



SEA Statement

for the

Cavan County

Development Plan

2008 - 2014

Cavan County Council

Planning Department

October 2008



CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

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Summary

Cavan County Council has undertaken a Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Cavan County Development Plan 2008 – 2014. This process has involved the production of three documents which are Scoping, Environmental Report and the following Strategic Environmental Assessment 'Statement'.

The Cavan County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 was adopted on the **13th October, 2008 and will come into effect on the 10th November, 2008.**

This SEA Statement has been prepared in accordance with section 13(I)(1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 S.I. 346 and contains the following information:

- Summary of how environmental considerations and the Environmental Report were factored into the Cavan County Development Plan
- Summary of how submissions/consultations were taken into account
- Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered
- Monitoring measures and arrangements

Article 9 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive provides that when a plan is adopted, the environmental authorities, the public, and any relevant transboundary State must be informed and that a SEA Statement must be produced.

1.1 Introduction

The SEA Statement contains a summary of how the following were factored into the Cavan County Development Plan as adopted on the 13^h October, 2008:

- Summary of how environmental considerations and the Environmental Report were factored into the Cavan County Development Plan;
- Summary of how submissions/consultations with the environmental authorities, prescribed bodies, Northern Ireland and the public were taken into account;
- Reasons for choosing the Cavan County Development Plan as adopted by the Council, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered; and
- Monitoring measures and arrangements which will identify at an early stage, any unforeseen adverse effects, which will require remedial action making effective use of existing monitoring arrangements to avoid duplication.

The SEA Statement will be made available for public viewing and it will be issued to the Environmental Protection Agency, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, SEA Co-ordinator, Environmental & Heritage Service, Department of the Environment Northern Ireland.

1.2 Steps in SEA

There are a number of steps in the SEA process (see figure 1). The preparation of a County Development Plan required a full Strategic Environmental Assessment. This document 'SEA Statement' forms part of this statutory requirement.

1.2.1 Scoping of the Environmental Report for the New County Development Plan

In March 2007, a Strategic Issues Paper was issued in order to stimulate public consultation on the preparation of the new County Development Plan.

It was accompanied by an SEA Scoping Issues Paper with an aim of identifying the scope and level of detail to be contained in the Environmental Report. The SEA Scoping Issues Paper sets out a description of the County, relevant plans and programmes to be considered during the preparation of the new Development Plan and Environmental Report and a baseline of environmental data in the County (grouped under the environmental themes/receptors – biodiversity, flora and fauna, population and human health, soil and landscape, water, air, climate, material assets and cultural heritage including architecture and archaeology).

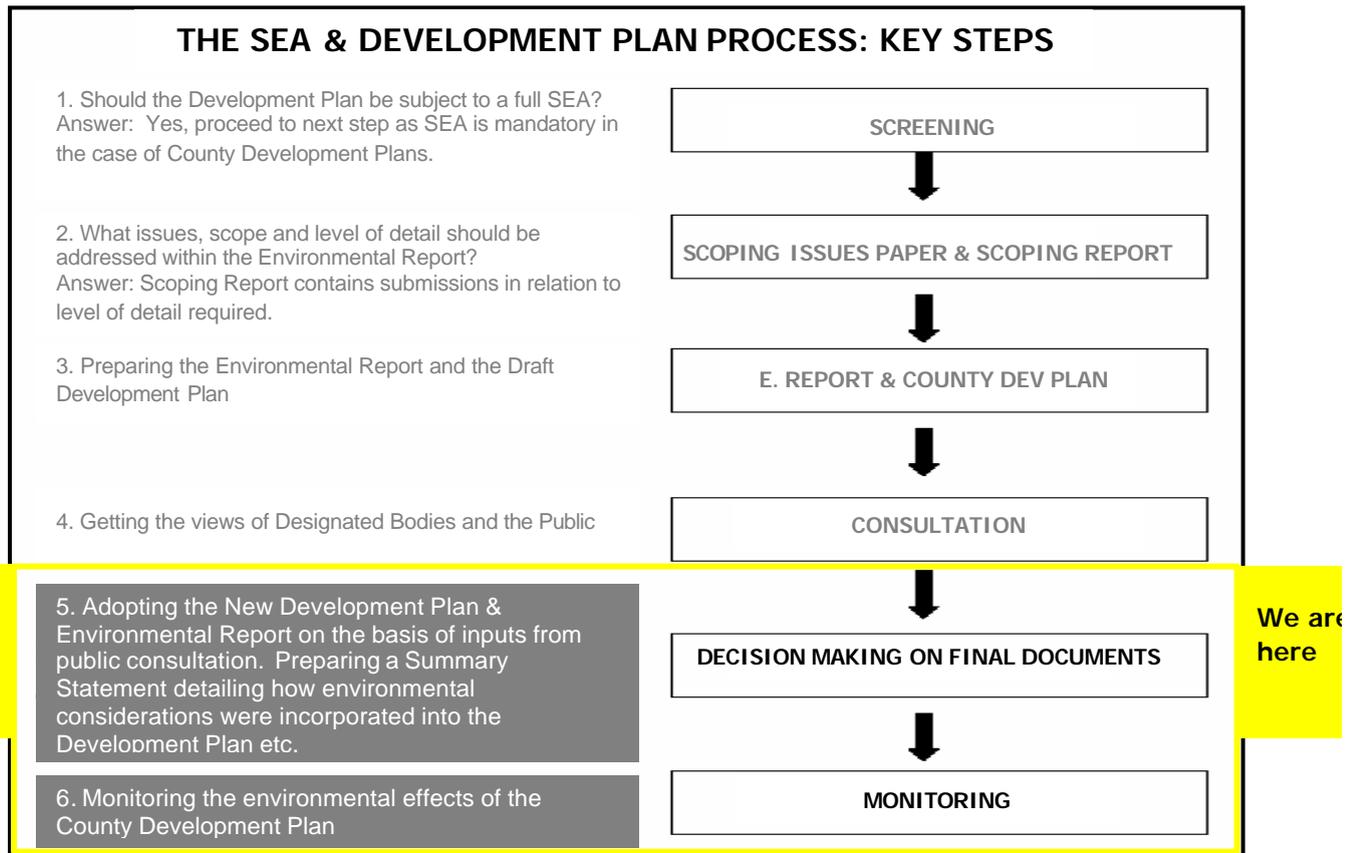
1.2.2 Consultation with Environmental Authorities

The Environmental Authorities (EPA, DoEHLG, DoCMNR (now DoCNR) and DoENI) were provided with the Strategic Issues Paper and SEA Scoping Issues Paper and the documents were made available to the public, the Prescribed Bodies¹ and other relevant stakeholders. A number of public consultation workshops on the new Development Plan were held around the County.

The Planning Authority formally consulted the designated Environmental Authorities during ‘Scoping’ and during the preparation of the Environmental Report. A submission was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and from one member of the public in relation to the Scoping Issues Paper. A Scoping meeting was held between the Planning Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency. The submissions received were included in a Scoping Report and the environmental baseline data was updated.

¹ Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended.

Figure 1: What Stage are we at?



1.2.3 Planning Authority Team

A Multi-disciplinary team which comprises of members from various sections of the Planning Authority was established in order to prepare a consistent Development Plan and to examine the significant environmental impacts which may result from the implementation of the new County Development Plan. The Environmental Report and Development Plan documents were compiled by the Forward Planning Section of Cavan County Council based on the input of the Multi-disciplinary team.

