
<p>P-RP-3 Encourage uses that support local retail and service outlets, such as tourism-related ventures, hotels, craft shops and shops specialising in outdoor pursuits and water sports.</p>				
<p>P-RP-4 Ensure that new retail and service outlets are located within the central area of a town or village, where they can best serve the resident population.</p>				
<p>P-RP-5 Discourage inappropriate out-of-town shopping facilities that detract from the vitality, viability and/or character of existing town and village centres.</p>				
<p>P-RP-6 Facilitate the reuse of existing vacant retail outlets in towns and villages.</p>				
<p>P-RP-7 Promote initiatives or programmes to enhance the character and urban design quality of the Key Support Towns (Tobercurry, Ballymote, Enniscrone) and Gateway Satellites (Ballysadare, Collooney, Coolaney, Grange and Strandhill), to ensure that they become and remain attractive for investment in commerce and retailing.</p>				
<p>P-RP-8 Ensure that all new retail and commercial development proposals respect the scale and character of the streetscape within which they are proposed (refer also to Section 12.1 Historic streetscapes in Chapter 12 and to Section 13.5.9 Shop fronts in Chapter 13 DM Standards).</p>				

Retail planning policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-RP-9 Require the retention of traditional shop fronts and pub fronts of character and good design quality (refer also to Section 12.2 Shop fronts in Chapter 12 and to Section 13.5.9 Shop fronts in Chapter 13 Development Management Standards).	CH2			All other SEOs

Retail planning objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-RP-1 Facilitate the provision of a new or extended supermarket in Enniscrone.	P1 C1			
O-RP-2 Restrict the further development of retail warehousing in Collooney and Grange and encourage the conversion of vacant units to appropriate uses, in accordance with the respective zoning objectives.				

8.6 Evaluation of policies and objectives (including amendments) in Chapter 5 – Housing

Strategic housing policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SP-HOU-1	Encourage a balanced supply of private housing in the county, in a manner that is consistent with the Core Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy, and which will support the creation of sustainable communities through the provision of an appropriate range of house types and high-quality residential environments.	B3 P1 C1 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2	M1 M2
SP-HOU-2	Reserve 10% of eligible sites which are subject to new residential development (or a mix of uses including residential) for the development of social housing units, in accordance with the Housing Strategy and the requirements of Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).				All SEOs
SP-HOU-3	Ensure that the needs of older people, people with disabilities and other special-needs persons and households are adequately catered for in new residential developments.				

Strategic housing objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SO-HOU-1	Implement the relevant provisions of the Sligo County Housing Strategy 2017-2023.				All SEOs
SO-HOU-2	Monitor residential development and manage the supply of new housing to ensure that it is consistent with the requirements of the Core Strategy and the infrastructural capacity of each settlement.				

<p>Urban housing policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-UHOU-1 Have regard to the principle of sequential development in assessing all new residential development proposals, whereby areas closer to settlement centres will be prioritised for development in advance of lands further from settlement centres. Notwithstanding this principle, each proposal will be considered on its merits and having regard to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>P-UHOU-2 Require high quality in the layout and design of new residential development, having regard to the guidance and standards set out in DECLG's <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Sustainable residential development in urban areas</i>. Refer to Section 13.3 Residential development in urban areas (development management standards).</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>P-UHOU-3 Ensure the provision of a suitable range of house types and sizes to facilitate the changing demographic structure and in particular the increasing trend towards smaller household sizes. In private housing schemes, the following mix of house types should generally apply:</p> <p>House type Proportion in the scheme</p> <p>1-2 bedrooms minimum 30% of total no. of houses</p> <p>3 bedrooms minimum 30% of total no. of houses</p> <p>4+ bedrooms maximum 20% of total no. of houses</p>				<p>All SEOs</p>
<p>P-UHOU-4 Promote more compact forms of residential development, such as infill and backland development, and ensure – through the development management process – that access points to backland areas are reserved or that adequate road frontage is reserved to provide future road access, to enable comprehensive backland development.</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			
<p>P-UHOU-5 Ensure that services and utilities in residential developments are provided concurrently with the construction of new dwellings.</p>	<p>B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2</p>			<p>B3 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>

Urban housing policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-UHOU-6 Promote higher densities of residential development in appropriate locations and circumstances, having regard to the principles outlined in the DECLG's <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Sustainable residential development in urban areas</i> .	All SEOs			

Vacant housing policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-VHOU-1 Strive to ensure – through the enforcement process – that housing developments and associated services and facilities are completed to a standard that is in accordance with the terms of the relevant planning permission.				All SEOS
P-VHOU-2 Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards alternative uses of vacant residential units/buildings, subject to appropriate scale, design and compatibility with existing and proposed surrounding uses.	P1			All other SEOs

Vacant housing objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-VHOU-1 Establish baseline data on the number of vacant residential units in each settlement in the CDP area and continue to carry out monitoring of vacancy throughout the Plan period.				All SEOs

Unfinished housing development objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-UFHOU-1 Work with all relevant stakeholders to secure the satisfactory completion of unfinished housing developments in the County.				All SEOs

Housing policy in Rural Areas in Need of Regeneration	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-RANR-HOU-1</p> <p>Accommodate proposals for one-off rural houses in Rural Areas In Need Of Regeneration, subject to normal planning considerations including Habitats Directive Assessment and compliance with the guidance set out in Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (development management standards).</p>	B3		All other SEOs	

Housing policy in Rural Areas Under Urban Influence	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-RAUI-HOU-1</p> <p>Accommodate proposals for one-off rural houses in Rural Areas Under Urban Influence, subject to normal planning considerations, including Habitats Directive Assessment and compliance with the guidance set out in Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (development management standards), where a housing need is demonstrated by the following categories of applicants:</p> <p>A. landowners, including their sons and daughters, who wish to build a first home for their permanent occupation on the landholding associated with their principal family residence where they have lived for a minimum period of seven years;</p> <p>B. persons whose primary employment is in a rural-based activity with a demonstrated genuine need to live in the locality of that employment base, for example, those working in agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture or other natural resource-based employment and who can</p>	B3		All other SEOs	

<p>Housing policy in Rural Areas Under Urban Influence</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>demonstrate that they have been engaged in this employment for over five years;</p> <p>C. persons who have no family lands but who wish to build their first home for their permanent occupation in the area, on a site within a 5-km radius of their original family home, within the rural community in which they have spent a substantial and continuous part of their lives (this provision does not apply in cases where the original family home is located in an area zoned for development in a town or a village);</p> <p>D. persons with a link to the rural community in which they wish to build a first home for their permanent occupation, by reason of having lived in this community for a minimum period of seven years or by the existence in this community of long-established ties with immediate family members;</p> <p>E. persons who are required to live in a rural area for exceptional reasons, including health reasons. Such applications must be accompanied by a specialist’s report and recommendation outlining the reasons why it is necessary for the applicant to live in a rural area. The application should also be supported by a relevant disability organisation of which the applicant is a member, where applicable,</p> <p>AND where such persons can demonstrate that the home they propose is in the interest of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p>				

<p>Housing policy in green belts and sensitive areas (Scenic Routes, Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas)</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-GBSA-HOU-1</p> <p>Accommodate proposals for one-off rural houses in the green belts and sensitive areas, subject to normal planning considerations including Habitats Directive Assessment and compliance with the guidance set out in Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (development management standards), where a housing need is demonstrated by the following categories of applicants:</p> <p>A. landowners, including their sons and daughters, who wish to build a first home for their permanent occupation on the landholding associated with their principal family residence where they have lived for a minimum period of seven years;</p> <p>B. persons whose primary employment is in a rural-based activity with a demonstrated genuine need to live in the locality of that employment base, for example, those working in agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture or other natural resource-based employment and who can demonstrate that they have been engaged in this employment for over five years.</p> <p>AND where such persons can demonstrate that the home they propose is in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.</p>	<p>B3</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>	

Rural housing siting and design policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-RHOU-1	Encourage those who wish to build in rural areas to apply traditional principles in the siting and design of new houses, while facilitating high-quality modern design solutions.	B3 CH2 L1			All other SEOs
P-RHOU-2	Require new house proposal in rural areas to comply with the guidance set out in Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (development management standards).	B3 CH2 L1			All other SEOs

Social housing policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-SHOU-1	Promote social inclusion by ensuring that social housing is well distributed throughout all residential areas rather than concentrated in a few locations.				All SEOs
P-SHOU-2	Ensure that development in areas subject to an agreement under Part V of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) is integrated into the housing scheme in a manner which avoids undue physical and social segregation.				
P-SHOU-3	Ensure that the supply of housing units under the Housing Strategy reflects the current and anticipated demographic characteristics and household sizes.				

Social housing policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-SHOU-4 Encourage linkages between existing public and private housing areas through the provision of shared facilities, services and pedestrian, cycle and vehicular connections, as appropriate.	P1 C1			All other SEOs
P-SHOU-5 Require developers of housing schemes to provide a suitable mix of house types and designs which can be easily adapted to accommodate special housing needs.				All SEOs

Social housing objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-SHOU-1 Continue with the programme of refurbishment and regeneration of existing local authority housing stock.	P1 C1			All other SEOs

Traveller accommodation policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-TA-HOU-1 Provide accommodation for Travellers, as far as is reasonable and practicable, using the full range of housing options available and having regard to the policies outlined in the <i>Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014–2018</i> and subject to Habitats Directive assessment.				All SEOs
P-TA-HOU-2 Consider the submissions of Travellers, their representative organisations and those of the local communities in relation to the siting, planning and design of prospective halting sites or group housing schemes, so as to avoid social conflict and promote social inclusion.				

Traveller accommodation objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-TA-HOU-1 Provide Traveller Accommodation at Collooney, Tobercurry, Cloonamahon (existing site to be redeveloped) and Ballyfree (existing site to be redeveloped).	P1 C1			All other SEOs

Voluntary and cooperative housing policy	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-VC-HOU-1 Assist voluntary and non-profit cooperative housing associations in the provision of housing and encourage a more active involvement of these sectors in the housing market.				All SEOs

Special-needs housing policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-SN-HOU-1 Continue to support independent living for older people and the provision of specific, purpose-built accommodation.				All SEOs
P-SN-HOU-2 Continue to meet the housing needs of persons with special needs both by direct provision of accommodation and by facilitating the provision of housing by the voluntary sector.				
P-SN-HOU-3 Facilitate the provision of suitable accommodation for the homeless and for those in need of emergency accommodation.				
P-SN-HOU-4 Where a particular need is identified, provide housing schemes designed for the needs of older people and/or those with special needs.				

Special-needs housing policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-SN-HOU-5	Support the implementation of the North-West Regional Homelessness Action Plan 2013–2018 and successor documents.				All SEOs
P-SN-HOU-6	Ensure that housing developments accommodating the elderly, the disabled and the households least likely to own cars have easy and convenient access to local facilities and to public transport.				
P-SN-HOU-7	Support proposals for the provision of sheltered housing and work with the various bodies / organisations responsible for provision of this type of accommodation.				

Holiday homes and second homes policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-HSH-1	Direct proposals for holiday homes and second homes into existing serviced settlements, particularly into Easky, Mullaghmore, Rosses Point, Strandhill and Enniscrone and subject to the availability of adequate water and wastewater capacity and Habitats Directive assessment.	P1 L1 CH1 M1 M2 W2 CH2			All other SEOs
P-HSH-2	Ensure that an appropriate balance is maintained between the number of holiday/second homes and the number of permanent homes within each settlement with special functions.				All SEOs

Holiday homes and second homes policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-HSH-3	Require, where appropriate, at planning application stage, the submission of precise details regarding the intentions for tenure and management of potential holiday/second home developments.				All SEOs
P-HSH-4	Ensure that new holiday home developments are constructed to the standards and specifications applicable to housing intended for permanent occupation. Exceptions may be made for specific types of holiday accommodation designed exclusively for short-term occupation by tourists (e.g. apart-hotels, chalets etc.)	HH1			All other SEOs

Holiday homes and second homes objective		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-HSH-1	Continue to carry out monitoring of the number and location of holiday/second homes throughout the plan period.				All SEOs

Derelict houses policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-DHOU-1	Encourage the renovation and reuse of existing derelict houses and consider proposals for replacement houses on their merits. The structures proposed for replacement should generally be intact and exhibit the main characteristics of a dwelling. The location, siting and design of any such replacement house shall reflect those of the existing derelict dwelling. <i>Where historic or vernacular buildings are located on the site, consideration should be given to their retention or incorporation into any proposed development.</i>	P1 CH2 C1 B3 L1		S1 W1 W2 W3	B1 B2 HH1 CH1 M1 M2
P-DHOU-2	Encourage the retention and restoration of vernacular dwellings of local architectural, cultural or social significance.				

