

Cavan

Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council

Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028

Incorporating the Cavan Town Local Area Plan 2022-2028

Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

CAVAN COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2022-2028

INCORPORATING THE CAVAN TOWN
LOCAL AREA PLAN 2022-2028

for: Cavan County Council

Courthouse
Farnham
Cavan Town



Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council

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Amendments to Development Objectives Codes

The following is a list of development objective codes that have been updated in the adopted County Development Plan incorporating a Local Area Plan for Cavan Town, 2022-2028. The specified changes as outlined below should be noted with reference to development objectives codes contained in this report.

- Tourism Infrastructure and Visitor Services Development Objectives are amended from TV 09 to TV 06 and TV 10 to TV 07
- Foul Drainage and Wastewater Development Objectives are amended from FDW 12 to FDW 11, FDW 13 to FDW 12, FDW 14 to FDW 13, FDW 15 to FDW 14, FDW 16 to FDW 15, FDW 17 to FDW 16, FDW 18 to FDW 17, FDW 19 to FDW 18.

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, incorporating the Cavan Town Local Area Plan 2022-2028. The obligation to undertake AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed into Irish legislation by, inter alia, the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of any European Site in view of its conservation objectives. This AA Conclusion Statement should be read in conjunction with the Plan and associated documents including the AA Natura Impact Report (NIR).

1.2 Legislative Requirements in relation to AA

In carrying out the AA for the Plan, Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, that the Council considers the matters arrayed in the first column on Table 1.1 below. The second column identifies how these issues have been addressed.

Table 1.1 Matters taken into account by the AA

Matter specified by the Regulations	How addressed by AA
(a) the Natura Impact Report	An AA NIR accompanies this AA Conclusion Statement and the Plan.
(b) any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report	This AA Conclusion Statement accompanies the NIR that provides additional detail on European Sites.
(c) if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Report	Submissions made during the Plan preparation/AA process that were relevant to the AA resulted in updates being made to the AA NIR.
(d) any information or advice obtained by the public authority	
(e) if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the public authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed plan or project	Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake Stage 2 AA (Stage 2 AA was undertaken on certain alterations).
(f) any other relevant information	

In addition to the above, the Regulations require that the Council makes available for inspection a determination regarding the outcome of the assessment with respect to whether or not the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site (a copy of this determination is provided at Section 4).

1.3 AA Conclusion Statement

AA guidance (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009) states that (Section 4.14) it *"is recommended that planning authorities include a clear and discrete AA Conclusion Statement as a distinct section in the written statement of the plan separate to the SEA statement."* This guidance recommends that the following issues are addressed by the AA Conclusion Statement:

- Summary of how the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan (see Section 2);
- Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered as part of the AA process (see Section 3);
- A declaration that the Plan as adopted will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites (provided at Section 4); and
- The NIR (the AA NIR is accompanied by this AA Conclusion Statement and has informed the AA Determination – see Section 4).

As recommended, this AA Conclusion Statement addresses the above issues.

Section 2 How the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at the Council in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

The Plan was prepared in an iterative manner whereby the Plan and AA documents have informed subsequent versions of the other. The findings of the AA were integrated into the Plan through mitigation measures. These mitigation measures ensure that there will be no significant effects to the ecological integrity of any European site from implementation of the Plan. The mitigation measures most relevant to the protection of European sites are identified in Table 2.1 below.

Furthermore, the detailed Plan preparation process undertaken by the Planning Department combined with specialist input from the SEA and AA process facilitated zoning that avoids inappropriate development being permitted in areas of high ecological sensitivity.

Table 2.1 Mitigation relating to AA

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
Various	<p>Core Strategy - Ecosystems Services Approach and Natural Capital In preparing the Draft Plan and developing policy objectives, the Council have followed these Ecosystem Services¹ Approach principles:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function. b) Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation, resources for food, fibre or fuel, or for recreation, culture and quality of life. c) Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them. Public consultation has informed the preparation of the Draft Plan which will be further refined before adoption, taking into account submissions/observations made on the Draft Plan during public display. <p>The Council shall promote an Ecosystem Services Approach, following the above principles, in its decision-making processes, including those relating to the preparation of statutory land use plans. In recognition of the need to manage natural capital², provisions have been integrated into the Plan that will contribute towards management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, water quality and integrated river basin management.</p> <p>United Nations Sustainability Goals Contribute, as practicable, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which came into force in 2016.</p> <p>Various other Objectives GR 09 New roads and other transport infrastructure projects that are not already provided for by existing plans/programmes or are not already permitted, are subject to the undertaking of feasibility assessment, taking into account planning need, environmental sensitivities as identified in the SEA Environment Report and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Road Selection Process will be undertaken where appropriate, for relevant new road infrastructure in two stages: Stage1 – Router Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Sections; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. RCWM-05 All relevant development proposals shall include a Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) with planning application documentation³.</p>

¹ Ecosystems are multifunctional communities of living organisms interacting with each other and their environment. Ecosystems provide a series of services for human well-being (ecosystem services) either directly or indirectly contributing towards human wellbeing

² Renewable and non-renewable resources (e.g. plants, animals, air, water, soils, minerals)

³ Construction Environment Management Plans shall be prepared in advance of the construction of relevant projects and implemented throughout. Such plans shall incorporate relevant mitigation measures which have been integrated into the Plan and any lower tier Environmental Impact Statement or Appropriate Assessment. CEMPs typically provide details of intended construction practice for the proposed development, including:

- location of the sites and materials compound(s) including area(s) identified for the storage of construction refuse;
- location of areas for construction site offices and staff facilities;
- details of site security fencing and hoardings;
- details of on-site car parking facilities for site workers during the course of construction;
- details of the timing and routing of construction traffic to and from the construction site and associated directional signage;
- measures to obviate queuing of construction traffic on the adjoining road network;
- measures to prevent the spillage or deposit of clay, rubble or other debris;
- alternative arrangements to be put in place for pedestrians and vehicles in the case of the closure of any public right of way during the course of site development works;
- details of appropriate mitigation measures for noise, dust and vibration, and monitoring of such levels;
- containment of all construction-related fuel and oil within specially constructed bunds to ensure that fuel spillages are fully contained (such bunds shall be roofed to exclude rainwater);
- disposal of construction/demolition waste and details of how it is proposed to manage excavated soil, including compliance with 2006 Best Practice Guidelines on the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects, Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government;
- a water and sediment management plan, providing for means to ensure that surface water runoff is controlled such that no silt or other pollutants enter local water courses or drains;
- details of a water quality monitoring and sampling plan;
- if peat is encountered - a peat storage, handling and reinstatement management plan;
- measures adopted during construction to prevent the spread of invasive species (such as Japanese Knotweed);
- appointment of an ecological clerk of works at site investigation, preparation and construction phases; and