1.2.4 Environmental Report

The Environmental Report follows the requirements of Schedule 2B (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations S.I. 436 of 2004). It contains details on relevant plans and programmes which have been taken into consideration during the preparation of the Cavan County Development Plan. Existing Environmental Issues in County Cavan were identified in the Scoping Report and Environmental Objectives (based on the

environmental receptors – biodiversity, water, air etc.) were drafted from national environmental policy while taking existing environmental issues in County Cavan into account.

Objectives and policies in the new County Development Plan were drafted and compared to the Environmental Protection Objectives. Subsequently, the likely significant effects of implementation of the County Development Plan were established through the identification of conflicts between the two sets of objectives and policies. This was assessed in a matrix format.

Where conflicts arose, opportunities to prevent, reduce or offset any significant adverse effects of implementing the Development Plan were examined and if necessary, some policies were improved with measures to mitigate the effects on the environment.

Alternative development scenarios for the County were formulated, based on the environmental receptors (i.e. landscape, biodiversity, human health, etc.) and areas with existing environmental problems. The preferred development scenario was reached for the County Development Plan.

Mitigation measures and methods of offsetting potential impacts have been proposed during the course of the preparation of the two documents. This has resulted in objectives and policies which are more robust and environmentally sustainable. Monitoring will be based around indicators of change in the environment over the lifetime of the Development Plan and set targets which are to be reviewed over the duration of the County Development Plan.

Table 1: Summary of SEA Methodology

Action	Comments
1. Screening	An Environmental Report is mandatory for a County Development Plan. No Screening was undertaken.
2. Scoping Issues Paper	Scoping Issues Paper prepared containing baseline environmental data.
3. Consultation with the Environmental Authorities	Submissions received and Scoping Meeting held with Environmental Protection Agency.
4. Scoping Report	Submissions received from Environmental Authorities were incorporated into the Scoping Report and baseline data was amended. This was issued to the Environmental Authorities on completion.
<p>5. Preparation of Environmental Report and County Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Environmental Objectives established and Development Objectives established ▪ Consultation with EPA ▪ Assessment of Alternative Scenarios ▪ Mitigation measures detailed ▪ Monitoring measures detailed 	<p>Multi disciplinary team established to create policy consistent documents and to examine the effects on the environment of implementing the objectives and policies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objectives and Policies created in the Development Plan were assessed in the Environmental Report and Development Scenarios for the County examined. ▪ Feedback from on-going Plan preparation process and Environmental Report preparation ▪ Favoured scenario chosen. ▪ Mitigation measures discussed and chosen. ▪ Monitoring incorporated into existing methods.
6. SEA Statement	<p>Information on the adopted Cavan County Development Plan 2008 - 2014</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of how environmental considerations

	<p>and the Environmental Report were factored into the Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Summary of how submissions/ consultations were taken into account ▪ Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered ▪ Monitoring measures
7. Monitoring the County Development Plan	Monitoring significant environmental effects over the lifetime of the County Development Plan.

1.2.5 Draft Cavan County Development Plan & Environmental Report

The Environmental Report and Draft County Development Plan were made available for public viewing and submissions and observations were invited from the Environmental Authorities, the Prescribed Bodies² and interested parties from the 28th January – 14th April, 2008.

Following on from public consultation, the submissions were compiled in a Manager's Report which identified the main issues in the submissions, a response to the issues raised and a recommendation to the Council as to the Development Plan and the Environmental Report.

The Managers Report and Draft County Development Plan were put before the Members of the Council for their consideration. Amendments were made to the Draft Plan, these constituted material amendments. The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended requires that such Material Amendments be made available for public consultation. A Managers Report was produced following this public consultation and put before the members of the council for their consideration.

The amendments to the Draft County Development Plan were screened to determine if they had any likely significant effect on the environment. The screening report concluded that the amendments did not have significant

² Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended.

effects on the environment. As a result the amendments to the Draft County Development Plan did not require a full SEA.

The Environmental Report was also amended and made available for public viewing with the Draft County Development Plan from the 11th August, 2008 until the 8th of September, 2008.

The Members of Cavan County Council adopted the Cavan County Development Plan, 2008-2014 and the Cavan Town and Environs Development Plan, 2008-2014 at a meeting of the council held on the 13th of October 2008. The plan was adopted with the proposed amendments outlined in the Managers Report.

1.2.6 Adopted Development Plan and SEA Statement

The Cavan County Development Plan 2008 – 2014 was adopted on the **13th October, 2008 and will come into effect on the 10th November, 2008.** This SEA Statement has been prepared in accordance with section 13(l) (1) of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 S.I. 346.

2.1 Summary of how environmental considerations and the Environmental Report were factored into the plan

The SEA process is intended to improve the quality of plans in terms of sustainability and their potential impacts on the environment. Throughout the preparation of the adopted Cavan County Development Plan Environmental considerations have been factored into the plan in a number of ways.

Firstly the SEA process involved consultation and meetings between the Planning Authority, Multi disciplinary team, the public and the prescribed environmental authorities- EPA, DoEHLG, DoCMNR (now DoCENR) and DOENI.

The consultation and desktop review of documentation highlighted a number of key Environmental Protection Objectives relevant to the Development Plan. These objectives included:

Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

- B1 Conserve designated habitats and protected species.
- B2 Conserve and enhance the biodiversity of interdependent habitats and species in the wider environment.
- B3 Protect terrestrial and aquatic habitats from invasive species.

Population and Human Health

- P1 Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.
- P2 Minimise the amount of waste to landfill.
- H1 Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry.

Landscape and Soil including materials

- L1 Conserve and enhance natural and historic landscapes and features within them.

- L2 Conserve and enhance townscape quality.
- S1 Give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands, reducing the need to develop Greenfield lands.
- S2 Reduce consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.

Water

- W1 Protect and enhance the quality of surface, ground and drinking water.
- W2 Promote water conservation and sustainable water use, based on long term population projections of available water resources.
- W3 Mitigate the effects of floods.

Air and Climate

- A1 Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emission.
- A2 Promote energy efficiency and maximise use of renewable energy sources.

Material Assets

- M1 Maximise use of the existing built environment.
- M2 Maintain infrastructure in the County and mitigate the effects of further infrastructure provision.

Cultural Heritage

- C1 Promote the protection and conservation of cultural heritage including architecture and archaeology.

The Development Plan has a number of Development Policies and Objectives. The effect of these Development Objectives and Policies on the environment has been measured and cross-checked against the Environmental Protection Objectives, having regard to mitigating measures proposed where appropriate.

An assessment of proposed development alternatives in the County were considered. Scenarios were tested and the most appropriate one was chosen.

Objectives and policies which were chosen were examined in terms of their effects on the environment. Where significant effects arose, measures to prevent, reduce or offset these effects were integrated into the County Development Plan. Mitigation measures were identified to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the plans. These include:

Chapter 3 Economic Development

- Rural Enterprises

A strong landscaping policy, forestry policy and objectives for rural enterprise were required to mitigate the effects of the policies and objectives of rural enterprise which could result in reduced air quality. Through strong development management, impacts on the environment can be mitigated. The Planning Authority will encourage suitable siting of rural enterprises including adequate screening or landscaping.