Ribbon development policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-RD-1	Discourage development proposals which would be likely to contribute to or exacerbate ribbon development.	P1 B3 W1 W2 L1			B1 B2 HH1 CH1 CH2 C1 M1 M2 S1
P-RD-2	Consider development proposals on gap sites or peripheral sites at locations where ribbon development is already in place, as an alternative to dispersed development that might have a greater visual or traffic safety impact.				

8.7 Evaluation of policies and objectives (incl. amendments) in Chapter 6 – Community facilities

Community facilities policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CF-1 Assist as far as possible in the provision of community facilities by reserving suitably-located land and through the use of the development management process to ensure provision is made for such facilities as the Council considers appropriate.	All SEOs			
P-CF-2 Require high standards in the design and finishes of community facilities.	CH2 L1			All other SEOs
P-CF-3 Optimise existing and proposed physical resources and infrastructure by supporting multi-functional building use and provision, such as the accommodation of small-scale community enterprise units within existing and proposed community facilities.	C1			All other SEOs
P-CF-4 Encourage the siting of community facilities in suitable locations, especially within settlement centres and residential areas or close to existing facilities and public transport routes.	B3 C1 P1		B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	HH1 M1 M2
P-CF-5 Adopt a flexible approach towards the provision of community facilities within a variety of land-use zoning categories, in particular on lands zoned for mixed uses, residential development and enterprise. Such proposals should be located within settlement development limits and should be easily accessible for all sections of the community. It is acknowledged that some community facilities may be better accommodated in rural areas, outside settlement development limits, subject to site suitability and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.				

Education facilities policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-ED-1 Support the provision of additional land for education-related uses through the consideration (on suitable sites) of such facilities in a variety of land-use zoning categories, in particular lands zoned for community facilities, mixed uses and residential development.	P1 C1			All other SEOs
P-ED-2 Direct new educational facilities to locate within existing settlements, preferably near community facilities (such as community centres, playing fields and libraries) and public transport services. Only in exceptional cases will out-of-town locations be considered and will be subject to compliance with habitats directive assessment.	C1 P1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-ED-3 Support the educational institutions in their plans to expand and develop.	B3 P1 C1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-ED-4 Support Sligo's schools in the upgrading and modernisation of their building stock, so as to ensure that these institutions can accommodate population growth.	B3 P1 C1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-ED-5 Ensure that appropriate infrastructure is provided concurrent with the development of an educational facility. Such infrastructure may include footpaths, pedestrian crossings, cycle lanes, parking facilities and facilities for those with special needs.	P1 C1 M1 M2			All other SEOs

Arts and cultural facilities policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-AC-1	Encourage and assist in the development of the arts and to support the ongoing development of cultural infrastructure throughout the County.	B3 C1			All other SEOs
P-AC-2	Continue to enhance the public domain by encouraging the provision of public art, both temporary and permanent, across all art forms and artistic disciplines throughout County Sligo, supported by the <i>Percent for Art</i> funding scheme.			CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
P-AC-3	Support the improvement of library facilities and services, particularly in those communities which have undergone rapid increases in population or designated for future development.	B3 C1			All other SEOs
P-AC-4	Support the delivery of the objectives and actions set out in the Sligo Library Service Plan 2017-2022 in providing community-based educational, cultural and lifelong learning centres.				All SEOs

Childcare policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CC-1	Work with the Sligo County Childcare Committee in the delivery of additional childcare places at suitable locations.	B3 C1 P1		B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	HH1 M1 M2
P-CC-2	Encourage the establishment of appropriate childcare facilities in suitable locations, such as village centres, areas of concentrated employment, in the vicinity of schools, adjacent to public transport corridors and /or pedestrian areas, and in larger new housing estates.	B3 C1 P1			All other SEOs
P-CC-3	Apply the recommendations of the DECLG's <i>Childcare Facilities – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (2001) when considering proposals for large-scale residential developments. In certain cases, the provision of multi-purpose community facilities may be acceptable.	C1 P1			All other SEOs

Childcare policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CC-4 Support proposals that provide an improved variety of childcare services (both in terms of childcare providers, i.e. private / community, and childcare type, i.e. sessional services / full-day care).				All SEOs
P-CC-5 Optimise existing physical resources/infrastructure within the County by supporting multi-functional building use and provision, to include childcare facilities.	B3 C1 P1			All other SEOs

Healthcare policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-HC-1 Encourage the integration of healthcare services and facilities with new and existing community facilities, where feasible.	B3 C1 P1 HH1			All other SEOs
P-HC-2 Promote the provision of healthcare services and facilities within existing settlements, on sites convenient to pedestrian access and public transport.				
P-HC-3 Support the provision of healthcare services and universally accessible facilities for people with learning all types of disabilities and special needs, in accordance with the recommended standards set out in <i>Building for everyone – a Universal Design Approach (NDA, 2012)</i> .				
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.				

Healthcare policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-HC-5	Facilitate the phased redevelopment of the existing Wisdom services care facility at Cregg, subject to the availability of adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	C1 P1 HH1			All other SEOs

Outdoor recreation policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-OR-1	Protect and enhance public open spaces and established recreational green areas.	B3 CH1 L1			All other SEOs
P-OR-2	Support the provision of a variety of accessible, multifunctional, high-quality open spaces and facilities for active and passive recreation, which meet the needs of residents and visitors to County Sligo, are fit for purpose and are economically and environmentally sustainable.				
P-OR-3	Reserve land for new parks and other recreational green spaces as part of the preparation of local area plans for Sligo City, Key Support Towns and village mini-plans.				
P-OR-4	Extend the range of recreational facilities provided within parks and other types of open spaces, as budgets allow.				
P-OR-5	Develop and improve physical linkages and connections between the network of parks and public open spaces in the County.				

Outdoor recreation policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-OR-6 Where feasible, develop walkways and cycleways between green spaces or green corridors in built-up areas and recreational areas located outside settlements, including coastal, upland, lakeland and forestry sites and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B3 P1 C1 HH1		B1 B2 CH1	All other SEOs
P-OR-7 Support the provision of playgrounds in a variety of land-use zoning categories, from residential areas and community facilities to areas zoned for sports and recreation or green belts, where appropriate.	HH1		B1 B2 CH1	All other SEOs
P-OR-8 Support the objectives of the Sligo Sport and Recreation Partnership's Strategic Plan 2013-2016, <i>Sport and Recreation - A Way of Life in Sligo</i> , and any successor Strategic Plans.	HH1			All other SEOs
P-OR-9 Support the development of existing sports and recreation facilities, and the provision of new facilities, as appropriate and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	HH1		B1 B2 CH1	All other SEOs
P-OR-10 Preserve existing public or private recreation areas, including sports clubs, grounds, built leisure facilities and open space. If a change of use is sought, ensure that alternative recreational facilities are provided in a suitable location.				
P-ORS-11 Facilitate shared use of sports and recreation facilities, particularly school facilities.	B3 P1 C1 HH1			All other SEOs
P-ORS-12 Support local sports and community groups in the development of facilities through appropriate land use zoning and ensure that all new facilities are appropriately located where they can best meet the needs of all sections of the community that they are intended to serve.				

Outdoor recreation policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-OR-13 Encourage the provision of sports and recreation infrastructure as an integral part of new residential schemes.				
P-OR-14 Preserve and improve access for the public to lakes, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B3 HH1		B1 B2 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
P-OR-15 Support the sustainable development of water-based leisure, tourism and related activities in County Sligo, subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.				
P-OR-16 Actively promote and protect public access to the coast and uplands, and designate traditional walking routes thereto as public rights-of-way.				
P-OR-17 Protect existing known rights of way and seek the establishment of additional rights of way, by agreement with landowners, to extend existing walking trails or create new ones and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.				
P-OR-18 Continue the process of mapping rights of way in the County during the lifetime of this development plan, pending resources.				All SEOs
P-OR-19 Provide adequate signposting and waymarking on rights of way.				
P-OR-20 Protect existing local greenways and consider designating them as public rights of way.				
P-OR-21 As part of the preparation or review of local area plans and village mini-plans, identify corridors suitable for the creation of urban greenways and seek to connect and integrate them with local and long-distance greenways in the adjoining rural areas and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.	B3 C1 HH1		B1 B2	All other SEOs

Outdoor recreation policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-OR-22 Seek to protect the integrity of established long-distance walking routes. When assessing applications for developments in the vicinity of established walking routes, the Planning Authority shall consider the proposed developments' potential impact on such routes.				
P-OR-23 Protect access to forestry and woodlands – in co-operation with Coillte and private owners or operators – for walking routes (including long distance and looped walks), mountain trails, nature trails etc. for the benefit of local people and tourists.	B3 HH1			All other SEOs
P-OR-24 Support local communities that wish to apply for grants under the Forest Service's NeighbourWood Scheme (DAFM) or any other initiative aiming to establish or enhance woodlands for recreation.				

Allotments policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
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.	B3 P1 C1 HH1			All other SEOs

Burial grounds policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-BG-1 Provide or assist in the provision of new burial grounds and, where feasible, extensions to existing burial grounds, by reserving sufficient land in suitable locations.	C1		CH1 L1 B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-BG-2 Encourage the development of burial grounds to take account of cremation and 'green lawn' principles, to promote more efficient use of land and to facilitate maintenance.				
P-BG-3 Ensure that appropriate archaeological assessment is carried out in relation to any proposals to extend or for works to burial grounds which are designated National Monuments, in accordance with the requirements of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.	CH1 L1			All other SEOs

8.8 Evaluation of policies and objectives (including amendments) in Chapter 7 – Heritage

Heritage – general objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-H-1	Implement, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, the <i>County Sligo Heritage Plan 2016-2020</i> and subsequent heritage plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 L1			P1 C1
O-H-2	Adopt and implement, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders, the <i>County Sligo Biodiversity Action Plan 2011-2015</i> and subsequent biodiversity plans.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1			P1 C1 CH1 CH2
O-H-3	Prepare and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Sligo, as resources allow.				

Natural heritage – general policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-NH-1	Protect, sustainably manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, geological heritage, landscape and environment of County Sligo in recognition of its importance for nature conservation and biodiversity, and as a non-renewable resource, in association with all stakeholders.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 C1 M1 M2 W3 CH1 CH2

Natural heritage – general policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-NH-2	Promote increased understanding and awareness of the natural heritage and biodiversity of the county.	B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 HH1 C1 CH1 CH2 W3 M1 M2
P-NH-3	Protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under the EU Habitats Directive, EU Birds Directive, the Wildlife Act and the Flora Protection Order.				
P-NH-4	Take full account of the precautionary principle where uncertainty exists regarding the potential impact of a proposed development on the natural heritage resource.				

Designated sites for nature conservation – policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-DSNC-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 agreements. These include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar Sites, Statutory Nature Reserves. In addition, the Council will identify, maintain and develop non-designated areas of high nature conservation value which serve as linkages or ‘stepping stones’ between protected sites in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 L1		M1 M2	CH1 CH2 P1 C1
P-DSNC-2	Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of ‘favourable conservation status’ of habitats and species in association with the NPWS.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 L1		M1 M2	CH1 CH2 P1 C1

Designated sites for nature conservation – policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-DSNC-3 Carry out an appropriate level of assessment for all development plans, land-use plans and projects that the Council authorizes or proposes to undertake or adopt, to determine the potential for these plans/projects to impact on designated sites, or proposed designated sites, in accordance with the Habitats Directive. All appropriate assessments shall be in compliance with the provisions of Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1 W3			CH1 CH2 P1 C1 M1 M2
P-DSNC-4 Consider development within, or with the potential to affect, Natural Heritage Areas or proposed Natural Heritage Areas, where it is shown that such development, activities or works will not have significant negative impacts on such sites or features, or in circumstances where impacts can be appropriately mitigated.			B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 L1	CH1 CH2 P1 C1 M1 M2

Designated sites for nature conservation – objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-DSNC-1 Identify and protect local areas of high nature conservation value and support the management of landscape features which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1 W3			CH1 CH2 P1 C1 M1 M2

Protected plant and animal species – policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-PPAS-1	Ensure that development does not have a significant adverse impact, incapable of satisfactory mitigation on plant, animal or bird species protected by law	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 C1 CH1 CH2 W3 M1 M2
P-PPAS-2	Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (DAHG) and take account of any licensing requirements when undertaking, approving and authorising development which is likely to affect plant, animal or bird species protected by law.	B1 B2			All other SEOs
P-PPAS-3	Provide guidance to developers and others in relation to species protected by law and their protection and management in the context of development.				