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>GE 08 Where undergrounding and/or overgrounding of cables is being pursued, proposals should demonstrate that environmental impacts including the following are minimise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Habitat loss as a result of removal of field boundaries and hedgerows (right of way preparation) followed by topsoil stripping (to ensure machinery does not destroy soil structure and drainage properties). - Short to medium term impacts on the landscape where, for example, hedgerows are encountered; - Impacts on underground archaeology; - Impacts on soil structure and drainage; - Impacts on surface waters as a result of sedimentation and - Visual impacts.
<p>Biodiversity and flora and fauna</p>	<p>Lighting Development Objectives</p> <p>LP 01 Control lighting in urban, rural areas and sensitive areas in accordance with Euronats and Darksky Circular, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>LP 03 Ornamental lighting of public buildings, bridges, monuments and public spaces must not fall beyond the area intended or directed skywards. Architecturally sensitive tones such as passive, warm coloured lights should be considered before blue or rich white lights and only used where necessary in accordance with Eurobats and Darksky Circular.</p> <p>Natural Heritage Development Objectives</p> <p>NH1 Conserve, protect and manage the County’s natural heritage assets for future generations while encouraging appreciation, understanding and enjoyment of the amenity value for the present generation.</p> <p>NH2 Maximise the social, economic and environmental benefits that may be derived from the conservation and management of Cavan’s Natural Heritage and green infrastructure.</p> <p>NH3 Support the implementation of relevant actions in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy.</p> <p>NH4 Implement, in partnership with Cavan County Heritage Forum, relevant stakeholders and the wider community, Cavan County Heritage and Biodiversity Plans and any revisions thereof.</p> <p>NH5 Integrate biodiversity consideration into all Cavan County Council activities through the County Biodiversity Action Plan process.</p> <p>NH6 Ensure the protection of species of flora and fauna afforded legal protection under Irish and European Legislation.</p> <p>NH7 Assess the impact on biodiversity of proposals for large developments, particularly those on greenfield sites, or in environmentally sensitive areas. Such developments must include measures for the enhancement and protection of biodiversity.</p> <p>NH8 Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Designated Sites</p> <p>NHDS1 Protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas.</p> <p>NHDS2 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment is carried out in respect of any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary for the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect on the integrity of a European Site(s), either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, in view of the site’s conservation objectives.</p> <p>NHDS3 Ensure that any plan or project that could have an adverse impact on a NHA, pNHA, SAC, SPA (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) or upon the conservation objectives of the site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will be subject to the requirements of Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>NHDS4 Ensure an Appropriate Assessment (AA) in accordance with Article 6(3) and Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, and in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009 and relevant EPA and European Commission guidance documents, is carried out in respect of any Plan or Project likely to have significant effect on a Natura 2000 site(s), either individually or in combination.</p> <p>NHDS5 Require an ecological appraisal for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura Sites, or a proposed Natura Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively.</p> <p>NHDS6 Support the development of a Strategic Habitat Map for the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark in consultation with National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>NHDS7 Promote the maintenance and as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species and to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, by maintaining and where appropriate, developing features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>NHDS8 Ensure that new development proposals affecting designated sites have regard to the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report prepared in respect of this plan.</p> <p>NHDS9 Have regard to the views of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in respect of proposed development where such development may have an impact on a designated National or European site or proposed site for designation.</p> <p>NHDS10 Consult with National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in regard to any developments (those requiring planning permission and those not requiring planning permission) which the council proposes to carry out within pNHAs, NHAs, SACs, SACs, SPAs, SPAs and other important ecological sites.</p> <p>NHDS11 Maintain the conservation value of Council owned land within NHAs and pNHAs and promote the conservation value of Council owned land adjoining NHAs.</p>

- details of appropriate mitigation measures for lighting specifically designed to minimise impacts to biodiversity, including bats.