- Rural Agriculture

The main issues relating to rural agriculture are those affecting biodiversity in protected habitats and protected species, biodiversity in the wider environment, the cumulative impact of all wastes to landfill and the production of emissions as a result of farming. There is also a cumulative impact of agriculture on water, whether it is accidental run-off or run-off due to wet weather conditions. The Lough Sheelin Catchment is under the control of Agricultural (Water Pollution) Bye-Laws in order to reduce the impact of pollution to the lake. In order to reduce the pollution of water courses from agricultural activity, Cavan County Council through the Draft River Basin Management Plans will ensure that all sources of pollution in surface and groundwater catchments areas are monitored.

- Energy

The SEA report noted that there are possible implications of large scale energy developments such as wind farms on designated habitats and protected species and biodiversity in the wider countryside. There is also the

potential to impact on the character of the natural landscape, In terms of mitigation, the SEA recommended strengthening the energy policies in the plan- To promote and encourage energy supplies 'in appropriate locations subject to normal technical and environmental considerations'.

- Extractive Industries

Extractive industries can impact on air quality and water quality. However, through adherence to Guidelines and Environmental Impact Assessment requirements, the effects can be mitigated. Extractive industries can have long term impacts on the landscape. As a result they are in opposition to the environmental protection objective S2: Reduce consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits. The SEA Report proposed a number of policies aimed at allowing the extraction of the non-renewable resources where they do not adversely impact on other environmental receptors. The Planning Authority also aims to maintain the existing infrastructure in the county as much as possible, thereby minimising the creation of new areas of infrastructure.

- Forestry

The main issues arising in terms of forestry relate to its affect on the landscape. The cumulative impact of forestry on water quality needs to be monitored and the possible impacts on cultural heritage especially the effect on archaeology needs to be carefully assessed. The Planning Authority will continue to monitor water quality and the cumulative impact of forestry on the landscape.

- Retail

Retail developments contribute to waste generation and also attract vehicles and generate trips. Out-of-centre retail or commercial developments can impact on town centres. The SEA recommended that retail policies are strengthened in the plan.

- Major Accidents Directive (Seveso II Sites)

Although there are currently no Seveso II sites located in County Cavan, it is vitally important that sites of this nature are considered for their effects on all the environmental receptors. Problems with the operation of such sites would affect the County and Country as a whole. It is essential to have continuous risk management on any such sites.

Chapter 4 Physical Infrastructure

- Transportation

The provision of roads has negative impacts on biodiversity and landscape, human health, water and air quality for the County. Maintaining the road system and extending the road network uses up non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits, however, our economic development depends on a safe and efficient road network. The cumulative effect of run-off from roads in the countryside is problematic to local rivers and lakes. The Planning Authority has included policies and objectives in the Development Plan to explore options to increase provision of public transport services and an objective has been included to ensure that the Council considers the recommendations of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan when adopted for the County in the construction of new roads. Policies and Objectives have also been included to support development of rural bus initiatives and any other sustainable transport initiatives. It also includes objectives to prepare Transportation Studies.

- Renewable Energy and Wind Energy

Renewable Energy projects (Specifically wind energy) have a major impact on the landscape. They are not traditional structures and do not match any previous structure heights or designs. The Planning Authority will continue to examine the cumulative effects of the provision of renewable energy or wind energy developments. It is expected that the 'Special Landscape Policy Areas' will be reviewed during the lifetime of the plan. It is also the intention of the Planning Authority to undertake a Landscape Character Assessment or Landscape Management Plan for the County.

- Mobile Phone Masts

Mobile Phone Masts have a short term impact on the landscape and this can include cultural heritage. They can have cumulative impacts on scenic areas and tourism resources; however they are important for economic development. The planning authority will continue to examine the cumulative effects of masts in the landscape.

Chapter 7 Built Heritage and Archaeology

The policies and objectives for the protection of the Built Heritage are generally positive in terms of population, townscape quality, conservation and protection of existing built environment and maintaining the built environment. The Plan also proposed Architectural Conservation Areas for towns around the County. A new record of protected structures has been prepared for the County as part of the Development Plan.

Chapter 11 Rural Housing Policy and Design Guide

- Rural Housing and Sustainable Building

Rural housing has a cumulative long term impact on the landscape. The location of many dwellings throughout the countryside does not reduce the number of trips generated by vehicles which impacts on air quality. The consumption of non-renewable resources is required during construction. Wastewater treatment systems if improperly maintained lead to water quality problems. The economic cost of infrastructure provision is high and there is a cumulative impact on biodiversity causing habitat fragmentation or even destruction. However the Rural Housing Policy aims to regenerate rural areas, helping local people to live and work locally keeping communities alive. With sensitive siting and design, the impact can be lessened. A policy has been included in the plan to prepare an annual report of numbers and trends in Rural Housing in the County. Rural housing developments must be sensitive to and enhance the landscape in which they are located. The Natural Heritage Chapter contains a policy to retain or translocate hedgerows where possible or to replace with native species and to use species of local provenance in landscaping schemes.

- Local Area Plans, Small Town Plans and Village Plans

Masterplans have been proposed in some larger towns in order to create sustainable urban environments where there is phasing, infrastructure provision, community facilities, density and layout considerations, open spaces, landscaping and an overall development design. The Masterplans identified in the Cavan Town and Environs area have been strengthened through the addition of a biodiversity element where open spaces both public and private, shall consider networking of green areas to create greater space and consider the potential biological benefits and subsequent public health amenity- 'Issues pertinent to the sustainable management and conservation of Biodiversity shall be considered in all Masterplans'. A 10-20m buffer has been added along rivers as an 'amenity' area in Local Area Plans, Small Town and Village Plans in order to protect the river corridor (based on recommendations of Fisheries Board). Townscape improvement may be achieved through the use of Masterplans and the Village Design Framework Matrix.

- Appropriate Assessment

Along side the SEA process, the Draft Cavan County Development Plan was subject to the Appropriate Assessment procedure. This involved the initial screening stage of the Appropriate Assessment procedure to determine if the plan would have any likely significant impacts on designated Natura 2000 sites (Special Areas of Conservation or Special Protection Areas). The Appropriate Assessment Initial Screening for the Cavan County Development Plan did not identify significant effects on any Natura 2000 sites. As a result the full Appropriate Assessment procedure was not required.

- Screening of Amendments

Amendments to the Draft County Development Plan were screened in order to determine if they had any likely significant environmental effects. The results of the screening concluded that the amendments did not have any

significant effects on the environment and therefore would not require a full SEA.

3.1 Summary of how submissions/consultations were taken into account

3.1.1 Scoping Report Consultation

In March 2007, a Strategic Issues Paper was issued in order to stimulate public consultation on the preparation of the new Draft County Development Plan. It was accompanied by an SEA Scoping Issues Paper with an aim of identifying the scope and level of detail to be contained in the Environmental Report.

The SEA Scoping Issues Paper sets out a description of the County, relevant plans and programmes to be considered during the preparation of the new Development Plan and Environmental Report and a baseline of environmental data in the County (grouped under the environmental themes/receptors – biodiversity, flora and fauna, population and human health, soil and landscape, water, air, climate, material assets and cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological).

3.1.2 Consultation with Environmental Authorities- Scoping Issues Paper

The Environmental Authorities (EPA, DoEHLG, DoCMNR (now DoCENR) and DoENI) were provided with the Strategic Issues Paper and SEA Scoping Issues Paper and the documents were made available to the public, the Prescribed Bodies³ and other relevant stakeholders. A number of public consultation workshops on the new Development Plan were held around the County.