Protected plant and animal species – objective		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-PPAS-1	Undertake surveys, as appropriate, to establish the location of protected flora and fauna in the Plan area through the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Action Plan.	B1 B2			All other SEOs

<p>Nature conservation outside designated sites – policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-NCODS-1 Minimise the impact of new development on habitats of natural value that are key features of the County’s ecological network. Developments likely to have an adverse effect on recognised sites of local nature conservation importance will be required to demonstrate the impacts on the ecological value of the site and will not be approved unless it can be clearly demonstrated that there are reasons for the development that outweigh the need to safeguard the nature conservation value of the site.</p>	<p>B1 B2 HH1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-NCODS-2 Ensure that development proposals, where relevant, improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network and encourage the retention and management of landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p>				
<p>P-NCODS-3 Ensure that proposals for development protect and enhance biodiversity, wherever possible, by minimising adverse impacts on existing habitats and by including mitigation and/or compensation measures, as appropriate, which ensure that biodiversity is enhanced.</p>				
<p>P-NCODS-4 Apply the <i>precautionary principle</i> in relation to development proposals with potential to impact on County Biodiversity Sites or on local nature conservation interest by requiring an ecological impact assessment (EclA) to ensure that any proposed development will not affect the integrity and conservation value of the site.</p>				
<p>P-NCODS-5 Ensure that no ecological networks, or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity, are lost without remediation as a result of implementation of this Plan.</p>				
<p>P-NCODS-6 Provide guidance for developers and the general public in relation to nature conservation outside designated sites and the conservation and enhancement of biodiversity and geological heritage in general.</p>	<p>B1 B2</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

Nature conservation outside designated sites – objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-NCODS-1	Continue the County Habitat Mapping project, thereby generating the necessary information to identify landscape features that are of major importance for wild fauna, flora and County Biodiversity Sites, as key features of the county’s ecological network.				All SEOs
O-NCODS-2	Identify and protect, in co-operation with the relevant statutory agencies and other relevant groups, County Biodiversity Sites which are not otherwise protected by legislation.	B1 B2 B3			All other SEOs
O-NCODS-3	Ensure that the findings of the county Habitat Mapping project (when completed) are utilised to inform the development management process.				

Wetlands policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-WET-1	Have regard to the County Sligo Wetlands Surveys 2008-2011 and subsequent wetland surveys that may be published during the lifetime of this Plan. Protect surveyed wetland sites that have been rated of A (International), B (National) and C+ (County) importance.	B1 B2 B3 W1 L1			All other SEOs
P-WET-2	Ensure that an ecological assessment at an appropriate level is undertaken in conjunction with proposals involving drainage or reclamation of wetland habitats.				

<p>Woodlands, trees and hedgerows policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-WTH-1 Protect trees, woodlands and hedgerows from development that would impact adversely upon them. Promote new tree and woodland planting and the enhancement of existing hedgerows by seeking increased coverage, in conjunction with new development using native species of local provenance, where possible.</p>	<p>B1 B2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOS</p>
<p>P-WTH-2 Discourage the felling of mature trees to facilitate development and, where appropriate, make use of tree preservation orders to protect important trees and groups of trees which may be at risk or have an important amenity or historic value.</p>				
<p>P-WTH-3 Require the planting of native broadleaved species, and species of local provenance, in new developments.</p>				
<p>P-WTH-4 Promote the planting of native tree and shrub species by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping works and on County Council property.</p>				

<p>Inland waters policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-INW-1 Protect rivers, streams and other water courses and their associated Core Riparian Zones (CRZs) from inappropriate development and maintain them in an open state, capable of providing suitable habitats for fauna and flora. Structures (e.g. bridges) crossing fisheries waters shall be clear-span and shall be designed and built in consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland.</p>	<p>B1 B2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P- INW-2 Protect and enhance biodiversity richness by protecting rivers, stream corridors and valleys by reserving land along their banks for ecological corridors, maintaining them free from inappropriate development and discouraging culverting or realignment.</p>				
<p>P-INW-3 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.</p>				
<p>P-INW-4 Ensure that floodplains and wetlands within the Plan area are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection value.</p>				
<p>P-INW-5 Ensure that proposed developments do not adversely affect groundwater resources and groundwater-dependent habitats and species.</p>				

Inland waters objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-INW-1	Consult with prescribed bodies prior to undertaking, approving or authorising any works or development that may impact on rivers, streams and watercourses.	B1 B2			All other SEOs
O-INW-2	Require that runoff from a developed area does not result in deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats, and that pollution generated by a development is treated within the development area prior to discharge to local watercourses.				

Invasive species policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-INV-1	Prevent and control the spread of invasive plant and animal species within the county.	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 C1 M1 M2 CH1 CH2 W3
P-INV-2	Require, where appropriate, Invasive Species Management Plans to be prepared for development proposals regulated by the Planning Authority or undertaken by the Local Authority, and in particular for Japanese Knotweed and Giant Hogweed.				

Sites of geological interest - objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-SGI-1 Protect from inappropriate development, and maintain the character, integrity and conservation value of those features or areas of geological interest that are listed in this Plan or that may be proposed by the DAHG and/or the GSI in the lifetime of this Plan.	B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 L1			P1 C1 HH1 W3 CH1 CH2 M1 M2

Archaeological heritage policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-AH-1 Protect and enhance archaeological sites, monuments, their setting, appreciation and amenity within the Plan area, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) or newly discovered archaeological sites and/or sub-surface archaeological remains.				
P-AH-2 Require archaeological impact assessment, surveys, test excavation and/or monitoring for planning applications in areas of archaeological importance, if a development proposal is likely to impact upon in-situ archaeological monuments, their setting and archaeological deposits.	CH1 L1		P1	All other SEOs
P-AH-3 Require the preservation of the context, amenity, visual integrity and connection of archaeological monuments to their setting. Views to and from archaeological monuments shall not be obscured by inappropriate development. Where appropriate, archaeological visual impact assessments will be required to demonstrate the continued preservation of an archaeological monument's siting and context.				

<p>Archaeological heritage policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-AH-4 Secure the preservation in-situ or by record of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 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. <p>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.</p>				
<p>P-AH-5 Protect historic burial grounds that are recorded monuments and encourage their maintenance in accordance with best conservation principles. Development may be restricted or conditions requiring substantial excavation may be imposed in and adjacent to former burial grounds.</p>				
<p>P-AH-6 Where possible, facilitate and enhance public access to and understanding of the archaeological heritage and disseminate archaeological information and advice to prospective developers and the general public.</p>	<p>CH1 L1 P1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-AH-7 Require that all development proposals for industrial buildings and sites of industrial archaeological importance be accompanied by an industrial archaeology assessment of the surrounding environment. New development should be designed in sympathy with existing features and structures.</p>				

<p>Archaeological heritage policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-AH-8 Protect and preserve the archaeological value of underwater archaeological sites and associated features. In assessing proposals for development, the Council will take account of the potential underwater archaeology of rivers, lakes, intertidal and subtidal environments.</p>	<p>CH1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-AH-9 Refer to the National Monuments Section, DAHG all development proposals within the archaeological and historic landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill) as identified in Fig. 7.A (see next page).</p>	<p>L1 CH1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-AH-10 Ensure that Archaeological Impact Assessments are requested at pre-planning and planning application stage for all development proposals within the archaeological and historic landscape of the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill).</p>				

Archaeological heritage objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-AH-1 Identify and protect internationally important archaeological landscapes such as the Carrowkeel, Inishmurray and the Cuil Irra Peninsula (which includes the core areas of Knocknarea, Carrowmore and Carns Hill), in co-operation with landowners and relevant stakeholders and statutory agencies.	L1 CH1			All other SEOs
O-AH-2 Identify appropriate archaeological sites in the Plan area to which public access could be provided and work to secure public access, where appropriate, in consultation with the land owners.	B3 CH1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
O-AH-3 Prepare and implement conservation plans in partnership with relevant stakeholders for key heritage sites in County Sligo, including, Drumcliffe and the Greenfort, Sligo.	CH1			All other SEOs

<p>Architectural heritage policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-ARH-1 Preserve, protect and enhance the architectural heritage of County Sligo for future generations. The area's architectural heritage is of national and regional importance and is central to Sligo's ability to promote itself as a centre for cultural tourism.</p>	<p>CH2 L1 P1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-ACA-2 Ensure that any development, modifications, alterations, or extensions affecting a protected structure, an adjoining structure or a structure within an ACA is sited and designed appropriately and is not detrimental to the character of the structure, to its setting or the general character of the ACA.</p>				
<p>P-ARH-3 Exempt a development proposal from the normal requirement for the payment of a development contribution if the proposal involves restoration/refurbishment of a protected structure to a high architectural standard.</p>				
<p>P-ARH-4 Facilitate enabling development to be carried out in conjunction with works to protected structures where consistent with the parameters outlined in subsection 7.3.5 Enabling Development.</p>				
<p>P-ARH-5 Protect important non-habitable structures such as historic bridges, harbours, railways or non-structural elements such as roadside features (e.g. 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.</p>	<p>CH2 L1 P1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-ARH-6 Promote the retention and re-use of the vernacular built heritage through increasing public awareness of its potential for re-use and its adaptability to change.</p>				
<p>P-ARH-7 When considering proposals to adapt vernacular buildings to meet contemporary living standards and needs, require applicants to apply the conservation principles and guidelines set out in the ICOMOS Charter on the Built Vernacular Heritage (Mexico 1999) – refer to Appendix H of this Plan.</p>				

<p>Architectural Conservation Areas – policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-ACA-1 Conserve and enhance the special character of the Architectural Conservation Areas in this plan. The special character of an area includes its traditional building stock and material finishes, spaces, streetscapes, shop fronts, landscape and setting.</p>	<p>CH2 L1 P1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-ACA-2 Protect all buildings, structures, groups of structures, sites, landscapes and all features considered to be intrinsic elements to the special character of the ACA from demolition and non sympathetic alterations.</p>				
<p>P-ACA-3 Promote appropriate and sensitive reuse and rehabilitation of buildings and sites within ACAs.</p>				
<p>P-ACA-4 Require the retention of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings, chimneys, rainwater goods and other significant features of structures of architectural heritage merit, whether protected or not.</p>				
<p>P-ACA-5 Seek the repair and reuse of traditional shop fronts and where appropriate, encourage new shop fronts of a high quality architectural design.</p>				
<p>P-ACA-6 Ensure that new development within or adjacent to an ACA respects the established character of the area and contributes positively in terms of design, scale, setting and material finishes to the ACA.</p>				
<p>P-ACA-7 Promote high quality architectural design within ACAs, including redevelopment in the traditional or historicist manner, where appropriate.</p>				
<p>P-ACA-8 Ensure that all new signage, lighting, advertising and utilities on buildings within an ACA are designed, constructed, and located in such a manner that they do not detract from the character of the ACA.</p>				

<p>Landscape character assessment and protection policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-LCAP-1 Protect the physical landscape, visual and scenic character of County Sligo and seek to preserve the County's landscape character. by assessing all development proposals on the basis of the Landscape Characterisation Map.</p> <p>Planning applications that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character, or scenic views especially in <i>Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and along Scenic routes</i>, may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and appropriate viewing points and methods of assessment.</p>	<p>P1 S1 W1 CH1 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-LCAP-2 Discourage any developments that would be detrimental to the unique visual character of designated Visually Vulnerable Areas.</p>	<p>L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-LCAP-3 Preserve the scenic views listed in Appendix F and the distinctive visual character of designated <i>Scenic Routes</i> by controlling development along designated Scenic such Routes and other roads, while facilitating developments that may be tied to a specific location or to the demonstrated needs of applicants to reside in a particular area.</p> <p>In all cases, strict location, siting and design criteria shall apply, as set out in Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (development management standards).</p>	<p>B3 L1</p>		<p>S1 W1 W2 C1</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>Landscape character assessment and protection policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-LCAP-4 Strictly control new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, while considering exceptions that can demonstrate a clear need to locate in the area concerned.</p> <p>Ensure that any new development in designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of the area; ▪ does not detract from the scenic value of the area; ▪ meets high standards of siting and design; ▪ satisfies all other criteria with regard to, inter alia, servicing, public safety and prevention of pollution. 	<p>B1 B2 B3 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-LCAP-5 Protect the historic and archaeological landscapes of the County.</p>				
<p>P-LCAP-6 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 shall not be used for the top line of wire. Stiles or gates at appropriate places will be required.</p>	<p>B1B2 B3 CH1 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-LCAP-7 Where possible, preserve the open character of commonage and other hill land and secure access thereto.</p>				