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>NHDS12 Continue to undertake surveys and collect data that will assist Cavan County Council in building its knowledge base and meeting its obligations under Article 6 of the Habitat Directives.</p> <p>NHDS 13 Projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz there must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.</p> <p>NHDS 14 Contribute towards the protection and enhancement of biodiversity and ecological connectivity where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Non- Designated Sites</p> <p>NHND1 Support the protection of non-designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve biological diversity.</p> <p>NHND2 Conserve the existing wide range of flora, fauna and wildlife habitats in the county through the preservation of ecological corridors and networks vital to the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. To designate County Biodiversity Sites within the lifetime of this plan and to protect the ecological integrity of these sites.</p> <p>NHND3 Implement the actions of Cavan County Biodiversity Plan and any subsequent revisions in fulfilment of the requirements of the National Biodiversity Plan.</p> <p>NHND4 Continue habitat mapping of the county to enable planning for the future development in a sensitive and sustainable manner and this mapping to inform the development management policy.</p> <p>NHND5 Require an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) for any proposed development which may have a significant impact on rare, threatened and or protected species and non designated habitats of biodiversity value.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Invasive Species</p> <p>IN1 Support initiatives, which reduce the risk of invasions, help control and manage new and established invasive species, monitor impacts and raise public awareness.</p> <p>IN2 Encourage the use of native species in amenity planting and stocking and related community actions to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species.</p> <p>IN3 Prevent the spread of invasive species within the plan area, including requiring landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p> <p>IN4 Ensure proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management programme for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I 4777/2011)</p> <p>IN5 Support the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control and manage the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Wetlands</p> <p>WL 1 Development that would negatively impact upon any wetland including fragmentation or degradation will be resisted in the County.</p> <p>WL 2 Review and update the 2008 Wetlands Survey for County Cavan with a view to mapping the extent and condition of wetland sites in the county as a comprehensive GIS Layer. This review will also identify information gaps and inform future wetland policy.</p> <p>WL3 Where it is intended to fill or reclaim or carry out a development proposal on a wetland area, the minimum level of assessment on a site above 0.1ha shall be an ecological impact assessment and an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>WL4 Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value.</p> <p>WL5 Ensure land zonings carefully consider appropriate riparian setback distances that support high ecological status of water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and buffer zones from flood plains.</p> <p>WL6 Implement parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011 which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such planning applications would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Woodlands, Trees, Hedgerows and Stonewalls</p> <p>WTHS1 Continue to co-operate with relevant stakeholders to improve public access to State forests for amenity purposes and consider development which will enhance the amenity provided by existing trees and woodlands.</p> <p>WTHS2 Promote awareness, understanding and best practice in the management of Cavan's woodland, tree, hedgerow and stone wall resource.</p> <p>WTHS3 Encourage the retention of mature trees and the use of tree surgery rather than felling where possible when undertaking, approving or authorising development.</p> <p>WTHS4 Protect Champion and Heritage Trees where identified on the Tree Register of Ireland and Heritage Tree Database, when undertaking, approving, or authorising development.</p> <p>WTHS5 Encourage the use of native species wherever possible in Cavan County Council's own landscaping work, and on Council property.</p> <p>WTHS6 Promote and encourage planting of native hedgerow species of local provenance.</p> <p>WTHS7 Encourage the retention of hedgerows and stonewalls and other distinctive boundary treatments in rural areas and prevent loss and fragmentation, where possible. Where removal of a hedgerow or stone wall is unavoidable, mitigation by provision of the same type of boundary will be</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>required and where removal is proposed which may affect bat species it shall be subject to regime of protection under the EC (Birds and Habitats) Regulations, 2011, as amended.</p> <p>WTHS8 Carry out a review of the Cavan Hedgerow Survey undertaken in 2006 during the lifetime of this plan.</p> <p>Landscape Character/ Natural Heritage Climate Change Development Objectives</p> <p>LCC 01 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation.</p> <p>LCC 02 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Cavan.</p> <p>LCC 03 Promote the use in public spaces of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar in favour of glyphosate weedkillers.</p> <p>LCC 04 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased.</p> <p>LCC 05 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022.</p> <p>LCC06 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools, such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands.</p> <p>LCC 07 Explore the opportunity of engaging the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities.</p> <p>LCC 08 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible.</p> <p>LCC 09 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Northern and Western Climate Action Region.</p> <p>LCC 10 Fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels will not be encouraged within Cavan 's functional area.</p> <p>LCC 11 Develop a strategy to support an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaption.</p> <p>Various Other Objectives</p> <p>LW 04 Facilitate increased access to Cavan's waterways, from towns and villages where visitor services are located, with an emphasis on providing a strong visitor experience associated with the lakes and waterways and their heritage and amenity value, including trails, bird hides, and water sports facilities, subject to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>T 09 Ensure all tourism developments shall integrate climate change adaptation, the enhancement of nature and biodiversity measures into their activities, plans and proposals.</p> <p>CC 10 Support collaboration between local authorities and relevant stakeholders regarding integrated peatland management and support for rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats, in particular the Geopark and Cuilcagh Carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p>Tourism Development Objectives</p> <p>T 01 Promote the development and strengthening of the overall value of Cavan as a tourist destination by encouraging the enhancement and development of sustainable and high-quality visitor attractions, activities and infrastructure, enabling an increase in the overall capacity and long-term development of the county's tourism industry, subject to appropriate siting and design criteria and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>T 02 Engage and collaborate with key stakeholders, relevant agencies, sectoral representatives and local communities to develop the tourism sector in Cavan, to ensure that the economic potential of the tourism sector is secured for the local economy.</p> <p>T 03 Support the implementation of the County's Tourism Strategy in line with national and regional policy, tourism trends and identified challenges, in collaboration with Fáilte Ireland, Waterways Ireland, tourism businesses and communities and other supporting agencies.</p> <p>T 04 Continue to work closely with Fáilte Ireland to maximise the benefit of national and regional initiatives/plans/strategies for the county, with a particular emphasis on initiatives which will increase the economic benefit from tourism, support local business development and encourage new enterprise opportunities.</p> <p>T 05 Utilise the county's natural and heritage resources to foster the development of tourism as a viable sector of the economy in a sustainable manner which complements the scale, quality and unique features of the location and county.</p> <p>T 06 Protect and conserve the natural, built and cultural heritage features which add value to the visitor experience in Cavan and seek to restrict developments which would damage or detract from the quality of scenic areas and identified natural and cultural heritage assets.</p> <p>T 07 Support actions to increase access to state and semi-state lands such as National Parks, Forest Parks, Waterways, together with Monuments and Historic Properties, for recreation and tourism purposes, subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive, National Monuments Act and other provisions and policies to protect and safeguard these resources and subject to the ability of local infrastructure to support the resulting increased tourism.</p> <p>LW 04 Facilitate increased access to Cavan's waterways, from towns and villages where visitor services are located, with an emphasis on providing a strong visitor experience associated with the lakes and waterways and their heritage and amenity value, including trails, bird hides, and water sports facilities, subject to the protection of environmentally sensitive areas and the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>LW 05 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Cavan's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>LW 07 Support the provision of walking and cycling links between lakes, rivers, bogs and nearby towns, villages and visitor attractions, provided such developments do not negatively impact on sensitive environments.</p> <p>GCW 09 Promote the principles of 'Leave no Trace' in all trail information panels, promotional materials and events and use all statutory procedures to deter negative environmental impact resulting from use of our trails and outdoor recreation amenities.</p> <p>TC 03 Support opportunities for increased tourism within limits of existing infrastructure and sensitive habitats.</p> <p>TC 07 Support, implement and require best-practice environmental management and climate proofing of tourism related developments and activities, such as accommodation, restaurants, activity providers, festivals and events and tourism enterprises, to include zero climate impact, energy efficiency, waste management, and recycling.</p> <p>HHAS 03 Support enhanced access to state, semi-state and private lands such as bogs, forests, waterways, together with National Monuments and Historic Properties, for recreation and tourism purposes. Access should be planned and managed in a sustainable manner that protects heritage, environmental sensitivities, ecological corridors, and the ability of local infrastructure to support increased tourism.</p> <p>T 10 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p>
Soil	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Geological Heritage</p> <p>GH1 Protect and enhance the County Geological Heritage Audit of Cavan</p> <p>GH2 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Geological Audit of Cavan</p> <p>GH3 Provide safe and sustainable access to geological sites where appropriate and subject to requirements of Article 6 of the Habitat's Directive.</p> <p>GH4 Consult Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) when undertaking, authorising developments likely to impact on the County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>GH5 Continue to promote the unique geological heritage of the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark (UNESCO Geopark). Individual notable sites within the Cuilcagh Lakelands Global Geopark include Cuilcagh Mountain and Mid-Cavan Drumlinised Ribbed Moraines. These sites should be valued for their scientific and educational value to the community.</p> <p>GH6 Have regard to the geological and geomorphological heritage values of County Cavan geological heritage sites and to avoid inappropriate development, through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Marble Arch Caves, UNESCO Global Geopark</p> <p>GP1 Conserve and manage the geological resources of a discrete area to develop sustainable tourism, enterprise and community life.</p> <p>GP2 Build on the existing progress and achievements of the Cuilcagh Lakelands UNESCO Global Geopark in supporting the ten-year Development Plan 2020-2030.</p> <p>GP3 Support the development of geotourism and the recreational potential of Cavan Burren, the Shannon Pot, Killykeen, Lough Oughter and Associated Loughs, Cuilcagh and other Geopark sites through increased social use of the landscape, with attendant conservation, economic, social and community benefits within the region.</p> <p>GP4 Support the continuing development of strategic walking routes, trails and other countryside recreational opportunities within the Geopark such as the cross-border 'Smuggler's Route'.</p> <p>GP5 Continue to support the CANN cross-border environmental project restoring blanket bog habitat on Cuilcagh summit.</p> <p>GP6 Enhance the geodiversity, biodiversity and natural environments of the region including additional measures to conserve geosites and natural habitats where appropriate.</p> <p>GP7 Develop knowledge and understanding of geology, related Earth Sciences, endangered habitats and associated environmental issues through education and research programmes.</p> <p>GP8 Encourage enquiry through fieldwork and inspire scientific research through education and research programmes.</p> <p>GP9 Recognise the strategic location of Blacklion at the heart of the Geopark and other Geopark towns, villages and communities and seek to promote the development of appropriate ancillary facilities like interpretation, accommodation and social outlets.</p> <p>GP10 Support Swanlinbar and other Geopark towns, villages and communities as hubs for appropriate outdoor recreational activities.</p> <p>Waste Management Development Objectives</p> <p>WM 14 Treatment and/or management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p>
Water	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets and various settlement specific measures provided for under Chapter 2 Settlement Strategy.</p> <p>Groundwater Development Objectives</p> <p>GW 01 Ensure that groundwater is protected by ensuring compliance with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability. o Implementation of the Programme of Measures as required in the River Basin Management Plans o Licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010)