The Planning Authority formally consulted the designated Environmental Authorities during ‘Scoping’ and during the preparation of the Environmental Report. A submission was received from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and from one member of the public in relation to the Scoping Issues Paper. A Scoping meeting was held between the Planning Authority and the Environmental Protection Agency. The

³ Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 as amended.

submissions received were included in a Scoping Report and the environmental baseline data was updated.

Contact with the Environmental Authorities is as follows: -

- ⊕ **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** is to be consulted in all cases.

- ⊕ Consultation should take place with the **Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG)** where it appears to the Planning Authority that the plan might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation; or if consultations are to take place with Northern Ireland.

- ⊕ Consultation should take place with the **Minister for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DoCENR)** where it appears to the competent authority that the plan or modification to a plan might have significant effects on natural resources.

- ⊕ Consultation should take place with the **SEA Co-ordinator, Environmental & Heritage Service, Department of the Environment Northern Ireland (DoENI)** where it appears that the plan may have significant environmental transboundary effects.

3.1.3 Planning Authority Team

A Multi-disciplinary team comprising members from various sections of the Planning Authority was established in order to prepare a consistent Development Plan and to examine the significant environmental impacts which may result from the implementation of the new County Plan. The Environmental Report and Development Plan documents were compiled by the Forward Planning Section of Cavan County Council based on the input of the Multi-disciplinary team.

3.1.4 Consultation on the Environmental Report

The Environmental Report and Draft County Development Plan were made available for public viewing. Submissions and observations were received during the 10 week consultation period i.e. by 14th April, 2008.

Following on from public consultation, the submissions were compiled in a Manager's Report which made recommendations to the Council with regards to the Development Plan and Environmental Report. The Manager's Report was put before the Council Members on 21st July, 2008. The members made material alterations to the Draft Development Plan. The Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended requires that such material alterations be made available for public consultation.

The amended Development Plan and Environmental Report were available for public viewing with the Draft County Development Plan from the 11th August, 2008 until the 8th of September, 2008.

Submissions and observations with respect to the amendments were compiled into a Manager's Report which was issued to the Council on 4th October 2008 for decision at their Monthly Meeting on the 13th October 2008. At this meeting the Members adopted the Development Plan, and it shall come into effect 4 weeks from that date.

4.1 Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered

This section will briefly outline the main alternatives considered, including how they were assessed, and why the preferred option was selected.

The SEA Directive requires the selection and assessment of alternatives.

Article 5 requires the Environmental Report to consider “reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme” and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives selected.

Scenario 1: Growth with Relaxed Planning Policies

This scenario would permit development growth in all areas of the County.

Rural housing would be spread throughout the County without a goal of sustaining local communities, but instead causing huge financial implications for social, community and physical infrastructure making areas isolated without essential services.

Ribbon development would become common along with large scale housing developments that would not fit into the landscape or townscape. Towns and villages would sprawl out into the surrounding countryside and there would not be any demarcation between urban and rural areas. Cultural heritage items of architectural and archaeological importance could be impacted on by development and even destroyed entirely. Tourism would suffer due to the declining value of the countryside.

Unsustainable transport patterns would escalate. The National Routes would be compromised becoming increasingly congested.

The cumulative impact of development would severely impact on the natural environment. Biodiversity would suffer due to major habitat fragmentation or habitat destruction caused by greenfield developments. Water quality of lakes, rivers, groundwater and air quality would decline rapidly, causing damage to habitats, contamination to drinking water supplies and human health problems. This may be caused by inadequate waste water treatment due to uncontrolled population increases and the proliferation of domestic waste water treatment systems that are unmonitored.

Contamination of catchments would cause problems for surrounding counties. Towns in the east of the County would experience huge growth in population due to the proximity to the Greater Dublin Area. The west of the County would experience little investment and development being viewed as a peripheral area. Critical mass and the objectives of the National Spatial Strategy to promote sustainable balanced development would not be achieved.

The larger towns with existing industry would grow but other smaller towns and villages spread throughout the County would suffer and see little infrastructural provision. Layouts of towns would be dominated by market forces, meaning that provision for many essential community services would not be available to the local population, housing densities would be inappropriate in certain locations and there would be little emphasis on brownfield development.

The impact of Scenario 1 would cause significant impacts on all environmental receptors (biodiversity, population and human health, landscape and soil, water, air and climate, material assets and cultural heritage) causing widespread environmental problems, poor water quality, poor biodiversity, poor quality built environment and ultimately resulting in poor human health.

Scenario 2: Growth with Restrictive Planning Policies

This Scenario is essentially eco-centrally based where emphasis is placed completely on the natural environment.

This Scenario would be very restrictive of rural housing in most areas of the County. Sensitive landscape areas would see very little development occurring. There would involve strict adherence to E.U. principles for protection of water quality, air emissions, cultural assets, biodiversity and all natural assets. Growth would be directed towards all towns and villages without a clear settlement strategy for the County, growth centres would directly compete with each other.

There would be a strict demarcation between urban and rural areas. Design of developments would be very prescriptive. Densities in towns and villages would increase with major emphasis on infill development and brownfield development.

- **Opportunities**

Encouraging growth in population centres would lead to critical mass being achieved in terms of the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure. Travel patterns would become more sustainable, with much of the population living in close proximity to services and employment opportunities, reducing the need to travel and reducing trip lengths.

Development of this nature could impact positively on the waste collection, encouraging the principles of waste minimisation through 'reduce, reuse and recycle'. This could positively impact on the reduction of waste going to landfill. The cost of maintaining physical infrastructure could be reduced as the area would be greatly reduced.

- **Threats**

This Scenario would have major implications for economic growth. It may cause stagnations in many areas of the County. Local communities based around traditional agricultural activities would decline. Peripheral rural areas would also decline. The ability to encourage alternative agriculture practices would not be an option.

Infrastructure in towns would come under enormous pressure with the sudden influx of growth in urban centres. Tourism development would not be permitted in rural areas; thereby incomes from the revenue source would decline.

Scenario 3: Planned Growth with Regulatory Planning Policies

The final Scenario is based around the planned growth of the County and a sustainable settlement structure which creates balanced and sustainable development throughout the County.

In this Scenario, the Planning Authority would facilitate development throughout the County based on the principals of good design, good siting and technical considerations where local need exists and where the applicant would contribute to the rural community and rural economy.

The Settlement Strategy would reflect National policy and the potential to balance growth across the County and Region and supporting the Hub Status of Cavan Town in its location in the Country.

Town Development Plans, Local Area Plans and Small Town and Village Plans create a mix of lands uses which have viable economic activities allowing people to work and live locally, while enhancing the features of the urban environment and consolidation of development to ensure that there is a clear demarcation between the urban and the natural surrounding environment. Housing needs are considered and a Social Strategy is developed for the County to ensure social inclusion and a good quality of life. A Retail Strategy is prepared to ensure the viability and vitality of existing towns and villages. Masterplanning allows for the provision of services with developments in order to reduce carbon footprints and create healthy living spaces.

A Landscape Character Assessment or Management Strategy and Local Biodiversity Action Plans are undertaken in order to reduce impacts on the environment and promote more sustainable development forms and energy sources. Water quality is improved through Groundwater Protection Schemes and River Basin Management Plans incorporating a co-ordinated catchment management approach.

An Indicative Forestry Strategy promotes the growth of sustainable forests throughout the County to improve air quality and the aesthetic quality of the natural environment.

Traditional agricultural activities are encouraged and diversification is promoted to facilitate the changing nature of the sector. Eco-tourism and geo-tourism are promoted as sustainable forms of tourism.