8.9 Evaluation of policies and objectives (incl. amendments) in Chapter 8 – Transport and mobility

Transport – strategic policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SP-TRA-1 Support the creation of an integrated and environmentally-sound transport system, in particular with regard to accessibility and choice of transport, with a quality intercity bus and rail service, alongside the promotion of cycle facilities and pedestrian movements.	B3 C1 HH1		B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 M2
SP-TRA-2 Make optimal use of existing transportation infrastructure by using traffic management in order to reduce travel times and congestion.	B3 C1			All other SEOs
SP-TRA-3 Encourage the shift from car use to more environmentally-friendly modes of transport and ensure the provision of quality interchange facilities between road, rail, bus and bicycle in relevant settlements.	B3 C1 HH1			All other SEOs
SP-TRA-4 Plan for the future traffic and transportation needs in Sligo and ensure that new development does not compromise the expansion of rail, road and cycling corridors in the County. Proposed road realignment/improvement lines, road corridors and national cycle route corridors shall be preserved free from development that would prejudice the implementation of the schemes.	B3 C1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 CH1 CH2 L1	P1 M1 M2
SP-TRA-5 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 N-4, N-15, N-16, N-17 and N-59 outside the 50 km/h speed limit, in accordance with the DoECLG’s publication <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads -Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (2012). <i>(relocated and renamed National Roads Policy P-NR-1)</i>				

Transport – strategic policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SP-TRA-5 Promote improved access to and sustainable development and operation of Sligo Port and Sligo Airport (Strandhill) and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	P1 C1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 CH1 CH2 W1 W2 L1	W3 M1 M2
SP-TRA-6 Facilitate and encourage the provision of adequate car-parking facilities in Sligo City and the County's towns and villages.	P1		C1 CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
SP-TRA-7 Facilitate the roll-out of charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, in line with the <i>National Renewable Energy Action Plan's</i> target for 10% of Ireland's vehicles to be electric by 2020.	C1			All other SEOs

Transport – strategic objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SO-TRA-1 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 <i>Smarter Travel, Cycle and Walking Strategies</i> .				
SO-TRA-2 Implement the relevant transportation policies of the DTTAS policy document <i>Investing in our Transport Future - Strategic Investment Framework for Land Transport</i> , in partnership with funding agencies and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	C1 B3 P1		B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1	HH1 W3 M1 M2
SO-TRA-3 Initiate the preparation of a <i>Transportation Study for Sligo City & Environs</i> by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII, previously NRA), the National Transportation Authority and the Department of Transport, subject to available funding, and implement the recommendations of this Study subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.				

Road safety policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-RS-1	Bring national roads up to appropriate standards, as resources become available, and continue improvement works on non-national roads, so as to develop a safe and comprehensive road system for the county.	B3 HH1 C1		S1 CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
P-RS-2	Continue to implement the actions of the Road Safety Authority's <i>Road Safety Strategy 2013-2020</i> in partnership with the TII.				

National roads policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-NR-1	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 N-4, N-15, N-16, N-17 and N-59 outside the 50 km/h speed limit, in accordance with the DoECLG's publication <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads -Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</i> .	C1			All other SEOs
P-NR-2	Protect the route corridors necessary for the construction of new roads or the upgrading of existing national roads in Sligo, in accordance with the DoECLG's publication <i>Spatial Planning and National Roads -Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012)</i> .	C1			All other SEOs

National roads policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-NR-3 Apply the provisions of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DTTS, DECLG 2013) to all development along national roads inside the 60-km/h speed limit zones in towns and villages.	P1 HH1			All other SEOs
P-NR-4 Maintain the national road network in accordance with the TII Pavement Asset Management System.	C1			All other SEOs
P-NR-5 Permit direct access to zoned lands along national roads inside the 50 km/h speed limit subject to normal planning considerations. Within transitional zones (between 50 km/h and 60 km/h speed limiting signs), access may be permitted, but only in limited circumstances, where it is in the interest of facilitating orderly urban development, and subject to a road safety audit carried out in accordance with TII requirements.	P1 HH1			All other SEOs
P-NR-6 Maintain the national road bridge stock subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.			B1 B2	All other SEOs

National roads objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-NR-1 Undertake programmed improvements to the national road network, including the programme of realignments and upgrades, as set out in Table 8.B and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	C1		All other SEOs	P1 M1 M2

National roads objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-NR-2 Carry out a feasibility study for a City Bypass for Sligo and Environs.				All SEOs
O-NR-3 Maintain the national road bridge stock subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive. <i>(relocated and renamed National Roads Policy P-NR-6)</i>				

Non-national roads and bridges policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-NNR-1 Identify local priorities for road improvements in conjunction with the preparation of mini-plans and local area plans.	B3 C1 P1		All other SEOs	M1 M2 W3
P-NNR-2 Implement the roads and traffic management objectives of adopted mini-plans/local area plans, subject to the availability of funding.				
P-NNR-3 Continue investment in local roads infrastructure in County Sligo, in order to improve access to peripheral areas of the County and promote social inclusion.				
P-NNR-4 Continue to maintain, repair, replace and preserve the County's bridges, the majority of which are over 140 years old and have a heritage value, subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.				
P-NNR-5 Upgrade roads, footpaths, car-parking areas and junctions within the County's towns and villages in accordance with the provisions of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DTTS, DECLG, 2013), subject to the availability of resources.				

Non-national roads and bridges objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-NNR-1	Carry out improvement works on regional and local roads, and in particular to the regional road network as set out in Table 8.C and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B3 C1 P1		All other SEOs	M1 M2 W3
O-NNR-2	Develop the Strategic Non-National Road – the Western Distributor Road.	C1 P1 M1 M2		All other SEOs	W3
O-NNR-3	Develop the Strategic Non-National Road – The Eastern Garavogue Bridge and Approach Roads.	C1 P1		All other SEOs	M1 M2 W3
O-NNR-4	Reserve a number of proposed intra-urban road links for development within Sligo City in conjunction with the preparation of the Sligo and Environs LAP.	C1 P1 M1 M2		CH2	All other SEOs

Cycling and walking policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CW-1	Promote walking and cycling as sustainable transport modes and healthy recreational activities.	B3 C1 HH1 P1			All other SEOS
P-CW-2	Plan and make provision for the safe and efficient movement of cyclists and pedestrians in and around built-up areas.				

Cycling and walking policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CW-3 Make provision for the integration of pedestrian and cycle facilities (i.e. bicycle parking) at public transportation nodes and village/town centres, public car parks and Institutions.				
P-CW-4 Ensure that adequate cycle facilities are provided in all new institutions, employment centres, sports complexes and leisure facilities, in the form of sheltered bicycle parking and locker rooms with shower facilities.				
P-CW-5 Promote cycling as a viable commuting mode of transport.				
P-CW-6 Require that all new developments are designed to integrate into a cycling network linking with adjoining development areas and schools, and provide cycle and pedestrian-friendly development layouts, infrastructure and facilities.				
P-CW-7 Provide appropriate facilities for pedestrians and for people with special mobility needs.	B3 C1 HH1 P1			All other SEOs
P-CW-8 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. Where feasible, provide separate trails for walkers and cyclists in the interests of safety and convenience, with appropriate surfaces for each type of user and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B3 C1 HH1 P1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-CW-9 Provide, improve and extend cycle and pedestrian routes on existing roads, proposed roads, roads being upgraded and green corridors (including river corridors), where feasible and practical and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.				
P-CW-10 Implement the relevant policies of the Department of Transport's <i>National Cycle Policy Framework 2009–2020</i> , and support the provision of a national cycle network.	B3 C1		B1 B2	All other SEOs

Cycling and walking policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CW-11 Implement the relevant provisions of the Department of Transport's <i>Walking Policy</i> , when published.				
P-CW-12 Implement the measures in Sligo's Cycling Strategy and update the Strategy as appropriate.				

Cycling and walking objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-CW-1 Develop cycle routes from Ballysadare and Collooney to Sligo City.				All other SEOs
O-CW-2 Develop a cycle route from the proposed Eastern Garavogue Bridge to Hazelwood House.	C1 HH1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
O-CW-3 Prepare an Integrated Transportation Plan for Sligo to include all modes of transport, with support from the National Transport Authority (NTA).	C1 P1		B1 B2 CH1 CH2 L1 W1 W2	All other SEOs
O-CW-4 Facilitate the pedestrianisation of Sligo City Centre by the development of link roads and footbridges and the introduction of a 30 km/h zone in the Centre of Sligo City.	C1 P1 HH1			All other SEPs
O-CW-5 Seek the development of a footway and cycleway (greenway) on or alongside the disused closed railway line from Claremorris to Collooney to Bellaghy (Sligo/Mayo county boundary) insofar as such route does not compromise the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor, if reopening the railway line is deemed feasible'.	B3 C1 P1		B1 B2	All other SEOs

Cycling and walking objectives	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-CW-6 Seek the development of a footway and cycleway (greenway) on or alongside the abandoned railway line (SLNCR) from Collooney to Enniskillen, with a connection from Collooney to Sligo town, which can also serve as a Smarter Travel commuter route and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B3 C1 P1		B1 B2	All other SEOs

Public transport policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-PT-1 Strengthen Sligo's function as a transportation node in the North-West and facilitate an easy interchange between different transportation modes.	C1			All other SEOS
P-PT-2 Promote the consolidation of settlements on existing public transport routes.	C1 B3 P1		B1 B2 W3	All other SEOS
P-PT-3 Support the provision of public transport services by reserving land in suitable locations for public transport infrastructure and ancillary facilities, such as park-and-ride.				
P-PT-4 Support the provision of a local commuter rail service on the existing mainline railway.	C1 B3			All other SEOS
P-PT-5 Examine the feasibility of reopening the Western Rail Corridor, as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo and the North-West with Mayo, Galway and Limerick in the context of the new rail policy to be developed by the DTTaS.				All SEOs
P-PT-6 Support local, community transport services in consultation with the local communities.				All SEOs

Public transport policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-PT-7	Continue to work with the service providers, such as Iarnród Éireann and Bus Éireann, to encourage the reduction in the need for car trips by improving the availability, reliability and quality of public transport.				All SEOs
P-PT-8	Ensure that the design and layout of new developments facilitates circulation by public transport.	B3 C1 P1			All other SEOs

Airport policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-A-1	Facilitate improved access to Knock International Airport, so as to secure a better level and frequency of service and promote Sligo's accessibility to tourists and businesses, both nationally and internationally.	P1			M1 M2 W3
O-A-2	Support proposals to upgrade facilities and improve the viability of Sligo Airport and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.			All other SEOs	

Ports and harbours policies		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-PH-1	Continue to support the sustainable development and operation of Sligo Port, and improve road and rail access to the Port subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive, in order to boost its viability as a freight port.	P1 W3		All other SEOs	M1 M2 W2
P-PH-2	Support the role of harbours, piers and shipways in facilitating fishing, marine leisure, recreation and other activities including the RNLi station at Rosses Point. (RNLi stands for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, established in 1826).	B3 P1 W3		All other SEOs	M1 M2 W2

Ports and harbours objectives		Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-PH-1	Carry out improvements at Rosses Point Pier and Harbour, Mullaghmore, Enniscrone and Pullaheaney Harbours, and maintain and improve other piers and harbours, as resources allow and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B3 P1 W3		All other SEOs	M1 M2 W2
O-PH-2	Maintain navigation aids and tidal gauges, as necessary, for the benefit of the maritime and coastal communities.				All SEOs

8.10 Evaluation of policies and objectives (incl. amendments) in Chapter 9 – Environmental infrastructure

Water supply policies	Likely to improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-WS-1 Co-operate with Irish Water to ensure an adequate, sustainable and economic supply of good quality water for domestic, commercial and industrial use, in order to promote the development of County Sligo's settlements as set out in the Core Strategy.				
P-WS-2 Liaise with Irish Water in seeking to establish source management and protection zones around drinking water supply sources (ground and surface water) and develop appropriate management and maintenance measures for these sources.	HH1 W1 W2 M2		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-WS-3 Support the implementation of the Irish Water's Capital Investment Programmes (CIP) and Minor Works Programmes (MWP) subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.				
P-WS-4 Facilitate the inclusion of water conservation and sustainability measures so as to minimise the use of potable water in new developments.	M2			All other SEOs
P-WS-5 Where connection to a public water supply is not possible, or the existing supply does not have sufficient capacity, the provision of a private water supply will be permitted only where it can be demonstrated that the proposed water supply meets the standards set out in the EU and national legislation and guidance, and would not be prejudicial to public health or would not significantly impact negatively on the source or yield of an existing supply.	HH1		W1 W2 S1	All other SEOs

Wastewater policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-WW-1 Co-operate with Irish Water in the provision of adequate wastewater treatment capacity including the programme of upgrades / extensions set out in Table 9.C and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive. These works will facilitate development in County Sligo and promote the growth of the county's settlements as set out in the Core Strategy.	W1 W2 M1 S1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-WW-2 Require sustainable collection, treatment and discharge of wastewater effluent generated within the County, and ensure that effluent/sludge is treated and disposed of in accordance with the required EU standards.	S1 W1 W2 M1 HH1		B1 B2	All other SEOs
P-WW-3 Ensure that developers provide effective drainage systems with separate foul and surface water networks.				
<p>P-WW-4 Require all new developments to connect to the public wastewater treatment plants, where capacity exists in the system.</p> <p>In cases where a settlement is not served by a public wastewater treatment plant, or where no spare capacity exists in the relevant wastewater treatment plants, proposals for single houses using on-site wastewater treatment will be considered subject to appropriate scale, site assessment, design and ground conditions, taking groundwater vulnerability into account and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Any such permitted development shall be subject to legally binding maintenance arrangements agreed with the Planning Authority and shall be required to connect to the public wastewater treatment plant when adequate capacity becomes available.</p> <p>However, communal on-site wastewater treatment systems for multiple housing developments (i.e. systems servicing more than one residential unit) will not be permitted.</p>	S1 W1 W2 M1 HH1			All other SEOs
P-WW-5 All proposals for on-site treatment systems shall be designed, constructed and maintained in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's <i>Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE≤10)</i> . (2009) and/or <i>Treatment Systems for Small Communities, business, Leisure Centres and Hotels</i> , EPA (1999) as amended, and any guidance documents issued by the County Council.				