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>o Implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (S.I. No. 610 of 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources ('the Nitrates Directive'), dangerous substances in water and protection of groundwater.</p> <p>GW 02 Protect ground water resources and abstraction points, and as ensures such sources and their zones of contribution are protected and safeguarded in the interests of common good and public health.</p> <p>GW 03 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on water quality, the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands species and wetlands, in County Cavan and in any areas that are hydrologically or hydrogeologically linked, including areas in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>GW 04 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). The European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EUs Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and No. 36 which provide guidance on exceptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive).</p> <p>GW 05 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018 (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>GW 06 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, that consideration is given to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>GW 07 Discourage the over concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plans to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>GW 08 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>GW 09 Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p> <p>GW 10 Promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements.</p> <p>GW 11 Promote measures to prevent siltation of water courses from developments including planting and clear felling of commercial forests.</p> <p>GW 12 Promote measures to prevent acidification of water courses.</p> <p>Water Development Objectives</p> <p>W 01 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication 'Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>W 02 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, consideration is GIVEN to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>W 03 Ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>W 04 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>W 06 Support the development in the County of green infrastructure, river walkways (in accordance with the principles of Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment, A guideline Developed by Inland Fisheries) and access from amenities, residential areas and community services to the town centre</p> <p>Agri-Food Development Objectives</p> <p>AF 06 Support agricultural development as a contributory means of maintaining population and sustaining the rural economy, whilst maintaining and enhancing the standing of the rural environment through application of the EU Water Framework Directive and EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>AF 09 Facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby natural waters and watercourses, wildlife habitats, conservation areas and areas of ecological importance and other environmental assets are protected from the threat of pollution, and where development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside.</p> <p>Agricultural Buildings and Structures Development Objectives</p> <p>ABS 01 Facilitate the development of environmentally sustainable agricultural activities, whereby watercourses, habitats, areas of ecological importance and environmental assets are protected and development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside.</p> <p>Forestry Development Objectives</p> <p>F 01 Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on European</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>Sites (SACs and SPAs); and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the 'Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality'.</p> <p>F 02 Promote forestry development of appropriate scale and character while ensuring that such development does not have a negative impact on the residential amenity or the countryside, (including public access/rights of way, traditional walking routes and recreational facilities), or cause pollution or degradation of wildlife habitats, natural waters or areas of ecological importance.</p> <p>Horticulture Development Objectives</p> <p>H 01 Encourage the development of environmentally sustainable horticultural practices, to ensure that development does not impinge on the visual amenity of the countryside and that watercourses, wildlife habitats and areas of ecological importance are protected from the threat of pollution.</p> <p>Water Quality and Groundwater Policy Objectives</p> <p>WQG 01 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>WQG 02 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the S.I. No. 122/2014 - European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2014 and any regulations made thereunder. and compliance of water supplies with the parameters identified in these Regulations.</p> <p>WQG 03 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). the European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>WQG 04 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2020 'Drinking Water Quality in Public Supplies 2019' (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>WQG 05 In conjunction with Irish Water, support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failures to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List.</p> <p>WQG 06 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, that consideration is given to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>WQG 07 Ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>WQG 08 Discourage the over concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plans to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>WQG 09 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Various Other Objectives</p> <p>IW1 Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the County's Waterways and to maintain them free from inappropriate development and to provide for public access, where feasible, acknowledging the existence of contiguous Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>IW2 Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other water courses and maintain them in an open state and to discourage the culverting or realignment thereof.</p> <p>IW3 Consult with, as appropriate, the Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could have a potential impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.</p> <p>IW4 Consult with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the DECLG and the Inland Waterways Association on the development proposals that may affect inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals or watercourses.</p> <p>IW5 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and conserve and enhance, where possible, the wildlife habitats of the county's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide for a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CP12 Encourage the use of materials and engineering solutions that optimise natural surface water drainage as part of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) associated with large scale car parks.</p> <p>GED 02 Engage with all relevant government stakeholders, enterprise agencies and sectoral representatives in pursuing green approaches to economic development, and actively collaborate with key industry and educational bodies to promote Cavan based initiatives the economic sectors.</p> <p>RIC 21 Require the incorporation of Sustainable Drainage Schemes (SuDS) for all future developments with an identified need.</p> <p>LW 05 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Cavan's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.</p> <p>NH8 Promote the conservation of biodiversity outside of designated areas, including features such as wetlands, woodlands, hedgerows and uplands.</p> <p>WL4 Protect wetlands, floodplains and watercourses for biodiversity and flood protection value.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>WL5 Ensure land zonings carefully consider appropriate riparian setback distances that support high ecological status of water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity, healthy ecosystems and buffer zones from flood plains.</p>
<p>Air and Climatic Factors</p>	<p>Also refer to detailed measures for Climate Action throughout the Plan, including at Chapter 5 “Climate Change”.</p> <p>Air Quality Development Objectives AQ 01 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/5/0/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards, as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 180 of 201) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>Noise Development Objectives N 01 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and all associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006. N 02 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels having regard to relevant national guidelines and in the absence of national guidelines, to relevant international standards, where appropriate. Seek identification and implementation of noise mitigation measures, where warranted, for developments proposed in the vicinity of existing or proposed national roads.</p> <p>Human Health Development Objectives HH 01 Ensure new developments will not have significant adverse effects on the amenities of an area through pollution by noise, fumes, odours, dust, grit or vibration or cause pollution of air, water and or soil unless mitigation measures eliminate adverse environmental impacts or reduce them to an acceptable operating level.</p>