Existing infrastructure is maintained and is balanced with the need to create more.

The environmental effects and cumulative impacts of development are considered with development needs in the overall development of the County. Significant environmental effects are mitigated and monitored on a continuous basis.

Preferred Scenario

Based on an assessment of the three alternative scenarios, scenario 3 was the preferred Scenario for the future development of County Cavan as it considers both the economic, social, cultural and environmental development of the County. While Scenario 2 (Growth with Restrictive Planning Policies)

may perform the best from an environmental perspective however, its prescriptive orientation is restrictive on human and economic development. Scenario 1 (Growth with Relaxed Planning Policies) would result in major impacts on the environment, as well as from a social and economic perspective.

5.1 Monitoring measures and arrangements

The primary purpose of monitoring is to cross-check significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plan preparation stage. Existing monitoring arrangements may be used if appropriate, to avoid duplication of monitoring.

5.1.1 Monitoring Arrangements and Methods

The DoEHLG SEA Guidelines (2004) recommend that the arrangements and methods chosen should be those which are best fitted in each case to checking whether the assumptions made in the Environmental Report correspond with the environmental effects arising from implementation of the plan, and to identifying at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects.

New research activity is not required, existing sources of information can be used. The monitoring of the Development Plan should cover the monitoring of Local Area Plans and Variations etc. Where gaps in environmental information are identified during the preparation of the environmental report, monitoring measures over the period of the plan can be geared towards addressing such gaps, where practicable.

Monitoring will be based around the 'Environmental Objectives'. A number of Objectives, Indicators and Targets are set out. They will allow measures of trends and progress over time. Many targets will be incorporated with existing targets under European and National legislation (e.g. Phosphorus Regulations). Monitoring proposals must concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, which have been identified in the Environmental Report and the measures identified as necessary to prevent, reduce, or offset any significant adverse effects.

Monitoring at an early stage may identify unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action.

The Statutory Manager's Report on Progress in achieving objectives of Development Plan takes place 2-years after the adoption of the County Plan and 'shall include information in relation to the progress on, and the results of monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the development plan'.

If an objective or policy is having a significant adverse impact, a variation may be considered during the lifetime of the Development Plan.

5.1.2 Monitoring Programme for the Cavan County Development Plans (including Local Area Plans)

-Responsibilities

Cavan County Council's Multi-disciplinary Team and other national bodies will be responsible for monitoring the environmental effects of the County Development Plan 2008-2014 including the Local Area Plans, Small Town and Village Plans. A multi-disciplinary team will deal with the monitoring of the Cavan County Development Plan.

-Frequency of Reporting

Two years after the Development Plan is adopted, the Manager must prepare a report on 'Progress in achieving objectives in the Development Plan'. This will include the results of monitoring and a further report will be made available every two years thereafter. It is expected that these reports will be issued to the designated Environmental Authorities and made available on the County Council website.

As set out, in the Environmental Report, a number of monitoring measures will be implemented in relation to Biodiversity, Population and Human Health, Landscape and Soil, Water, Air and Climate, Material Assets and Cultural Heritage. The indicators and targets which will be used to describe trends in the baseline data are outlined. This will allow both the positive and negative impacts of the Plan to be monitored. The indicators will be used to identify any early problems/ impacts or deterioration in the environmental receptors. The

monitoring table identifies problems that may arise and possible actions to overcome them. The Planning Authority and the Multi disciplinary team will be responsible for the thresholds which would determine when intervention measures may be required. The following tables highlight the monitoring proposals.

5.2 Objectives, Indicators and Targets

5.2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Environmental Objectives for Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna:

- B1 Conserve designated habitats and protected species
- B2 Conserve and enhance the diversity of interdependent habitats and species in the wider environment
- B3 Protect terrestrial and aquatic habitats from invasive species

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
B1: Designated Habitats and Protected Species	Conserve designated habitats and protected species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retention of designated habitats and protected species (SACs, NHAs, SPAs) in a satisfactory condition. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Change in condition of SACs, NHAs, SPAs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ National Parks and Wildlife Service ▪ Information sources in Cavan County Council Audit of Biological Dataset (2007) ▪ Cavan County Council Environment Department ▪ EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RA: Examine cumulative effects of planning permissions in these areas in the event of reported change in condition 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and qualitative based on information from National Parks and Wildlife Service or any report data available ▪ Biological quality of water

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To site new developments on greenfield sites that are non-sensitive sites ▪ Have regard to National Parks and Wildlife Management Plans for SACs and SPAs (if completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rural Housing Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ Corine Maps ▪ National Parks and Wildlife Management Plans for SACs and SPAs (if completed) ▪ Corine Landcover Data/ Mapping 2006 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ RA: Investigate source of problem and remedy or mitigate effects if within the remit of Planning Authority Environment Section or Waste Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and qualitative - % of developments ▪ Quantitative - trends in Rural Housing and qualitative assessment of effectiveness of policy
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have regard to and undertake actions of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Cavan (when finalised) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of actions undertaken as part of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and subsequent studies undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Heritage Office 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Examine in the context of the Annual Rural Housing Report 	

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
B2: Biodiversity in the wider countryside	Conserve and enhance the diversity of interdependent habitats and species in the wider environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Retention or translocation of existing hedgerows and enhancement of hedgerow network 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change in policy of current practice of full road frontage removal (of hedgerow) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council Planning Department and Heritage Office Baseline Hedgerow composition based on Hedgerow Survey (2007) and baseline dataset for Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PA): Ensure planning applications are considered in accordance with the objectives of the County Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative based on experience of Hedgerow Committee and assessment of success rates
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishment of a Hedgerow Committee (consisting of Heritage Officer, Area Engineers, Road Engineers, Planners etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a policy of use of native seed and native species in County Council projects and planting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hedgerow Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PA): Continuous monitoring of the effectiveness of planning conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative based on experience of Hedgerow Committee and assessment of success rates
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Have regard to and undertake actions of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan for County Cavan (when finalised) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of actions of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan undertaken over lifetime of the County Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council Baseline Hedgerow composition based on Hedgerow Survey (2007) and baseline dataset for Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PP): Source of funding (RA): Unknown 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digitised Format of Cavan County Council studies/ publications on Council website
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase afforestation through the Indicative Forest Strategy⁴ (when complete) for County Cavan Implement Landscape Management Plan (when prepared) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in forested areas based on the Indicative Forest Strategy (Forest Service) when finalised over the lifetime of the County Development Plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forest Service (Department of Agriculture and Food) Coillte Biological Datasets for County Cavan (2007) and Local 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PP): Reduction in water quality (RA): Investigate number of planning applications corresponding to Indicative Forestry Strategy and compare 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maps - spatial analysis and increase in % Forestry in County