Wastewater policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-WW-6 Ensure that adequately designed oil interceptors are installed in all commercial developments that include car-parks or other oil- and petrol-related activities.	S1 W1 W2 M1 HH1			All other SEOs

Surface water drainage policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-SWD-1 Require the provision and use of separate foul and surface water drainage systems.	B1 B2 S1 HH1 W1 W2			All other SEOs
P-SWD-2 Ensure that developments are kept at an appropriate distance from watercourses, to protect them from contamination, allow for natural drainage and facilitate channel clearing maintenance subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.				
P-SWD-3 Preserve and protect the water quality of natural surface water storage sites, such as wetlands, where these help to regulate stream flows, recharge groundwater and screen pollutants (such features also provide important habitat functions).				
P-SWD-4 Protect wetland areas and floodplains from development.				
P-SWD-5 Prohibit the alteration of natural drainage systems and, in the case of development works, require the provision of acceptable mitigation measures in order to minimise the risk of flooding and negative impacts on water quality (including run-off, erosion and sedimentation).				

Surface water drainage policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-SWD-6 Protect drainage characteristics of river channels and streams that can facilitate surface water drainage, by ensuring that development is kept at an appropriate distance from stream banks and/or adequate protection measures are put in place.				
P-SWD-7 Promote storm water retention facilities for new developments and existing catchment areas, particularly where developments are proposed in proximity to an existing open water course or stream.				
P-SWD-8 Encourage and, where appropriate, require that the permitted flow from a development to a public storm water drain or watercourse is restricted/equal to the natural run-off rates from the undeveloped site.				

Waste management policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-WM-1 Promote the development of facilities in accordance with the waste hierarchy principle, which involves a shift towards prevention and waste minimisation measures, while developing recycling and reuse, disposal with energy recovery and, as the last option, disposal of residual waste to landfill.	B3 HH1		B1 B2 S1 W1 W2	All other SEOs

Waste management policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-WM-2 Require all new developments – including residential, commercial and industrial developments, neighbourhood centres, shopping and retail areas – to provide adequate storage for the three segregated municipal waste types (organic, recyclable and landfill waste) and incorporate waste management facilities commensurate with their nature and scale. Waste collection points shall have adequate access to provide for loading and further division after recycling on site, in order to facilitate the achievement of high recycling levels.</p>	HH1 S1			All other SEOs
<p>P-WM-3 Require the preparation of Waste Management Plans for the construction stages of developments, where deemed necessary.</p>	S1 W1 W2 HH1			All other SEOs
<p>P-WM-4 Make appropriate provision for a bring bank centre for glass and cans in each village.</p>	HH1 P1			All other SEOs
<p>P-WM-5 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.</p>	P1 S1 W1 W2			All other SEOs
<p>P-WM-6 Require any development proposals on known historic landfill sites or in their vicinity shall take into consideration the <i>EPA Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (April 2007)</i>. Where landfills meet the definition of a 'closed landfill', as set out in the <i>Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008)</i>, there will be a requirement for authorisation of the landfill by the EPA under those regulations.</p>				
<p>P-WM-7 Ensure that the zoning or the rezoning of known former landfill sites, as part of the preparation or review of local area plans, is the most appropriate having regard to the potential sensitivities of such lands.</p>				

Waste management policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-WM-8 Development proposals on brownfield sites – such as former petrol stations, fuel/chemical storage areas and similar sites – shall be required to undertake an assessment if the potential for contaminated materials, soils etc to be unearthed during demolition/construction works, and the associated environmental risks.</p> <p>Where any environmental risk is identified, appropriate investigations shall be undertaken to determine the nature and extent of any materials or contaminated soils on the proposed development sites.</p> <p>A site-specific remediation plan shall be prepared to ensure that the construction and operation phases of development do not result in risk to human health, water quality, biodiversity, fisheries, air quality etc.</p>	P1 S1 HH1 W1 W2			All other SEOs

Waste management objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>O-WM-1 Ensure that the certification and remediation process of the known historic landfill at Finisklin is completed in accordance with the <i>EPA Code of Practice: Environmental Risk Assessment for Unregulated Waste Disposal Sites (April 2007)</i>.</p>	P1 S1 HH1 W1 W2			All other SEOs

8.11 Evaluation of policies and objectives (including amendments) in Chapter 10 – Environmental quality

Water quality policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-WQ-1 Ensure that all development proposals have regard to the Sligo Groundwater Protection Scheme, in order to protect groundwater resources and groundwater-dependent habitats and species.	B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2			All other SEOs
P-WQ-2 Strictly limit and control new development in or near the catchment areas of water bodies, particularly salmonid rivers and those that are the source of the following drinking water supplies: <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 45%;"> Lough Gill Lough Arrow Kilsellagh Source catchment Lough Talt </div> <div style="width: 45%;"> Lough Easky Gortnaleck and Lyle streams Riverstown Source Catchment GWS Source Catchments </div> </div>				
P-WQ-3 Require adherence to any source protection plans (or equivalent) for the above-mentioned drinking water source catchments.				
P-WQ-4 Prohibit any development which is likely to lead to the deterioration of water quality.				

Air quality policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-AQ-1 Support the ban on bituminous coal in Sligo City and Environs and encourage the use of smokeless fuel throughout the County.				
P-AQ-2 In conjunction with the EPA, ensure that all existing and new developments are operated in a manner that does not contribute to deterioration in air quality.	HH1			All other SEOs
P-AQ-3 Ensure all new and – where possible – existing developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise odour nuisance from the development.				
P-AQ-4 Promote the retention of trees, hedgerows and other vegetation, and encourage tree planting as a means of air purification and filtering of suspended particles.	B1 B2 B3 L1			All other SEOs

Noise control policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
In Irish legislation, noise is addressed under the EPA Act 1992 and the EPA Noise Regulations 1994. Most large-scale activities that result in high noise levels are subject to an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) licence from the EPA.				
P-NC-1 When assessing proposals for activities that are likely to generate significant levels of noise, seek to protect the amenity of dwellings, community facilities and other noise-sensitive developments by ensuring that all new (and where possible existing) developments incorporate appropriate measures to minimise noise nuisance.	HH1			All other SEOs
P-NC-2 Developments that operate at night – e.g. restaurants, takeaways, pubs, hotels, night clubs – should not be located close to dwellings, where possible.				

Policies for development in the coastal zone	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-DCZ-1 Generally restrict development in the coastal zone except where it can be demonstrated that it does not detract from views, visually intrude on the coastal landscape or impact on environmentally sensitive areas. Between coastal roads and the sea, exceptions will be considered only for sustainable tourism development, public infrastructural works and development that is contiguous with existing towns and villages and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 CH1 L1			M1 M2 CH2

Policies for development in the coastal zone	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-DCZ-2 Restrict the location of industrial development within the coastal zone to resource-based activities that have a clear and demonstrable need, i.e. those dependent on resources available at the sea or coast (e.g. maritime industries, mariculture). All such proposals will be subject to the strict application of location, siting and design criteria and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 P1 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 C1 CH1 L1</p>			<p>M1 M2 CH2</p>
<p>P-DCZ-3 Prohibit development in coastal areas where the natural erosion process is likely to threaten the viability of such development.</p>				

Policies for coastal protection	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-CP-1 Ensure that visual and environmental considerations are considered in the design of coastal defence works including compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>B1 B2 W1 W3 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-CP-2 Require that any development within the coastal zone is appropriately sited, having regard to coastal flooding, future shoreline erosion, predicted sea-level rise and OPW flood mapping.</p>	<p>HH1 W3 B3</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-CP-3 Require that detailed flood risk assessment is carried out in relation to development proposals within the coastal zone and particularly on all low-lying areas, where appropriate.</p>				

Policies for coastal protection	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CP-4 Establish natural buffers at the coast, particularly in conjunction with the preparation of local area plans and mini-plans.	B1 B2 HH1 W1 W3 L1			All other SEOs

Objectives for coastal protection	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
O-CP-1 Carry out the coastal zone management and protection works outlined in Box 10.A subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	HH1 S1 W3 M1		B1 B2 CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
O-CP-2 Identify, prioritise and implement coastal protection works within the coastal zone where considered necessary, subject to the availability of resources and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.				
O-CP-3 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and carry out appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions, subject to the availability of resources and compliance with the Habitats Directive. Where appropriate, continue to employ soft engineering techniques (i.e. dune stabilisation and planting).				
O-CP-4 Examine existing beach bye-laws and make appropriate amendments, in the interest of protecting sand dunes from encroachment and damage.				All SEOs

Major Accidents Directive policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-MAD-1 Consult with the Health and Safety Authority when assessing proposals for a new Seveso establishment or modifications to an establishment, and when assessing proposals for development in the vicinity of existing Seveso establishments.	HH1			All other SEOs
P-MAD-2 Ensure that appropriate distances are maintained between establishments covered by the Major Accidents Directive and residential areas, areas of public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest.				

Climate adaptation and mitigation policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CAM-1 Support the implementation of the <i>National Climate Change Adaptation Framework 2012</i> , by including relevant measures in any forthcoming adaptation plans. Such plans shall be in accordance with national guidance issued by the DoECLG and EPA and undertaken in collaboration with the Northern and Western Regional Assembly, Mayo County Council, Roscommon County Council, Leitrim County Council and Donegal County Council.	HH1			All other SEOs
P-CAM-2 Prepare a climate change adaptation strategy for County Sligo in compliance with national guidance and in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.				
P-CAM-3 Raise public awareness and build local resilience in relation to climate adaptation.				
P-CAM-4 Facilitate and assist County Sligo's transition to a low-carbon economy and society.				

Climate adaptation and mitigation policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-CAM-5 Promote, support and implement measures that reduce man-made GHGs, including energy management, energy efficiency, compact development patterns, low-carbon buildings and sustainable transport.				
P-CAM-6 Consult and encourage partnerships with stakeholders when addressing climate change matters, particularly through the development plan process.				All SEOs
P-CAM-7 Promote and support the research and development of local renewable energy sources.				
P-CAM-8 Promote and support the use of renewable energy in all sectors.				
P-CAM-9 Support community participation in, and benefit from, renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.				
P-CAM-10 Support local innovation, economic activity and job creation in the “green “economy by encouraging investment in products, services and technologies needed in a low carbon future.				
P-CAM-11 Support the repair of old structures where possible, in particular the repair of the stone arch bridge stock, in preference to replacement with high carbon materials.	CH2			All other SEOs

Flood risk management policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-FRM-1 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains, wetlands and coastal areas subject to flooding and ensure that no removal of sand dunes, beach sand or gravel is undertaken. These areas represent a vital green infrastructure, which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defences in the future.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-FRM-2 Direct strategically significant growth, projects and infrastructure to areas with a low risk of flooding.</p>				
<p>P-FRM-3 Zone land for development in areas with a high or moderate risk of flooding only where it can be clearly demonstrated, on a solid evidence base, that the zoning will satisfy the justification test set out in chapter 4 of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i>.</p>	<p>P1 W3 HH1</p>		<p>All other SEOs</p>	<p>M1 M2 C1</p>
<p>P-FRM-4 Maintain a 20-metre-wide flood protection zone around lakes and along both sides of all rivers, and a 100-metre-wide flood protection zone from soft shorelines. Development proposals will be required to maintain these flood protection zones free from development.</p> <p>Exceptions may be considered for strategic road projects, river bank enhancement works, bridge and road repair works, in the case of brownfield sites, development on lands zoned subject to policy P-FRM-3 and in cases where the maintenance of the flood protection zone is not practically achievable. Such cases will be assessed on an individual basis and subject to compliance with the Habitats and Directive.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>Flood risk management policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-FRM-5 Restrict development in areas at risk of flooding unless:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – it is demonstrated that there are wider sustainability grounds for appropriate development; – the flood risk can be managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere; – the overall flood risk is reduced, where possible. <p>Developments considered necessary in order to meet the objectives of this Plan, or required on wider sustainability grounds, will be subject to the development management justification test outlined in chapter 5 of the <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines</i>.</p> <p>Measures such as flood compensation storage works or new hard-engineered flood defences alone will not be acceptable as justification for development in flood risk areas. Such measures will be subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and will only be considered as part of a proposal if the development is warranted by the justification test on planning and sustainability grounds in the first instance, and where no alternative site is available.</p>	<p>W3 HH1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-FRM-6 Require development proposals, where appropriate, to be accompanied by a detailed flood risk assessment in accordance with the provisions of the DoEHLG’s <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> and to address flood risk management in the detailed design of development, as set out in Appendix B of the Guidelines.</p>				