<p>Material Assets</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use and Phasing provisions and various settlement specific measures provided for under Chapter 2 Settlement Strategy.</p> <p>LUR 09 Require all major developments to submit Traffic Impact Assessments and Mobility Management Plans.</p> <p>Groundwater Development Objectives GW 01 Ensure that groundwater is protected by ensuring compliance with the following: o The appropriate control of development in areas of high groundwater vulnerability. o Implementation of the Programme of Measures as required in the River Basin Management Plans o Licensing of discharges of effluent to groundwater, having particular regard to the requirements of the EC Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010 (S.I. No. 9 of 2010) o Implementation of the EC (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations (S.I. No. 610 OF 2010, which give effect to several EU Directives including in relation to protection of waters against pollution from agricultural sources (‘the Nitrates Directive’), dangerous substances in water and protection of groundwater. GW 02 Protect ground water resources and abstraction points, and as ensures such sources and their zones of contribution are protected and safeguarded in the interests of common good and public health. GW 03 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on water quality, the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands species and wetlands, in County Cavan and in any areas that are hydrologically or hydrogeologically linked, including areas in Northern Ireland. GW 04 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitat and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC). The European Union (Water policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same, to have cognisance of, where relevant, the EUs Common Implementation Strategy Guidance Document No. 20 and No. 36 which provide guidance on exceptions to the environmental objectives of the Water Framework Directive). GW 05 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication ‘Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018 (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County. GW 06 Ensure that in assessing applications for development, that consideration is given to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021, and any subsequent local or regional plans. GW 07 Discourage the over concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plans to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution. GW 08 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. GW 09 Protect both ground and surface water resources including taking account of the impacts of climate change, and to support Irish Water in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans and the National Water Resources Plan.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>GW 10 Promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users and to support Irish Water in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements.</p> <p>GW 11 Promote measures to prevent siltation of water courses from developments including planting and clear felling of commercial forests.</p> <p>GW 12 Promote measures to prevent acidification of water courses.</p> <p>Foul Drainage and Wastewater Development Objective</p> <p>FDW 01 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007, as amended</p> <p>FDW 02 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of wastewater.</p> <p>FDW 03 Liaise with and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of wastewater collection and treatment systems in all towns and villages and Rural Community Nodes of the County, to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of the County, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy.</p> <p>FDW 04 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface networks to accommodate future growth in the County</p> <p>FDW 05 Ensure new developments provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and to incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems where appropriate in new development and the public realm.</p> <p>FDW 06 Incorporate the requirement for Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems where appropriate in local authority projects and private development sites.</p> <p>FDW 07 Prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection for foul water. Support the Assessment of the need for upgrades of drainage systems, including separation of sewer and surface water required to reduce risk of capacity pressure on drainage systems.</p> <p>FDW 08 Ensure all new developments connect to the public wastewater infrastructure, where available, and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer, subject to connection agreements with Irish Water. New developments connecting to Irish Water network shall be assessed through Irish Water's New Connection Process.</p> <p>FDW 09 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>FDW 10 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), or any updates thereafter.</p> <p>FDW 12 Incorporate considerations of the impact of climate change into proposals submitted under the OPW Minor Works Programme.</p> <p>FDW 13 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County.</p> <p>FDW 14 Support the servicing of rural villages (serviced sites) to provide an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside in line with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>FDW 15 Support the development of group water supplies and public drinking water supplies throughout the county.</p> <p>FDW 16 Liaise with Irish Water with regard to the installation of a wastewater treatment facility in Miltown.</p> <p>FDW 17 Ensure new developments provide adequate storm water infrastructure in order to accommodate the planned levels of growth and ensure there is appropriate flood management measures implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>FDW18 Support Irish Water in the promotion of effective management of trade discharges to sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing sewer networks and minimise detrimental impacts on sewerage treatment works.</p> <p>Waste Management Development Objectives</p> <p>WM 01 Support the implementation of the Connacht-Ulster Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto.</p> <p>WM 02 Implement EU and national waste and related environmental policy, legislation, guidance and codes of practice to improve management of material resources and wastes.</p> <p>WM 03 Prioritise waste prevention through behavioural change activities to decouple economic growth and resource use.</p> <p>WM 04 Encourage the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to enhance employment and increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources</p> <p>WM 05 Promote sustainable waste management treatment in keeping with the waste hierarchy and the move towards a circular economy and greater self sufficiency.</p> <p>WM 06 Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste.</p> <p>WM 07 Facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources.</p> <p>WM 08 Encourage and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>WM 09 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives, that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices.</p> <p>WM 10 Ensure that the Council fulfils its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No. 524 of 2008) including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>WM 11 Encourage and promote technologies, for example anaerobic digestion, that will contribute positively and grow the Circular and Bio-economy to promote sustainable rural and urban economic development, as part of the overall aim of transiting to a low carbon economy with reduced green house gases.</p> <p>WM 12 Ensure that the local authority is cognisant of targets under EU Circular Economy proposals, landfill capacity limitations and proper management of soil, stone and C&D materials</p> <p>WM 13 To require developers to prepare construction and demolition waste management plans for new construction projects over certain thresholds which shall meet the relevant recycling/recovery targets for such waste in accordance with the national legislation and national and regional waste management policy.</p> <p>WM 14 Treatment and/or management of any contaminated material shall comply as appropriate with the Waste Management Act 1996 (waste licence, waste facility permit), as amended, and under the EPA Act 1992 (Industrial Emissions licensing, in particular the First Schedule, Class 11 Waste), as amended. These measures will ensure that contaminated material will be managed in a manner that removes any risk to human health and ensures that the end use will be compatible with any risk.</p> <p>Wastewater Treatment in Rural Areas Development Objectives</p> <p>WTR 01 Ensure proposals involving the installation of an on site wastewater treatment system are in accordance with the requirements of the 'EPA Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses,' (2009) or any subsequent Code of Practice which supersedes it.</p> <p>WTR 02 Ensure proposals shall be accompanied by a Site Characterisation Form which has been properly completed by a suitably qualified person.</p> <p>WTR 03 Proposals for significant extensions will be required to ensure that existing effluent treatment systems are adequate to cater for any additional loading that may result from the extension.</p> <p>WTR 04 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended.</p> <p>WTR 05 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability.</p> <p>Private Wells Development Objectives</p> <p>PW 01 Support householders, through advice and guidance, to ensure that private wells are to acceptable drinking water standards.</p> <p>Environment, Water and Waste Water Climate Context and Development Objectives</p> <p>EWC 01 Require in accordance with the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government's 'Best Practice Guidelines for the Preparation of Waste Management Plans for Construction and Demolition Projects (2006), the submission of a Construction and Demolition Waste Management Plan (CDWMP) for any project in excess of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - aggregate floor area in excess of 1250 sq. m; - demolition or refurbishment of 100 m3 of Construction or Demolition waste; or - civil engineering projects in excess of 500 m3 of waste. <p>Fisheries</p> <p>LW 02 Continue to engage with Inland Fisheries Ireland on the delivery of the National Strategy for Angling Development in Cavan</p> <p>LW 05 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Cavan's waterways, including boating, marina/berthing, kayaking, angling, blueways and harbour amenities while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Birds and Habitats Directives.</p>
Landscape	<p>Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Landscape Character Areas</p> <p>LC1 Ensure the preservation of the unique landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape when determining a planning application.</p> <p>LC2 Ensure development reflects and reinforces the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character areas. This should include the retention of important features or characteristics which contribute to their distinctiveness such as geology and landform, habitats, settlement patterns, historic and vernacular heritage.</p> <p>LC3 Resist development such as houses, forestry, masts, extractive operations, landfills, caravan parks and large agricultural /horticulture units which would interfere with the character of highly sensitive areas or with a view or prospect of special amenity value.</p> <p>LC4 Ensure that new development does not impinge in any significant way on the character, integrity and distinctiveness of highly sensitive areas and does not detract from the scenic value of the area such as visual harm, not in keeping elements of the landscape, causes loss or disturbance of the landscape elements contributing to the local distinctiveness, historic elements that contribute to landscape character and quality, vegetation which is characteristic of a particular landscape and visual conditions of a landscape.</p> <p>LC5 Ensure new development meets high standards of siting and design.</p> <p>LC6 Protect skylines and ridgelines from development</p> <p>LC7 Ensure necessary assessments including visual impact assessments are prepared prior to approving development in highly sensitive areas.</p>