⁴ Department of Agriculture and Food (Forest Service), 2007. CAP Rural Development Plan 00-06 – at least 30% broadleaf tree species.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % Native and non-native tree species coverage in County (commercial and non-commercial) 	Biodiversity Action Plan for Cavan	with sensitive water catchment status	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement actions of Local Biodiversity Action Plan (when complete) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cumulative impact of development based on Rural Housing Annual Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Ensure training of staff in County Council in issues pertaining to biodiversity ▪ (PA): Engage in education Initiatives for the public and wider community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative – based on information from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Fisheries Boards, other NGOs etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have regard to other national habitat surveys during the lifetime of the Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Habitat Inventories and Vegetation Mapping as per Local Biodiversity Action Plan and other national habitat surveys ▪ Biological datasets (incl. genetic diversity) ▪ Trends observed by the Bird Survey of Ireland and population of Wild Birds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Fisheries Boards, and other NGOs. ▪ National Biodiversity Record Centre (Waterford) ▪ Cavan County Council Audit of biological datasets (2007) ▪ Cavan County Heritage Plan 2006-2011 and Cavan County Local Biodiversity Action Plan (when complete) ▪ Bird Watch Ireland 'Bird Atlas 2007-2011' (when complete) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maps, quantitative wild bird ranges observed by Bird Watch Ireland
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Retention of wetlands in the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wetland Survey of County Cavan (Action of Local Biodiversity Action Plan) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Ensure planning applications are considered in accordance with the objectives of the County Development Plan ▪ (RA): Consideration to be given to the establishment of a Wetland Committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative – areas of wetlands under threat, spatial analysis based on chemical and biological data

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
B3: Invasive Species	Protect terrestrial and aquatic habitats from invasive species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council will work with other stakeholders in order to control invasive species⁵ and continue to raise public awareness of invasive species to prevent the spread of invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of initiatives which Cavan County Council get involved in 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Planning and Environment Departments ▪ National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoEHLG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): On-going provision of information and awareness campaigns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List and maps of known areas affected with invasive species (water ways and sites)
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council with support initiatives to manage invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ River Basin Management Plans for Neagh-Bann, North-Western, Shannon and Eastern Region ▪ Rivers of good and fair biological quality ▪ Management Plans for the 10 highest risk alien species and contingency plans for 10 highest risk potential invaders (as part of the River Basin Management Plans) ▪ Local Biodiversity Action Plan (when finalised) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fisheries Boards ▪ Water Framework River Basin Management Plan Monitoring as per www.eden.net ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ Bird Watch Ireland (BWI) ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Continuing involvement and compliance with the River Basin Management Plans ▪ (PP): Invasive Species ▪ (RA): Identifying native species at risk at national level due to invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative and Quantitative if available ▪ Number of advertisements in Local Newspapers. Number of information signs at lakes etc. ▪ Types of information booklets available etc.

⁵ This is based on the recommendations of the 'Invasive species in Ireland Project' which began in May, 2006 for the Environment and Heritage Service (Northern Ireland) and the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and other initiatives undertaken.

5.2.2 Population and Human Health

Environmental Objectives for Population and Human Health:

P1 Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns

P2 Minimise the amount of waste to landfill

H1 Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Population and Human Health	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
P1: Quality of Life	Improve people's quality of life based on high-quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase distribution of green open spaces for public and private use. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Land identified as 'amenity' spaces on zoned lands in towns and villages and quantity of open space provided as part of new developments and status of completion 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Ensure objectives of Development Plan are implemented with regard to open space provision as part of developments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative - % increase of green space in each town both public and private
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce private car usage, increase and promote walking and cycling and increase access to sustainable means of travel and promote private and public bus services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in public amenities such as the provision of bus lay-bys (National Routes), cycle parking throughout the County (based on Parking Standards). ▪ Creation of green linkages in towns and linear walks ▪ Number of cycle-lanes provided as part of planning permissions. ▪ Number of Mobility Management Plans in operation as part of planning permission 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Area Engineers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Investigate the usefulness of Mobility Management Plans and other opportunities including Transport Studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative analysis of cycle-path provision in towns (Area Engineer) and cycle-parking provision ▪ Mobility Management Plans and Transport Study implementation (Area Engineer/Planner)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance townscape quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Masterplans in Towns and Villages in the County and Town and Village Design Framework Matrix use (Survey, Analysis & Vision) completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PA): Masterplans to seek the provision of quality open space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Qualitative and quantitative – number of Master Plans in operation and the subsequent open space provision and community service provision
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Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
P2: Waste Management	Minimise the amount of waste to landfill through reducing, reusing and recycling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce waste to landfill and increase reuse and recycling of materials Increase in volume of waste recycled through use of civic amenity sites/ recycling centres in County Cavan Make waste management information available and accessible to the public 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of new recycling facilities provided as per North East Region Waste Management Strategy. Quantity of household waste collected for landfill and quantity of household waste collected for recycling. Industrial Waste Generation and Management of Hazardous Waste Recovery Rates of Packaging Waste Level of success achieved annually in the Tidy Towns Competitions, Irish Business Against Litter (IBAL) League National Spring Clean National Litter Pollution Monitoring System⁶ Quantity of street litter, other litter, household and commercial refuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council EPA An Taisce 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (RA): Investigate problems and remedy where possible (PA): Maintain litter-free status and endeavour to improve areas where problems exist through Cavan Spring Clean Week Initiatives etc. (PA): Monitor effectiveness of refuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative such as % of Population served by kerbside collection; % of population per civic amenity sites and bring sites; green waste composting facilities, biological treatment plants etc in the North East Region; Quantitative and qualitative in terms of success in Implementation of North East Region Management Plan

⁶ Part of the Government's Litter Action Plan.

					bins at apartments (policy in Cavan Town & Environs Development Plan)	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Litter Management Plan⁷ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Litter Offences recorded under Waste Management Act 1996-2003⁸ Number of 'Adopt a Road' programmes operational during the lifetime of the Plan Number of Fly-Tipping Incidences recorded Number of litter fines issued 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (PA): Anti-Litter campaigns and education programmes undertaken as part of the Litter Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative and qualitative analysis of implementation of Litter Management Plan Number of campaigns initiated.

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Population and Human Health	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
H1: Emissions	Minimise noise, vibration and emissions from traffic, industrial processes and extractive industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good air quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Notices served under Noise Regulations⁹ Type of Noise Complaints received 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council Environment Department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (RA): Investigate source of problems and remedy if possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Available Traffic Counts Number of Noise Notices served and solutions/ mitigation used

⁷ Part 4 of 2003 Act Protection of the Environment Act 2003

⁸ Disposal of waste in a manner that causes or is likely to cause environmental pollution. Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations 2004 places obligation on all businesses to arrange for their packaging waste to be recycling – it s an offence not to do so and therefore such waste should not be disposed of in any other manner.

⁹ Noise Regulations (1994) S.I. 179 Other Environmental Noise Regulations – S.I. No. 140 of 2006.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Air Quality Monitoring¹⁰ (based on nearest stations in Zone D - Kilkitt, Co. Monaghan, Navan, Co. Meath and Drogheda North, Co. Louth)¹¹ ▪ Monitoring of Solvents Regulations¹², Section 4 Licensing ▪ EIS Monitoring Compliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate EIAs monitoring if mitigation not effective and any breaches in Solvent Regulations etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Statistics and fines imposed – solutions found etc.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No deterioration in levels of Drinking Water Quality Standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traffic Counts (Annual Average Daily Traffic) ▪ Number of home-working applications granted over the lifetime of the Development Plan ▪ National Allocation Plan 2008-2012 (emissions) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Environment Department ▪ Cavan County Council Roads Department ▪ CSO ▪ Enterprise Ireland 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate source - remedy based on normal procedures and River Basin Management Plans 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Figures, stats – maps of pressure areas
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement Transportation Study recommendations for towns 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Drinking Water Quality Monitoring as per 2007 Regulations or as amended 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ EPA ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Successfulness of Transport Studies and Implementation of suggestions/ recommendations ▪ (PA): Ensure objectives of the Development Plan are implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and Qualitative in terms of outstanding areas suffering from traffic congestion
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of transportation studies operational in Plan period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Roads Department 		