<p>Flood risk management policies</p>	<p>Likely to improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-FRM-7 Assess flood risk in Local Area Plans in accordance with the DoEHLG's <i>Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> 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.</p>	<p>W3 HH1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

8.12 Evaluation of policies and objectives (including amendments) in Chapter 11 – Energy and telecoms

Strategic energy policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>SP-EN-1 Support the sustainable development, upgrading and maintenance of energy generation, transmission, storage and distribution infrastructure, to ensure the security of energy supply and provide for future needs, as well as protection of the landscape, natural, archaeological and built heritage, and residential amenity and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>				
<p>SP-EN-2 Facilitate the sustainable production of energy from renewable sources, energy conversion and capture in forms such as wind power, hydro-power, wave-generated energy, bioenergy, solar technology and the development of Waste to Energy/Combined Heat and Power schemes at appropriate locations and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>All such development proposals will be assessed for their potential impact on urban and rural communities, Natura 2000 sites, designated Sensitive Rural Landscapes, Visually Vulnerable Areas, Scenic Routes and scenic views, as well as in accordance with strict location, siting and design criteria.</p>			<p>B1 B2 B3 S1 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>SP-EN-3 Promote and support the development of energy from biomass, including the cultivation, processing and conversion of energy crops and the conversion of waste to energy.</p>				
<p>SP-EN-4 Support existing and new enterprises that wish to use renewable energy to serve their own needs by on-site energy production subject to normal planning criteria and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>B3</p>		<p>B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p>

Strategic energy policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SP-EN-5 Collaborate with urban and rural communities in the development of community-level energy efficiency and renewable energy projects, subject to visual, landscape, heritage, environmental and amenity considerations and subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.	B3		B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
SP-EN-6 Support the implementation of relevant programmes arising from the Government's Energy White Paper <i>'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Future 2015-2030</i> (or any successor document).				All SEOs
SP-EN-7 Protect significant landscapes from the visual intrusion of large-scale energy infrastructure.	L1			All other SEOs

Strategic energy objective	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
SO-EN-1 Seek the extension of the natural gas supply infrastructure to Sligo subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive.			B1 B2 S1 W1 W2 CH1 CH2 L1	All other SEOs
SO-EN-2 Undertake an analysis of suitable areas for wind energy and prepare a map showing County Sligo's Landscape Suitability for Wind Energy Developments, in accordance with Section 3.5 of the Wind Energy Guidelines (2006).				All SEOs

Energy efficiency policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-ENE-1 Encourage the use of alternative energy sources in buildings and the retrofitting of buildings for higher energy efficiency. The retrofitting of protected structures, structures within ACAs and in historic streetscapes will be facilitated where it is shown that the proposed works will not negatively impact upon the character of the structure or streetscape.	HH1 CH2			All other SEOs
P-ENE-2 Require at least one energy-efficiency measure to be incorporated into the design of new development (e.g. solar panels, passive solar design, heat pumps, wood burning installation etc.). The proposed energy-efficiency measure(s) should be included as part of the documentation submitted at planning application stage.	HH1			All other SEOs

UGEE policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-UGEE-1 Apply the precautionary principle to Unconventional Oil/Gas Exploration and Extraction (UGEE) projects/operations proposed within the county. Given the scientific evidence, and personal testimonies, of the risks of UGEE projects/operations and with the objective of avoiding the risk of serious danger to human health or the environment, it is therefore the policy of Sligo County Council that UGEE projects/operations shall not be permitted within the County of Sligo.	HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1			All other SEOs

<p>UGEE policies</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-UGEE-2 Carefully scrutinise any unconventional oil/gas exploration and extraction project/operation proposal outside the County where it may, due to geographical proximity, have a significant impact on the County and where available evaluation does not allow the risks to the environment of the region, the ecology of the region and human and animal health within the region to be determined with certainty. It is also the policy of this Council in such cases to seek from the relevant authorities a comprehensive full life cycle Health Impact Assessment, together with a full life cycle analysis of all possible cumulative and permanent negative effects for the potential full development.</p>	<p>HH1 S1 W1 W2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-UGEE-3 In the eventuality that an outside body or bodies takes steps to overrule Policy (A) (P-UGEE-1) above, that a comprehensive full life cycle Health Impact Assessment, together with a full life cycle analysis of all possible cumulative and permanent negative effects for the potential full development, will be required for any proposal for oil/gas exploration and extraction projects located inside the County, as a mandatory component of the evaluation of any such proposals.</p>				

Telecommunications policies	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
P-TEL-1 Protect areas of significant landscape importance from the visual intrusion of large-scale telecommunications infrastructure.	L1			All other SEOs
P-TEL-2 Ensure that telecommunications infrastructure is subject to compliance with the Habitats Directive and is adequately screened, integrated and/or landscaped, so as to minimise any adverse visual impacts on the environment.	B1 B2 L1			All other SEOs
P-TEL-3 Support the implementation of the <i>National Broadband Plan for Ireland (2012)</i> and any related programmes aiming to provide high-speed broadband in County Sligo.				All SEOs
P-TEL-4 Where appropriate, require (by planning condition if necessary) the installation of underground telecommunications infrastructure associated with road, commercial and residential schemes.				
P-TEL-5 Ensure that satellite dishes do not materially affect the character and appearance of any urban or rural area, and in particular Protected Structures or Architectural Conservation Areas.	L1 CH2			All other SEOs

8.13 Evaluation of policies and objectives (including amendments) in Chapter 12 – Town and village design

Urban design policies – historic streetscapes	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>P-UD-1 Seek the retention and refurbishment of historic buildings in traditional town and village streetscapes. Demolition will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.</p>	CH2 P1			All other SEOs
<p>P-UD-2 Maintain the traditional plot width within historic streetscapes, particularly where the building façade is manifested on the streetscape.</p> <p>In exceptional circumstances, a new building with a broader plot width may be permitted, but the façade will be required to include some form of articulation that emulates the original plot widths or fits in with the traditional streetscape character.</p>				
<p>P-UD-3 Generally maintain a continuous building line along streetscapes. Car parks, loading bays and service yards shall be located to the rear of buildings.</p>				
<p>P-UD-4 Promote the principles of contextual compatibility for all new buildings within the historic built environment and require carefully-designed architectural solutions in compliance with the guidance set out in Section 13.2.4 Development in historic streetscapes (development management standards).</p> <p>Planning applications for new buildings or shop fronts shall be accompanied by a site context analysis (including streetscape elevations) that demonstrates an understanding of the key urban design issues and illustrates how these have been addressed in the proposal.</p>				

<p>Urban design policies – historic streetscapes</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-5 Require the retention and restoration of original windows, doors, renders, roof coverings, chimneys, rainwater goods and other significant features of structures of architectural heritage merit, whether protected or not.</p> <p>Where retention is not possible, the replacement of original or historic features should be executed in a manner sympathetic to the original fabric and design intent of the building. Replacement with modern materials (such as PVC windows and doors) or designs that may be insensitive in their detailing or relief to traditional façades and roofs will be discouraged.</p>	<p>CH2 P1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>Urban design policies – shop fronts</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-6 Require the retention and refurbishment of historic shop fronts.</p>	<p>CH2</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-7 Encourage the replacement of inappropriate modern shop fronts with traditionally-detailed shop fronts, based on historical evidence, or with appropriately-designed and well-detailed contemporary shop fronts.</p>				
<p>P-UD-8 Require shop fronts and advertisement signs to match the overall form and structure of the buildings on which they are installed, and ensure that they adhere to the guidelines set out in the <i>Retail Design Manual</i> (DECLG, 2012) and to the guidance in Section 13.5.9 Shop fronts and signage (development management standards) of this Plan.</p>				

<p>Urban design policies – urban development and expansion</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-9 Create a strong urban edge for every town and village by preventing ribbon development on the approaches to built-up areas and by restricting unnecessary development within the green belts around towns and villages.</p>	<p>P1 C1 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-10 Ensure that new development in towns or villages takes place in accordance with the principle of sequential development.</p>				
<p>P-UD-11 Require new development on or in the vicinity of the development limit to address the views from the approach roads and present an attractive frontage to these roads.</p>				
<p>P-UD-12 Required that backland development is based on masterplans to be prepared in consultation with the Planning Authority. Piecemeal development of backlands within town and villages will be discouraged.</p>				
<p>P-UD-13 Generally restrict the installation of commercial signage and advertising structures on the county’s road network, especially on the approach roads to towns and villages.</p>	<p>L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>Urban design policies – new residential development</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-14 Ensure that new urban residential development complies with guidance set out in Section 13.3 Residential development in urban areas (development management standards) of this Plan and the design criteria set out in the <i>Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide</i> (DECLG, 2009) (refer to Appendix G)</p>	<p>P1 C1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>
<p>P-UD-15 Require all new multi-unit housing developments to be structured on a network of streets which link into the surrounding built fabric. Development on greenfield sites shall provide for future connections into adjoining lands, where appropriate.</p>				
<p>P-UD-16 All new streets shall be designed in accordance with the provisions of the <i>Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets</i> (DoE, DTTAS, 2013).</p>				
<p>P-UD-17 Require all multi-unit developments to be accompanied by a Design Statement. The Design Statement shall provide a rationale for the site layout and building design – which shall be guided by the nature of surrounding development, natural features, accessibility and sunlight patterns in order to optimise daylight and solar gain.</p>				

<p>Urban design objectives – public realm</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>O-UD-1 To commission the preparation of a Public Realm Strategy for Sligo City in conjunction with the Sligo and Environs Local Area Plan.</p>	<p>CH2 P1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

8.14 Evaluation of general policies for mini-plans (including amendments) – CDP Volume 2, Chapter 1

1.1 Landscape, natural heritage and open space	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
<p>A. Protect and enhance all river banks as wildlife corridors. In order to assist in this regard, the Planning Authority will establish a 20-metre wide river buffer zone along both sides of all rivers.</p> <p>B. Require development proposals to maintain the river buffer zone free from development (apart from river bank enhancement works). Exceptions may also be considered in the case of brownfield sites and in cases where the maintenance of the zone is not practically achievable. In such cases, a reduced buffer width may be accepted. Any such cases will be assessed on an individual basis and shall be subject to Habitats directive Assessment.</p> <p>C. Ensure that river bank enhancement works and any other development along rivers are undertaken only after consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Regional Development, Rural Affairs, Arts and the Gaeltacht. Such works shall be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment.</p> <p>D. Retain important habitats and natural features through protection from development or integration into new developments as necessary. Although not exclusive, the following are considered to be important biodiversity habitats: mature trees, groups of trees, woodlands, hedgerows.</p> <p>E. In accordance with the policies outlined in Section 7.1 Natural Heritage of this Plan, protect and maintain the 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. These are sites designated or proposed as Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs), Ramsar sites and Statutory Nature Reserves.</p> <p>F. Comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether a proposed development is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site, notwithstanding any particular mini-plan objective that may apply to the relevant lands.</p>	<p>B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 P1 L1</p>			<p>M1 M2 C1 CH1 CH2</p>