Topic	Recommendations integrated into the Plan, included in:
	<p>LC8 Commence the preparation of a Landscape Character Assessment within 6 months of the adoption of the development plan.</p> <p>LCC 12 Support the aims of the National Peatlands Strategy and the implementation of the National Raised Bog SAC Management Plan 2017-2022 and Peatlands Climate Action Scheme.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Areas of High Landscape Value or Special Landscape Interest</p> <p>SLPA1 Maintain the scenic and recreation value of these areas by restricting all adverse uses and negative visual impacts.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Scenic Viewing Points</p> <p>SVP1 Restrict development that would obstruct views and to minimise visual intrusion by only permitting compatible uses.</p> <p>SVP2 Ensure the location, design and visual prominence of developments are examined, including possible effects on views from the public realm toward sensitive or vulnerable landscape features.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Scenic Routes</p> <p>SR1 Regulate development that would seriously obstruct and detract from views of high scenic value from designated Scenic Routes.</p> <p>SR2 Maintain and protect the natural landscapes visual character which is recognised to be of an exceptional high amenity value. Development Objectives for Forest Parks and Other Parks</p> <p>FP1 Regulate development within Forest Parks and other Parks to maximise recreational, amenity and community uses</p> <p>Development Objectives for Major Lakes and Lake Environs</p> <p>ML&LE1 Maintain major lake and lake environment amenity value within a landscape recreational and ecological context by restricting and regulating development that would prejudice use and enjoyment of the areas, give rise to adverse visual impacts or threaten habitats through disposal of effluents.</p> <p>ML&LE2 Maintain and protect shorelines of lakes and their immediate area adjoining including skyline development on surrounding hill crests. Development Objectives for Lakeside Amenity Areas</p> <p>LAA 1 Regulate development of adjoining lands to Lakeside Amenity Areas to ensure that public use is not prejudiced by incompatible use or adverse visual impact.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Riverside Amenity Areas</p> <p>RAA1 Regulate all development on lands adjoining Riverside Amenity Areas in order to maintain their amenity value.</p> <p>Development Objectives for Inland Waterways</p> <p>IW1 Protect and enhance the natural heritage and landscape character of the County's Waterways and to maintain them free from inappropriate development and to provide for public access, where feasible, acknowledging the existence of contiguous Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>IW2 Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other water courses and maintain them in an open state and to discourage the culverting or realignment thereof.</p> <p>IW3 Consult with, as appropriate, the Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could have a potential impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.</p> <p>IW4 Consult with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, the DECLG and the Inland Waterways Association on the development proposals that may affect inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals or watercourses.</p> <p>IW5 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and conserve and enhance, where possible, the wildlife habitats of the county's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide for a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>IW6 Support the development of blueways in County Cavan.</p> <p>Landscape Character/ Natural Heritage Climate Change Development Objectives</p> <p>LCC 01 Within the lifetime of the plan, undertake a survey and vector mapping exercise to identify exemplar wetlands, bogs, individual trees and/or stands of trees and/or woodlands throughout the county worthy of protection and preservation.</p> <p>LCC 02 Encourage the potential community woodlands areas in urban/urban fringe areas and the development of community woodlands throughout rural Cavan.</p> <p>LCC 03 Promote the use in public spaces of hot water, foam stream, flame weeding and/or concentrated vinegar in favour of glyphosate weedkillers.</p> <p>LCC 04 Prepare a Peatland Strategy that shall encourage the rewilding, restoration and protection of peat bogs after turf cutting and/or peat extraction has ceased.</p> <p>LCC 05 Support the National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Programme 2017 – 2022.</p> <p>LCC06 Promote the roll-out of renewables and stringent protection and enhancement of carbon pools, such as forests, peatlands and permanent grasslands.</p> <p>LCC 07 Explore the opportunity of engaging the services of a full-time Ecologist on a shared basis amongst neighbouring Local Authorities.</p> <p>LCC 08 Install and promote the installation of bird, bat, and owl boxes, and bee bricks and insect hotels or equivalent, at all relevant locations and developments, where possible.</p> <p>LCC 09 Actively participate and seek to adopt recommendations originating out of the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and Northern and Western Climate Action Region.</p> <p>LCC 10 Fracking and the industrial extraction of fossil fuels will not be encouraged within Cavan 's functional area.</p> <p>LCC 11 Develop a strategy to support an active native Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaption.</p>