¹⁰ The Air Quality Standards Regulations 2002, (DoEHLG, 2002) transposed the Framework Directive (CEC, 1996) and the first two daughter Directives (CEC, 1999 and EP and CEU, 2000) into Irish law. They established new air quality standards for SO₂, NO₂ and NO_x, lead, PM₁₀, CO and benzene. The Ozone in Ambient Air Regulations 2004 (DEHLG, 2004) transposed the third daughter Directive (EP and CEU, 2002) dealing with ozone into Irish Law. The Irish Regulations specify the dates by which the limit values or target values for each of the pollutants must be achieved and also the reference methods for sampling, analysis and measurement. Specific requirements are set out in relation to providing the public with information on ambient air quality. Up-to-date information on ambient air quality must be made available on a widespread basis through appropriate media including newspapers and the Internet, with the more sensitive population groups provided with more specific information. Ireland's small population and generally good air quality means that a relatively small number of monitoring stations are sufficient across the country for the purposes of implementing the EU Air Directives.

¹¹ Sulphur Dioxide, Nitrogen Dioxide, Particulate Matter, Black Smoke, Lead, Benzene, Carbon Monoxide and Ground-Level Ozone are monitored at stations in Zone D. The Ozone Regulations (DoEHLG) 2004 specify target values to be achieved by 2010 and more stringent long-term objectives to be achieved by 2020.

¹² Monitoring of Solvent Regulations (2006) Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds from Organic Solvents Regulations 2002, S.I. No. 543 of 2002 (the Solvents Regulations) - V.O.C monitoring of dry-cleaners emissions etc.

5.2.3 Landscape and Soils

Environmental Objectives for Landscape and Soil including minerals:

- L1 Conserve and enhance natural and historic landscapes and features within them
- L2 Conserve and enhance townscape quality
- S1 Give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands, reducing the need to develop Greenfield lands
- S2 Reduce consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Landscape and Soil	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
L1: Natural and Historic Landscapes	Conserve and enhance natural and historic landscapes and features within them	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prepare a Landscape Management Plan and implement recommendations ▪ Ensure no significant disruption of designated scenic views and scenic routes and high landscape areas through objectives of County Development Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of developments located within a designated scenic view or route or high landscape area in County Cavan that disrupt views (based on Landscape Management Plan) ▪ Annual Rural Housing Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ Heritage Council ▪ Failte Ireland ▪ GSI 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PP): Investigate situations where landscape impact is cumulative ▪ (RA): Examine if further development policy is required ▪ (RA): Investigate through Annual Rural Housing Report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cumulative effect on landscape, based on Landscape Management Plan ▪ Conclusions of Rural Housing Annual Report
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Conduct an audit of designated geological sites of importance in County Cavan and take cognisance of proposed designated sites of geological importance in County Cavan (pNHAs and cSACs) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Audit of geological sites of importance in County Cavan (2007) as amended ▪ Number of planning permissions granted for extractive industries in protected geological sites ▪ Landscape Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Heritage Officer ▪ GSI ▪ National Parks and Wildlife Service (DoEHLG) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Ensure provision/policy for restoration programme for extractive industries, monitoring and enforcement of same 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Landscape and Soil	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
L2: Townscape	Conserve and enhance townscape quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Local Area Plans to contain policies and objectives to retain character of townscape and areas for enhancement, creating quality urban environments and public realms 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of towns employing masterplans to enhance townscapes and number of Villages subject to Village & Small Town Design Framework Matrix over the Plan period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ Various agents (architects etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Investigate townscape and village-scape design where masterplans are in operation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Qualitative photograph montage ▪ Number of Masterplans in operation and qualitative assessment of this. ▪ Use of Village & Small Town Design Matrix
S1: Brownfield Development	Give preference to the re-use of brownfield lands, reducing the need to develop Greenfield lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in new applications granted on brownfield lands or as suitable infill development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of applications granted on brownfield or infill sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Pre-planning discussions to encourage use of brownfield sites ▪ (PA): Examine zoning of lands and development of lands over Plan period 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and qualitative analysis
S2: Non-renewables	Reduce consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in reuse or recycling of construction and demolition (C&D) waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ % increase in C&D waste in County Cavan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ EPA ▪ North East Region Waste Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Promotion of sustainable waste management and education initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative based on monitoring for North East Region Waste Management Plan

5.2.4 Water

Environmental Objectives for Water:

W1 Protect and enhance the quality of surface, ground and drinking water

W2 Promote water conservation and sustainable water use, based on long-term projections of available water resources

W3 Mitigate the effects of floods

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Water	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
W1: Enhance all Water Quality	Protect and enhance the quality of surface, ground and drinking water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Achievement of 'good status' in all waters as required by the Water Framework Directive and implement River Basin Management Plans (when finalised in 2009) for Neagh-Bann, Shannon, North-Western and Eastern Regions ▪ Protection of high quality waters (unpolluted – Q5) in the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes in water quality identified through normal monitoring procedures on biological and chemical rating ▪ River Basin Management Plans (when completed) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ EPA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (R.A): Investigate source and remedy - polluter-pays-principle applies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative water quality results for lakes and rivers in County as per Annual County Council Water Quality Report ▪ Map of County identifying any known polluted areas
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Implement Ground Water Protection Scheme for County Cavan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of planning applications granted/ refused based on groundwater and aquifer category and aquifer vulnerability (when County Plan is adopted) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Refer to River Basin Management Plans for Neagh-Bann, North Western, Shannon and Eastern (when finalised) ▪ (PA): Monitoring of applications in vulnerable areas 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and status of Groundwater ▪ Annual Rural Housing Report and pressures for development

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintenance of domestic waste water treatment systems throughout the County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of upgraded/ maintained waste water treatment systems for domestic houses as per Waste Water Treatment System Bye-Laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ Panel of Assessors appointed under Bye-Laws 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate source of problems 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduce discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Changes in water quality as a result of monitoring under Section 4 Local Authority Licensing or Waste Licensing ▪ Number of farms participating in REPS ▪ Number of pollution incidences ▪ River Water Quality 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ EPA ▪ Department of Agriculture and Food ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate source and remedy where possible - polluter-pays-principle applies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and maps of trends throughout the County
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade Waste Water Treatment Works and undertake Capital Works projects as necessary¹³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of upgraded Waste Water Treatment works ▪ Sludge Management Plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PP): Availability of funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and effectiveness of treatment works
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increased amounts of nutrient removal at Wastewater Treatment Plants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of Wastewater Treatment Plants with nutrient removal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council Water Services Investment Programme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PP): Availability of funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative

¹³ Based on funding made available under the main Water Services Investment Programme, the Rural Water Programme and the Serviced Land Initiative.