<p>1.2 Built heritage, streetscape and building design</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Require all development in historic streetscapes to comply with Chapter 12 (Urban design) and the requirements of Section 13.2.4 Development in historic streetscapes (development management standards) of this Plan.</p> <p>B. Require new development within village centres to create coherent and attractive streetscapes, reflecting and respecting the prevailing architectural style, the detailing of adjacent buildings and the form and scale of the village. In particular, attention should be paid to chimney position and size, window size and shape, window cill depths, roof profile and eaves treatment.</p> <p>C. Require any development proposal involving a <i>Building of Note</i>* (as indicated on the Objectives Maps) to restore or renovate the building in a sensitive manner that will contribute to the preservation and enhancement of the streetscape character.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">* <i>Buildings of Note have been highlighted in most mini-plans, where they are listed along with a photograph and a description of the architecturally valuable features of each building. A short appraisal of each building's character and contribution to the streetscape is followed by recommendations regarding potential improvements that should be carried out by those seeking to enhance or bring these noteworthy buildings back in use. Some of the vernacular-style cottages are of a type once ubiquitous in the Irish town, but now rapidly disappearing as a result of demolition or alteration.</i></p> <p>D. Require the retention and renovation (if necessary) of any feature of a <i>Building of Note</i> which contributes to its special character, e.g. sash windows, historic timber doors, ironmongery, chimneys, railings, roof profile.</p> <p>E. Support the redevelopment of vacant and derelict structures/sites within the village.</p> <p>F. Some Objectives Maps identify key sites or structures that have potential or already contribute to the village character by closing a view or containing a space. These sites and buildings should be developed, redeveloped or renovated with particular care having regard to their location, so that</p>	<p>CH1 CH2 P1 L1 B3 C1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>1.2 Built heritage, streetscape and building design</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>they enhance the streetscape and act as focal points or landmarks.</p> <p><i>(continued)</i></p> <p>G. Require, where possible, the re-use of existing redundant buildings that contribute significantly to the village character.</p> <p>H. Require, where feasible, the preservation of stone walls and their enhancement and extension in a manner that is in keeping with traditional stone-walling in the vicinity. Other important non-structural elements of the built heritage should also be protected, e.g. stone cobbles, water pumps, stone hearths or kerbs etc.</p> <p>I. Ensure that the design of shop fronts, advertisements and signs corresponds to the overall form and structure of the buildings to which they pertain, in accordance with Chapter 12 (Town and village design) and the requirements set out in Section 13.5.9 Shopfronts and signage (development management standards) in Volume 1 of this Plan.</p> <p>J. The size, design, colour, material and illumination of signs should be subdued. Signs should generally be positioned well below the first-floor window level. Hanging signs should be restricted to one per shop or business and their size should be proportional to the building.</p> <p>K. External illumination of buildings and signs is acceptable only by use of appropriate spotlighting of key buildings of particular architectural interest. Internal illumination of signs will not be permitted, except where it can be demonstrated that the illumination is appropriately limited and designed in a manner that would not detract from the character of the relevant building or streetscape.</p> <p>L. Overhead lines and cables should be placed underground.</p> <p>M. Public lighting should be maintained and improved and attractive light standards designed appropriately for their location should be installed in accordance with the current standards.</p>				

<p>1.3 Transport, circulation and parking</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Upgrade roads, footpaths, car-parking and junctions within villages in accordance with the provisions of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DTTS, DECLG 2013), subject to availability of resources.</p> <p>B. Require new development to provide sufficient on-site parking, which should be designed and landscaped to a high standard. Off-street parking associated with road/street frontage development should be located at the rear of buildings where possible.</p> <p>C. Provide pedestrian and cycling linkages within and between existing and new housing/mixed-use/sports and recreational development throughout the area.</p> <p><i>Note: The routes of the proposed linkages, as indicated on the objectives maps for each settlement, are indicative only. The precise route of any such linkage shall be agreed with developers or applicants during the planning application process and shall be included as an integral part of new developments.</i></p> <p>D. Retain access to important natural and archaeological features.</p> <p>E. Prepare a traffic management plan for each village subject to the availability of resources. This plan shall examine all existing problems relating to traffic, parking, mobility and pedestrian movements and will identify appropriate solutions for the locality. Prospective developments shall incorporate the provisions of any such plan when prepared.</p> <p>F. Require the provision of secure cycle parking facilities within new developments where appropriate.</p> <p>G. Any proposal for the provision of pedestrian/cycle links shall be screened for the requirement for an appropriate assessment in compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments), and in accordance with the policies outlined in Section 7.1 of this Plan.</p>	<p>B3 P1 C1 HH1</p>		<p>B1 B2</p>	<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>1.4 Village-centre mixed-use zones</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Facilitate a mix of mainly residential and commercial/retail activities in the areas zoned for mixed uses.</p> <p>B. Promote the preparation of masterplans for larger sites in accordance with relevant guidance referenced in Chapter 12 (Town and village design) in Volume 1 of this Plan, namely <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages)</i> (DOE, 2009) Section 2.13 and the <i>UK Creating Successful Masterplans</i> (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2004).</p> <p>C. Give special attention to the siting, layout and design of new or redeveloped buildings around junctions. Such development should ensure that a suitable façade is presented when viewed from surrounding vantage points, whilst also ensuring that appropriate building setbacks are incorporated in order to facilitate improved traffic and pedestrian circulation.</p> <p>D. Enhance existing civic space and, where feasible, provide additional small civic squares or street pockets (pocket squares) with appropriate furniture, planting, landscaping and public lighting.</p> <p>E. Require the provision of pedestrian-only spaces within mixed-use zones. Such spaces should be designed in accordance with guidance set out in <i>Building for Everyone - a Universal Design Approach</i> (NDA, 2012).</p> <p>F. Maintain an appropriate balance of development between the traditional village centre and new greenfield areas zoned for village centre type uses. The development of new village centre areas should not adversely impact on the traditional village core to the extent that it would undermine its vitality and viability or the role played by the traditional village centre in the economic and social life of the local community. In particular, retail development and other services should be located within or adjoining the traditional village core.</p> <p>H. Reserve mixed-use-zoned lands that are included within the Strategic Land Reserve (SLR) for potential development after the lifetime of this Plan.</p>	<p>C1 B3 HH1 P1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>1.5 Community facilities</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Maintain and enhance existing, and provide additional, sports, recreational and playground facilities where feasible.</p> <p>B. Direct the provision of crèche/childcare, healthcare and elderly care facilities to within the development limits of villages, on sites that are easily accessible for all sections of the community.</p> <p>C. Support the provision of additional recycling facilities on lands zoned for community uses. Such facilities will also be considered at other appropriate locations.</p> <p>D. Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards the accommodation 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.</p> <p>E. Promote cultural development that acknowledges and builds upon local character and distinctiveness through the natural and built environment.</p> <p>G. Facilitate the development of allotments in the green belt and at other suitable locations. Any such facility should be located within or close to existing settlements and should be easily accessible.</p>	<p>C1 B3 HH1 CH1 CH2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>1.6 Residential development</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Ensure that residential development takes place incrementally, from the core towards the edge, in order to ensure the sustainable consolidation of the villages, at a pace consistent with its infrastructural capacity (in terms of physical and community infrastructure) to accommodate further development.</p> <p>B. Promote the preparation of masterplans for larger sites in accordance with relevant guidance</p>	<p>All SEOs</p>			

<p>1.6 Residential development</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>referenced in Chapter 12 (Urban design) of this plan, namely <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages) (DOE, 2009) Section 2.13 and the UK Creating Successful Masterplans (Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment, 2004).</i></p> <p>C. Require new residential schemes to incorporate variety of house types and sizes, to offer choice and cater for a mix of households of different sizes.</p> <p>D. Require the development of backlands through land assembly, using shared-access arrangements and creating pedestrian and cycling linkages with existing developments.</p> <p>E. Preserve and enhance public or incidental open space within existing housing estates and provide high-quality, suitably located and well-landscaped open space in every new residential development.</p> <p>F. Ensure that the design of open space associated with new development connects with, or integrates with adjoining natural features such as woodland, mature trees, groups of trees etc.</p> <p>G. Facilitate where appropriate the provision of additional residential units on lands where current densities are very low, subject to appropriate scale and the protection of existing residential amenities.</p> <p>H. Ensure that the densities of new residential schemes are appropriate to the scale of each settlement and to the location of each site within that settlement. On this matter, regard will be had to the DoEHLG publication <i>Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns and Villages), 2009.</i></p> <p>I. Facilitate where appropriate, the use of vacant residential properties for social housing. Where appropriate, community and/or commercial uses may also be accommodated in vacant residential properties. Any such proposal shall be of an appropriate scale/design, and shall be restricted to uses that are compatible with surrounding properties.</p> <p>J. Reserve residential-zoned lands that are included within the Strategic Land Reserve (SLR) for potential development after the lifetime of this Plan.</p>				

<p>1.7 Business, enterprise and industry</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Require new business, enterprise or industrial units to share access arrangements, where possible.</p> <p>B. Require prospective developers to screen and landscape new business, enterprise and industrial development to a high standard, and give special attention to the design of structures located in highly visible positions or fronting main roads.</p> <p>C. Adopt a flexible and supportive approach towards the accommodation of small-scale business and enterprise proposals on lands zoned for residential, village-centre and community uses. Proposals that would be compatible with existing and proposed development in the surrounding area will be facilitated subject to appropriate scale, design and servicing.</p>	<p>P1 C1 L1 S1 W1 W2 L1</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

<p>1.8 Green belts</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Establish green belts around settlements, between the plan limit and the development limit, with a view to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ consolidate the settlements within development limits and retain their visual identity distinct from the surrounding countryside; ▪ reserve land for future planned expansion of settlements and for the provision of major infrastructure (e.g. transport), subject to Habitats Directive Assessment; ▪ protect heritage, water quality and the recreational amenity of rural areas surrounding settlements; 	<p>All SEOs</p>			

<p>1.8 Green belts</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ focus attention on lands within settlements which are zoned for development and likely to contribute to the regeneration of these areas. ▪ preserving views; protecting the integrity of archaeological sites and monuments in the area surrounding the village; ▪ protecting and enhancing designated nature conservation sites (pNHAs, SACs, SPAs etc); ▪ excluding from development those lands which are at risk from flooding. <p>B. Reserve the green belts principally for agricultural use.</p> <p>C. Ensure that the siting and construction of new roads and buildings in the green belts occurs with minimal visual and environmental impact.</p> <p>E. Within the Green Belts, proposals for one-off rural housing will be accommodated in accordance with the Housing policy in green belts and sensitive areas P-GBSA-HOU-1 (refer to Chapter 5, Section 5.3 Housing in rural areas, in Volume 1 of this Plan), subject to normal planning considerations and compliance with the guidance set out in Section 13.4 Residential development in rural areas (development management standards), where a housing need is demonstrated by the following categories of applicants:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. landowners, including their sons and daughters, who wish to build a first home for their permanent occupation on the landholding associated with their principal family residence where they have lived for a minimum period of seven years; b. persons whose primary employment is in a rural-based activity with a demonstrated genuine need to live in the locality of that employment base, for example, those working in agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, horticulture or other natural resource-based employment and who can demonstrate that they have been engaged in this employment for over five years. 				

<p>1.9 Flood risk management</p>	<p>Likely to Improve the status of SEOs</p>	<p>Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated</p>	<p>Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated</p>	<p>No likely interaction with status of SEOs</p>
<p>A. Assess all applications for developments on or adjacent to flood risk sites, including existing developed sites, (as indicated on the Designations Map for each Mini-Plan), or on any other sites deemed to have flooding implications, in accordance with the <i>Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> (DoEHLG and OPW, 2009). Such applications may be required to be accompanied by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment appropriate to the type and scale of the development being proposed.</p> <p>B. Require any application for development occurring within 20 m of a river to be accompanied by a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, prepared in accordance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG & OPW, 2009), to an appropriate level of detail.</p>	<p>HH1 W3</p>			<p>All other SEOs</p>

8.15 Evaluation of objectives (including amendments) in mini-plans – CDP Volume 2, Chapters 2 to 33

Mini-Plans in the Ballymote- Tobercurry Municipal District	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Aclare	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Ballinacarrow	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Ballinacarrow	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Banada	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Bellaghy	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Bunnannadden	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Castlebaldwin	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Cloonacool	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	

Mini-Plans in the Ballymote- Tobercurry Municipal District	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Coolaney-Rockfield	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Culfadda	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Curry	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Dromore West	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Easky	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Geevagh	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Gorteen	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Monasteraden	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Riverstown	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Tourlestraun	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	

Mini-Plans in the Sligo Municipal District	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Ballincar	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Ballintogher	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Ballygawley	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Ballysadare	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Carney	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Cliffony	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Collooney	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Drumcliff	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Grange	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Mullaghmore	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Ransboro	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	

Mini-Plans in the Sligo Municipal District	Likely to Improve the status of SEOs	Probable conflict with status of SEOs, unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of SEOs, likely to be mitigated	No likely interaction with status of SEOs
Rathcormack	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Rosses Point	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	
Strandhill	B1 B2 B3 HH1 S1 W1 W2 M1 M2 P1 C1 CH1 CH2 L1		B1 B2 HH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 C1 CH2 L1	

The positive interactions with the status of SEOs are likely to arise by directing development into existing settlements. This minimises the likelihood of conflicting interactions occurring in environmentally-sensitive rural areas, where the provision of adequate infrastructure and services may not be economically viable.