Section 3 Consideration of Alternatives

This section summarises the alternatives considered for the Plan during the preparation process. These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects (including those related to ecology and European sites) which are identified by the SEA (informed by the AA) and are detailed above; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

3.1 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan. The alternatives available for the Plan are limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Northern and Western Region. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as settlement typology, land use zoning and the sustainable development of rural areas.

3.2 Assessment of Tier 1: Alternatives for Positioning under the Settlement Hierarchy

- **Tier 1 - Alternative A:** Virginia is identified as a Self-Sustaining Growth Town.
- **Tier 1 - Alternative B:** Virginia is identified as a Self-Sustaining Town.
- **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Alternative A would provide a greater allocation of population and economic growth to Virginia in the overall context of the County. This results in a more sustainable and lower allocation of growth in the smaller towns which have less services and in the rural countryside. This results in a more sustainable development of the County and is considered to be in the interests of proper planning.

Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the most. Development in Virginia would be better serviced and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including the open countryside and smaller settlements.

Alternative B would provide a greater allocation of population and economic growth to smaller towns, villages and rural countryside outside of Virginia resulting in a less sustainable pattern of growth for the County, which would not be in the interests of the proper planning and sustainable development, as these smaller towns and rural areas would not have the same level of services and function for the allocation of population growth that the Plan would have allocated for them.

Alternative B would result in a greater expansion of the smaller towns and villages in the County. Services and public transport are more limited. Alternative B would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets the most. Alternative B would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-serviced, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County, including the open countryside and smaller settlements. This type of development would result in a higher potential adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations.

3.3 Assessment of Tier 2: Alternatives for Population Allocations

- **Tier 2 – Alternative A:** Concentrate future growth in the settlements in the upper tiers of the settlement hierarchy, in particular the Key Town of Cavan Town, Self-Sustaining Growth Town of Virginia and Self-Sustaining Towns of Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough, Kingscourt and Cootehill with a more limited level of growth in the smaller settlements and open countryside.
- **Tier 2 – Alternative B:** Continued growth of Cavan Town, Ballyjamesduff, Bailieborough, Kingscourt, Virginia and Cootehill with dispersed pattern of growth across the smaller settlements and the open countryside.
- **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Under **Alternative A**, in accordance with NPF and RSES, a greater concentration of future growth is placed in the larger settlements of the County where sufficient capacity exists for a range of functions including housing, employment, services, retail and leisure opportunities. There is a more limited level of growth in the smaller settlements and the open countryside.

Alternative A would allow for more concentrated, compact growth and significantly reduce the proportion of rural one-off housing in the County. This alternative would also direct development towards smaller villages which would also promote compact growth and provide viable alternatives to rural housing.

The concentration of growth into the larger settlements would ensure more sustainable growth, where there are greater opportunities to consolidate development in the existing urban footprint through infill and brownfield development. These settlements have a number of positive attributes including a greater range of services, transport links, a stronger employment base, and a greater capacity to facilitate population and economic growth. By concentrating in the larger settlements in the County, Alternative A would result in lower levels of commuting, benefiting efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Development in these centres would be better serviced (including with transport and water services) and there would be a reduced need for greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County.

Under Alternative B, larger towns in the settlement hierarchy would not reach a sustainable population growth relative to the services and function that they provide. This alternative involves a more dispersed population approach, which has the potential to undermine the role of the larger settlements and make it more difficult to deliver key infrastructure and placemaking projects. It would not reduce the proportion of rural one-off housing in the County. This alternative would also direct development towards smaller villages which would also promote compact growth and provide viable alternatives to rural housing.

Development would be more likely to occur on greenfield lands as there are less infill and brownfield sites available in Rural Settlements and the Open Countryside. Services and public transport are more limited and there would be a greater dependence on commuting for employment and accessing services. Alternative B would result in higher levels of commuting, conflicting with efforts to improve sustainable mobility and meet greenhouse gas emission reduction targets. Alternative B would provide for higher levels of greenfield development (and associated adverse environmental effects) in less well-served, less-well connected and more sensitive locations in the County. This type of development would result in a higher adverse environmental impact, including effects on water, drinking water, human health, ecology and landscape designations.

3.4 Assessment of Tier 3: Alternatives for Rural Areas

Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Pressure

- **Tier 3 (i) Alternative A:** Designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence and Stronger Rural Areas that require various criteria to be demonstrated in advance of planning permission being granted for a single dwelling for permanent occupation.
- **Tier 3 (i) Alternative B:** Do not designate Rural Areas under Strong Urban Influence/Stronger Rural Area and assess each planning application on its merits.
- **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Alternative A provides for a robust and transparent policy approach to manage rural housing.

Restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would positively impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The restrictions would help to both reduce levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and encourage brownfield development within existing centres.

Single dwellings in rural areas would be facilitated as appropriate and urban development would be directed towards established settlements. This alternative would help to prevent low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components.

Alternative B Provides a vague and unclear policy approach to rural housing and risks facilitating a significant increase in urban-generated one-off housing in the open countryside which will undermine the role of small towns and villages and have consequences for the environment.

Not restricting the development of single dwellings in rural areas that are under strong urban influence/pressure would adversely impact upon the protection and management of the environment and sustainable development. The absence of restrictions would result in increased levels of greenfield development in areas immediately surrounding existing centres and less demand for brownfield development within existing centres.

Urban generated housing development would occur within rural areas outside of established settlements. This alternative would result in low density urban sprawl and associated adverse effects upon sustainable mobility, climate emission reduction targets and various environmental components including groundwater, surface water, drinking water and human health.

Serviced and Unserviced Settlements

- **Tier 3 (ii) Alternative A:** Provide focus to and targeted provisions for encouraging residential development in serviced and unserviced settlements, as an alternative to rural one-off housing;
- **Tier 3 (ii) Alternative B:** Serviced and unserviced settlements are included but there is no focus or no targeted provisions for these locations to act as alternatives to one-off housing in the open countryside.
- **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Alternative A recognises the important role that smaller settlements play in sustaining rural communities and in providing a proactive approach to the sustainable development of rural areas. Providing focus to and targeted policies/objectives for serviced and unserviced settlements would help to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within these settlements would be more efficiently and more likely to be served by existing or new infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and more likely to protect the environment including the status

of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape. Development would be required to be subject to siting, design, protection of residential amenities and normal development management criteria, subject to the satisfactory provision of infrastructure and services and in keeping with the character of the settlement.

Alternative B has the potential to undermine the role that smaller settlements play in sustaining rural communities and providing a viable alternative to one off housing. Not providing a focus to and targeted policies/objectives for serviced and unserved settlements would be less likely to provide a viable alternative to one-off housing in the open countryside. Development within the open countryside would be less likely to be served by infrastructure (including water services infrastructure and safe walking and cycling facilities) and less likely to protect the environment including the status of ground and surface waters, water used for drinking water, human health, biodiversity and flora and fauna and the landscape.

3.5 Assessment of Tier 4: Alternatives for Densities

- **Tier 4 – Alternative A:** Application of a single standard density across the whole County in order to calculate the potential residential yield relating to land zoned for residential purposes for the Core Strategy.
- **Tier 4 – Alternative B:** Application of different densities at different locations, as appropriate; higher densities where sustainable transport mode opportunities are available and lower densities where constraints are presented by, for example, character or function of settlement.
- **Selected Alternative for the Plan: Alternative B.**

The application of a singular standard residential density across the County under **Alternative A** would have the potential to push new development towards more environmentally sensitive lands that are less well-served and less well-connected, resulting in unnecessary potentially significant adverse effects on all environmental components.