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Water	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
W2: Sustainable water use	Promote sustainable water use, based on long-term projections of available water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upgrade Public Water Supply Schemes under the Water Services Investment Programme ▪ Implement Water Management System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Sufficient water supplies over lifetime of the Development Plan ▪ Reduction in estimated loss of water supply through pipeline and network rehabilitation and repair/ replacement of old pipe networks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Continuous monitoring ▪ (RA): Investigate losses through Active Leakage Control and Network Information Management System and remedy accordingly where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative - % reduction in loss of water based on maintenance of water supply pipe network ▪ Continuous monitoring
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Water abstraction to remain within the capacity of the water body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Volume of water abstracted from water body ▪ Number of notices of water shortages. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate problems and remedy where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quality of water resources and Drinking Water Quality monitoring
W3: Flooding	Mitigate the effects of floods	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Restrict development in flood plains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Flood Impact Assessments (part of Planning Applications) ▪ OPW Flood Hazard Mapping 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ OPW 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Remedy/ prevent flooding problems where possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spatial – mapping of problem areas as per OPW Flood Hazard Mapping.

5.2.5 Air and Climate

Environmental Objectives for Air and Climate:

A1 Reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emission

A2 Promote energy efficiency and maximise use of renewable energy sources

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Air and Climate	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
A1: Air Pollution	Reduce air pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in amount of cycle path provision 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provision of new cycle paths in towns ▪ CSO transport information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ CSO 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative and qualitative
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Increase in number of Renewable Energy Developments in the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Planning Applications for renewable energy projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Eirgrid National Transmission Network ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (PA): Ensure objectives of Development Plan are implemented 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Spatial Data - Map of Wind Farms and Energy Projects across the County
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Reduction in uncontrolled burning/ disposing of waste ▪ Licensing of facilities under 1987 Air Pollution Act/ Waste Management Act 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of incidences of burning or fly-tipping reported ▪ Number of Air Licenses, Petroleum Vapour Emissions (PVE) Certificates, Volatile Organic Compounds – Certificates of Compliance issued by County Council ▪ Number of offences/ breaches recorded under the 1987 Air Pollution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ EPA ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ EPA ▪ Cavan County Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate sources of waste emissions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Quantitative

			Act, Waste Management Act and Waste Management (Packaging) Regulations			
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain levels of greenhouses gases within National and EU limits¹⁴ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air quality monitoring station in Zone D¹⁵. Permits for industrial processes emissions under Ireland's National Allocation Plan 2008 – 2012 (when finalised)¹⁶ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EPA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase in afforestation especially native broadleaf species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % increase in afforestation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council Forest Service (Department of Agriculture) Coillte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (RA): Investigate source of problem and remedy if possible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative – statistics and location of new forestry
A2: Energy Efficiency	Promote energy efficiency and maximise use of renewable energy sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Application of EU Energy Performance of Buildings Directive 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of houses with each Building Energy Rating 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cavan County Council Contractors (e.g. Energy Agency Manager etc.) where funding permits 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative

¹⁴ Air Quality Standard Regulations (2002) and Air Framework Directive 96/62/EC (CEC, 1996).

¹⁵ Zone D is all the rural areas of the country outside of major towns and cities. There are no monitoring stations in Cavan but the nearest monitoring stations of Navan, Co. Meath, Kilkitt, Co. Monaghan, Drogheda, North County Louth.

¹⁶ Kingscourt Bricks Limited, Gypsum Industries Limited, Bailieboro Foods Limited and Bailie Foods Ireland, Meath Proteins, Quinn Cement Ltd, Abbott Ireland, Glanbia PLC.

5.2.6 Material Assets

Environmental Objectives for Material Assets:

M1 Maximise use of the existing built environment

M2 Maintain infrastructure in the County and mitigate the effects of further infrastructure provision

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Material Assets	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
M1: Built Environment	Maximise use of the existing built environment	▪ Increase % of applications granted on brownfield sites	▪ Number of applications on brownfield or infill sites	▪ Cavan County Council	▪ (PA): Promotion through pre-planning	▪ Quantitative
		▪ Increased re-use and appropriate maintenance of protected structures including use of upper floors of Protected Structures in towns and villages	▪ Number of applications for use of Protected Structures ▪ Number of applications for re-use of older buildings (in towns/ countryside)	▪ Cavan County Council	▪ (PA): Ensure proposed development works are referred are sent to DoEHLG Built Heritage Section	▪ Quantitative
M2: Infrastructure	Maintain infrastructure in the County and mitigate the effects of further infrastructure provision	▪ Implement recommendations of Transportation Studies for towns in the County	▪ Number of Transportation Studies and recommendations adopted	▪ Cavan County Council		▪ Qualitative
		▪ Provide and upgrade existing wastewater treatment plants as per Water Services Investment Scheme	▪ Number of upgrades or new Waste Water Treatment Plants provided	▪ Cavan County Council	▪ (RA): Investigate sources of pollution and remedy where possible	▪ Water Services – info on Water Services Investment & Expenditure Programme and upgrade details.

5.2.7 Cultural Heritage

Environmental Objectives for Cultural Heritage:

C1 Promote the protection and conservation of the cultural heritage including architecture and archaeology

Environmental Receptor (SEA Directive Annex I) Cultural Heritage	Objective (An objective is a statement of what is intended)	Target (A target is a more detailed plan specific intended achievement)	Indicator (An indicator is a measure of variables over time, used to measure achievements of targets and objectives)	Indicator Information Source or Authority Responsible for Monitoring	Potential Problems (PP)/ Remedial Action (RA)/ Positive Action (PA) (If the indicators show potential environmental issues, PPs, RAs or PAs have been identified below)	Format for presentation of results
C1: Protection and Conservation	Promote the protection and conservation of cultural heritage including architecture and archaeology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevent damage to or loss of protected structures or national monuments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Structures included in RPS or areas designated as ACAs ▪ Architectural Surveys (such as Industrial Architecture) undertaken by Cavan County Council and DoEHLG during the lifetime of the Plan. ▪ National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (County Survey) when complete 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ DoEHLG (NIAH) ▪ Heritage Council ▪ DoEHLG (NIAH) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate disruption of sites with enforcement and refer to the National Monuments Section/ Built Heritage Section ▪ (PA): Raise public awareness through the County Heritage Plan 2006 - 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List and any damage reports ▪ Digitised Format of Cavan County Council studies/ publications on DoEHLG (Buildings of Ireland) website etc.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ To establish Architectural Conservation Areas around the County 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of ACAs in County Cavan and ACA Surveys completed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Various Consultants' Reports undertaken on behalf of Cavan County Council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of ACA's adopted
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Refer all applications that impact on heritage to DoEHLG for recommendations ▪ Education and Training through the Heritage Plan 2006 - 2011 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Numbers of structures on the RPS or within an ACA or archaeological zone damaged or demolished as a result of development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DoEHLG ▪ Cavan County Council and various consultants reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Investigate situations with enforcement and refer to the DoEHLG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List and any damage reports

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Have regard to County Heritage Plan in order to conserve, protect and promote sustainable management of archaeological sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Number of new archaeological sites discovered or added to RMP ▪ Number of archaeological actions of the Heritage Plan undertaken 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DoEHLG (NMS) ▪ Cavan County Council ▪ Heritage Council ▪ OPW ▪ Other Statutory Bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ (RA): Consult with National Monuments Service if damage occurs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ List of monuments and maps ▪ Location of archaeological monument if disturbed
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6.1 Conclusion

The Strategic Environmental Assessment carried out by Cavan County Council during the preparation of the Cavan County Development Plan has ensured that any potential significant environmental impacts of the Plan are identified and that they have been given appropriate consideration. Throughout the preparation of the County Development Plan and the Environmental Report consultation has taken place which has contributed to the final adopted plan.

Although the Plan has now been adopted, the SEA process will continue with the monitoring of environmental impacts of the implementation of the Plan. This will include ongoing monitoring and publication of progress reports.