Conflicting interactions with the status of SEOs may also arise from accommodating development within the various settlements.

Potentially conflicting interactions between development and the protection of habitats, water and soil through the provision of appropriate wastewater treatment and collection infrastructure will depend upon the capacity of this infrastructure to treat current and future loadings.

Potentially conflicting interactions between development and the protection of architectural heritage, archaeological heritage and natural heritage have been determined with reference to the presence (within the development limits of the various settlements) of Recorded Monuments, Protected Structures and Natura 2000 sites (e.g. SACs along rivers crossing villages). While such conflicts may arise in any settlement, they are more likely in villages where the aforementioned features occur.

Potential conflicting interactions between development and the minimisation of flood risk has been determined with reference to the environmental baseline contained in this report and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Section 9

Mitigation measures

9.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and partially or fully offset significant adverse impacts on the environment, arising from the implementation of the County Development Plan.

Where there are significant negative effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible for stated reasons, to lessening or offsetting those effects.

Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that:

- avoid effects;
- reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects;
- repair effects after they have occurred;
- compensate for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

The mitigation measures may be incorporated into the briefing of design teams as well as in the subsequent design, specification and development management of the land uses and activities to be accommodated within the County.

Additional, more detailed mitigation measures than those identified below may be required by the development management and EIA processes related to individual projects, and may need to be integrated into relevant lower-tier plans and programmes.

9.2 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

Three potential development scenarios for County Sligo were identified at an early stage in the CDP drafting process and evaluated for their likely significant environmental effects (see Sections 6 and 7).

The environmental baseline and the Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Sections 3 and 4) were used in order to predict and evaluate the environmental effects of implementing the alternatives.

Communication of this evaluation to the Members of Sligo County Council through this Report was meant to help the Members make an informed choice with regard to the making of the Plan.

9.3 Mitigation integrated into land-use plans

The Plan includes thirty-two mini-plans (village land-use plans). Environmental considerations have been integrated into the zoning and development objectives contained in these mini-plans. Careful consideration has been given to the protection of Natura 2000 sites through Appropriate Assessment (AA) and to the management of flood risk through the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) process.

9.4 Mitigation through policies and objectives

This section lists key measures integrated into the Plan which are intended to mitigate potentially significant adverse effects on the environment which may arise as a result of implementing the Plan.

Mitigation measures generally benefit multiple environmental components. For example, a measure providing for the protection of surface water bodies could have a beneficial impact upon biodiversity, flora and fauna, drinking water resources and human health.

9.4.1 Biodiversity, flora and fauna

Policies: P-NCODS-1 P-NCODS-2, P-NCODS-3, P-NCODS-4, P-NCODS-5, P-NCODS-6, P-NCODS-7, P-DSNC-1, P-DSNC-2, P-DSNC-3, P-DSNC-4, P-PPAS-1, P-PPAS-2

Objective: O-DSNC-1

9.4.2 Human health

See measures under Soil, Water, Water Services, Air and Noise and Quarries (environmental risks) Sections.

9.4.3 Soil

For soil quality, see measures in this section under:

- Quarries
- Water protection
- Wastewater

For minimising loss of soil resources as a result of unnecessary greenfield development, there are various Plan provisions including the overall development strategy of supporting growth in the Gateway and consolidation of the Key Towns.

For protection of mineral deposits:

Policy: P-MEQ-1

9.4.4 Quarries (environmental risks)

Policy: P-MEQ-4

9.4.5 Water protection

Policies: P-WQ-1, P-WQ-2, P-WQ-3, P-WQ-4

Also see measures in this section under Wastewater.

9.4.6 Flood risk management

Policies: P-FRM-1, P-FRM-2, P-FRM-3, P-FRM-4, P-FRM-5, P-FRM-6, P-FRM-7

9.4.7 Wastewater

Policies: P-WW-2, P-WW-3

9.4.8 Drinking water

Policy: P-WS-5

9.4.9 Waste management

Policies: P-WM-1 and P-WM-2

9.4.10 Air and noise

Policies: P-AQ-2, P-NC-1 and SP-TRA-3

9.4.11 Energy and greenhouse gas emissions

Policies: SP-TRA-1, SP-TRA-2, SP-TRA-3 and P-CW-10, P-CW-5, P-CW-6

Objectives: SO-TRA-1, SO-TRA-2

9.4.12 Archaeological heritage

Policies: P-AH-1, P-AH-2, P-AH-3, P-AH-4

Objectives: O-AH-1

9.4.13 Architectural heritage

Policies: P-ARH-1, P-ARH-2, P-ARH-4, P-ARH-5, P-ACA-2

9.4.14 Landscape

Policies: P-LCAP-1, P-LCAP-2, P-LCAP-3, P-LCAP-4

Section 10

Monitoring measures

10.1 Requirement for monitoring

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. Monitoring enables the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action at an early stage

In addition to this, monitoring can also play an important role in assessing whether the Plan is achieving environmental objectives and targets, whether these need to be re-examined and whether the mitigation measures are being implemented.

10.2 Indicators and targets

Monitoring uses the indicators chosen earlier in the SEA process. These indicators allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives used in the evaluation.

Each indicator to be monitored is accompanied by the target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant legislation (see Section 4).

Table 10.1 (at the end of this chapter) shows the indicators and targets which have been selected for monitoring the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan.

It is noted that with regard to Indicator B2, important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat include the County's rivers, lakes, uplands and peatlands. It is recommended that important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat are identified as part of the monitoring programme and that time resources are spent in the monitoring of these rather than in the monitoring of corridors or areas of habitat which are not important at County level.

10.3 Sources

Monitoring sources exist for each of the indicators and include those maintained by the Sligo County Council and other relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office. Measurements for indicators should come from existing monitoring sources. No additional monitoring should take place.

Where significant environmental effects – including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect – are likely to occur as a result of implementing lower-tier plans and programmes, such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

10.4 Reporting

A preliminary monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing the County Development Plan will be prepared to coincide with the Chief Executive's report to the Elected Members on the progress achieved in securing Plan objectives within two years of the making of the Plan (as required under Section 15 of the 2000 Planning Act).

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

10.5 Responsibility

Sligo County Council is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

It is recommended that a Steering Committee be established within the Council to oversee the monitoring process.

10.6 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered are as follows:

- boil notices on drinking water;
- fish kills;
- failure of bathing waters to achieve a classification of 'sufficient' under Directive 2006/7/EC;
- court cases taken by the DCHG regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places;
- complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable environmental impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the County Development Plan.

Table 10.1 Selected indicators, targets and monitoring sources

Environmental component	Selected indicator(s)	Selected target(s)	Source
Biodiversity, flora and fauna	<p>B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>B3: Population of the County involved in land management.</p>	<p>B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.</p> <p>B2: No significant macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat or parts thereof, which are important on a County level and which provide functional connectivity, to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>B3: Sustain the population of the County involved in land management.</p>	<p>National Parks and Wildlife Service's report on the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive</p> <p>CORINE mapping resurvey, consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Development Management process in the Council's Planning Section</p> <p>Central Statistics Office</p>
Population and human health	<p>P1: Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan.</p> <p>HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency.</p>	<p>P1: Reduced availability of brownfield land (subject to availability on the open market, the demand for such land and the ability for such lands to be sustainably re-used) at the end of the Development Plan lifespan.</p> <p>HH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.</p>	<p>The Development Management process in the Council's Planning Section</p> <p>EPA and HSE</p>
Soil	S1: Number of instances of pollution and contamination of soil	S1: No significant instances of pollution and contamination	EPA
Water	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1i: To achieve 'good' status in all bodies of surface waters by 2015 and to not knowingly allow deterioration in the status of any surface water	EPA

Environmental component	Selected indicator(s)	Selected target(s)	Source
	<p>W1ii: Mandatory and guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)</p> <p>W2: Groundwater quality standards and threshold values under Directive 2006/118/EC</p> <p>W3: Number of developments granted permission on lands where a significant flood risk has been identified.</p>	<p>W1ii: To achieve – as a minimum– mandatory values and, where possible, to achieve guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)</p> <p>W2: Compliance with groundwater quality standards and threshold values under Directive 2006/118/EC</p> <p>W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands where a significant flood risk has been identified, in compliance with the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p>	<p>EPA</p> <p>EPA</p> <p>The Development Management process in the Council's Planning Section</p>
Material assets	<p>M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health, as a result of implementing the Plan.</p>	<p>M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately served by wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan</p> <p>M2: Absence of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health, as a result of implementing the Plan.</p>	<p>The Development Management process in the Council's Planning Section</p> <p>EPA Remedial Action List and Sligo County Council's Environment Section</p>
Air and climatic factors	<p>C1: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-motorised means.</p>	<p>C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-motorised means</p>	<p>Central Statistics Office</p>
Cultural heritage	<p>CH1: Percentage of protected entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including Zones of Archaeological Potential, and their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)</p>	<p>CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including Zones of Archaeological Potential, and their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant</p>	<p>The Development Management and Enforcement processes in the Council's Planning Section</p>

Environmental component	Selected indicator(s)	Selected target(s)	Source
	<p>CH2i: Percentage of protected entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)</p> <p>CH2ii: Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs</p>	<p>CH2i: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)</p> <p>CH2ii: Add entries to the Record of Protected Structures and make additional ACAs, where appropriate</p>	<p>The Development Management and Enforcement processes in the Council's Planning Section</p> <p>Sligo County Council's Planning and Heritage Section</p>
Landscape	<p>L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development granted permission under the Plan.</p>	<p>L1: No avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development granted permission under the Plan.</p>	<p>The Development Management and Enforcement processes in the Council's Planning Section; complaints from statutory consultees</p>

Section 11

SEA Summary Table

The table below outlines how likely significant effects (if unmitigated) are linked to relevant mitigations measures, which have been integrated into the Plan, and the indicators that will be used for monitoring of such effects.

Table 11.1 Likely significant effects, mitigation measures and indicators for monitoring

Likely significant effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation measures incorporated in the Plan	Primary indicators for monitoring
Loss of biodiversity with regard to Natura 2000 sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive	Policies: P-DSNC-1, P-DSNC-3,	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.
Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and stepping stones	Policies: P-NCODS-1, P-NCODS-2 P-NCODS-5	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan.
Loss of rural management practices	Various provisions of the Core Strategy, Economic Development, Housing and other chapters	B3: Population of the County involved in land management.
Failure to maximise the sustainable reuse of brownfield lands	Various provisions of the Plan, particularly those in the Town and Village Design chapter	P1: Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan.
Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from exposure to incompatible land uses	Measures related to soils, water protection, wastewater treatment, air and noise	HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency.
Pollution or contamination of soils	Measures related to water protection and wastewater treatment	S1: Number of instances of pollution and contamination of soil
Adverse impacts upon the quality of water bodies (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal, ground waters)	Policies: P-WQ-1, P-WQ-2, P-WQ-3, P-WQ-4, P-WQ-9, P-MEQ-6 and P-WW-5	W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) W2: Groundwater quality standards and threshold values under Directive 2006/118/EC

Likely significant effect, if unmitigated	Mitigation measures incorporated in the Plan	Primary indicators for monitoring
Adverse impacts upon the quality of bathing waters	Policy: P-WQ-4	W1ii: Mandatory and guide values as set by the EU Bathing Water Directive and transposing Bathing Water Quality Regulations (SI No. 79 of 2008)
Flooding	Policies: P-FRM-1, P-FRM-2, PFRM-3, P-FRM-4, P-FRM-5, -FRM-6, P-FRM-7	W3: Number of developments granted permission on lands where a significant flood risk has been identified.
Inadequate wastewater treatment for new populations	Policies: P-WW-2, P-WW-4	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with wastewater treatment over the lifetime of the Plan.
Inadequate drinking water supply for new populations & Reduction in water quality which would present a potential danger to human health	Policies: P-WS-1 and P-WS-5	M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health, as a result of implementing the Plan.
Increases in travel related greenhouse gas emissions and increases in car dependency	Policies: SP-TRA-1, SP-TRA-2, SP-TRA-3, SP-MOB-5, P-CW-2 P-CW-3, P-CW-5	C1: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-motorised means.
Effects on archaeological heritage, including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places	Policies: P-AH-1, P-AH-2, P-AH-3, P-AH-4 and P-AH-5 Objectives: O-AH-1, O-AH-3	CH1: Percentage of protected entries to the Record of Monuments and Places, including Zones of Archaeological Potential, and their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant)
Effects on architectural heritage, including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas	Policies: P-ARH-1, P-ARH-2 and P-ARH-5	CH2i: Percentage of protected entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape, where relevant) CH2ii: Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs
Visual impacts on sensitive landscapes and designated scenic views	Policy: P-LCAP-1, P-LCAP-2, P-LCAP-3, P-LCAP-4	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development granted permission under the Plan.