The application of a singular standard residential density could result in a potential misalignment between the supply of zoned land to meet the projected demand for new housing. This could result in a misalignment between new development and essential services provision with associated potential for adverse effects on environmental components.

Higher densities under **Alternative B** would be provided where sustainable transport mode opportunities are available and lower densities would be provided where constraints are presented by, for example, wastewater and water infrastructure constraints, cultural heritage designations or the local road network. This approach would contribute towards national and regional strategic outcomes including the efficient use of land, compact growth and the transition towards a low carbon and more climate resilient society.

Alternative B would help to ensure compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint and would conflict with the protection and management of environmental components the least. Alignment between new development and essential services provision would be most likely under Alternative B.

3.6 Assessment of Tier 5: Alternatives for Land Use Zoning

Countywide Residential

Alternative A: Reduction in the quantum of zoned land

By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment in settlements across the County. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of the County's settlements, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components including groundwater, surface water, drinking water and human health. Introduction of a new zoning to facilitate low density residential development as an alternative to one off rural housing would further benefit protection and management of the environment. Land topography is a physical constraint to development and limits the range of uses that can be provided for at certain locations within settlements across the County.

Alternative B: No change in the quantum of zoned land

By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment in settlements across the County. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of the County's settlements and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects including groundwater, surface water, drinking water and human health. Land topography is a physical constraint to development and limits the range of uses that can be provided for at certain locations within settlements across the County.

- **Selected Countywide Residential Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Countywide Economic

Alternative A: Increase in the quantum of zoned land

By increasing in the quantum of zoned land for economic purposes in settlements throughout the County in order to fulfil an established planning need, to reduce the levels of commuting out of the County for employment and to provide an alternative for rural based economic activity into urban areas, **Alternative A** would:

- Increase the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development within existing settlements;
- Decrease the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development outside of existing settlements; and
- Reduce the levels of commuting out of the County – and associated emissions – for employment.

Alternative B: No increase in the quantum of zoned land

By not increasing in the quantum of zoned land for economic purposes in settlements throughout the County in order to fulfil an established planning need, to reduce the levels of

commuting out of the County for employment and to provide an alternative for rural based economic activity into urban areas, **Alternative B** would:

- Reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development within existing settlements;
 - Increase the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development outside of existing settlements; and
 - Fail to reduce levels the levels of commuting out of the County for employment to the same extent as Alternative A.
- **Selected Countywide Economic Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Cavan Town Residential

Alternative A: Reduction in the overall quantum of zoned land

By consolidating land use zoning and reducing unnecessary land use zoning this alternative would provide for a more compact form of development that would help to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment in Cavan Town. By consolidating the zoning and helping to avoid unnecessary sprawl of Cavan Town, this alternative would increase the likelihood of brownfield development and contribute towards efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Reducing unnecessary zoning would help to minimise sprawl and would avoid potential adverse environmental effects that would otherwise occur - this would benefit the protection of multiple environmental components including groundwater, surface water, drinking water and human health. Land topography is a physical constraint to development in Cavan Town and limits the range of uses that can be provided for at certain locations.

Alternative B: No change in the overall in the overall quantum of zoned land

By not consolidating land use zoning and including unnecessary land use zoning, this alternative would provide for a less compact form of development that would fail to maximise benefits from infrastructural investment in Cavan Town. By facilitating the unnecessary sprawl of Cavan Town and failing to consolidate zoning, this alternative would decrease the likelihood of brownfield development and conflict with efforts to improve sustainable mobility (with associated effects on energy, air, noise and human health). Providing for unnecessary zoning would be likely to result in higher levels of sprawl and associated avoidable potential adverse environmental effects including groundwater, surface water, drinking water and human health. Land topography is a physical constraint to development in Cavan Town and limits the range of uses that can be provided for at certain locations.

- **Selected Cavan Town Residential Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Cavan Town Economic

Alternative A: Increase in the quantum of zoned

By increasing in the quantum of zoned land for economic purposes in Cavan Town in order to fulfil an established planning need, to reduce the levels of commuting out of the County for employment and to provide an alternative for rural based economic activity into Cavan Town, **Alternative A** would:

- Increase the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development within Cavan Town;
- Decrease the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development outside of Cavan Town; and
- Reduce the levels of commuting out of the County – and associated emissions – for employment.

Alternative B: No in the quantum of zoned land

By not increasing in the quantum of zoned land for economic purposes in Cavan Town in order to fulfil an established planning need, to reduce the levels of commuting out of the County for employment and to provide an alternative for rural based economic activity into Cavan Town, **Alternative B** would:

- Reduce the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development within Cavan Town;
 - Increase the potential for adverse environmental effects to occur from economic development outside of Cavan Town; and
 - Fail to reduce levels the levels of commuting out of the County for employment to the same extent as Alternative A.
- **Selected Cavan Town Economic Alternative for the Plan: Alternative A.**

Section 4 AA Determination

Appropriate Assessment Determination

under Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
for the

Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, incorporating the Cavan Town Local Area Plan 2022-2028

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would affect the integrity of any European site(s), this Appropriate Assessment determination is being made by Cavan County Council relating to the potential for the Cavan County Development Plan 2022-2028, incorporating the Cavan Town Local Area Plan 2022-2028, that is being adopted to have effects on the integrity of European sites.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment (AA), the Council is taking into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following:

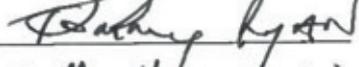
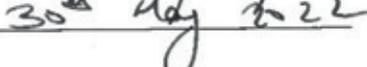
- The consolidated Natura Impact Report;
- The Natura Impact Report for the Proposed Material Alterations;
- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents.

As part of the AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 37 (no.) European sites. Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European sites include:

- Provisions, such as those relating to settlement, housing, sustainable communities, economic development, transport and infrastructure, environment, water and drainage, tourism, built and cultural heritage and rural development, which introduce sources for effects through construction phase such as habitat destruction, light pollution, hydrological interactions and disturbance effects;
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in habitat loss, disturbance effects, interactions with water quality and habitat fragmentation; and
- Increasing visitors to sensitive areas during the operational phase of, for example, recreational and tourism developments.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented and determines that:

- Implementation of the Plan would have had the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European sites, if unmitigated.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the qualifying interests, special conservation interests and conservation objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures that will prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and reliably mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, any lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA when further details of design and location are known.
- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects have been considered in this assessment and the mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Plan – these measures are robust and will ensure there will be no effects on the integrity of European sites as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Having incorporated mitigation measures, the Plan is not foreseen to give rise to any effect on the integrity of any European site, alone or in combination with other plans or projects¹. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Signed: 
Name: 
Date: 

¹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.



Cavan

Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council