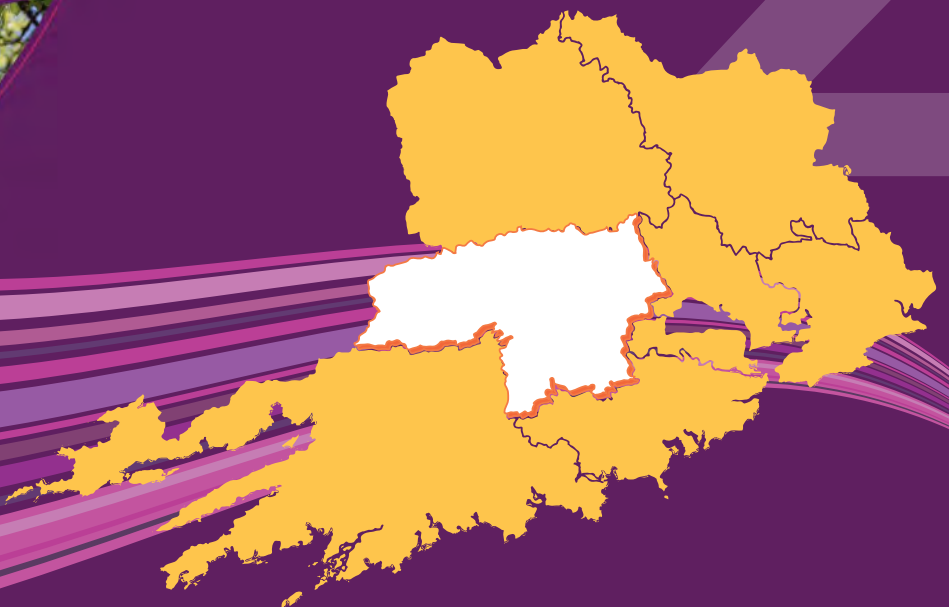




**Cork
County Council**
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Draft
**Blarney Macroom
Municipal District**
Environmental Reports



16th November 2016

VOLUME TWO
Environmental Reports

2



How to make a Submission

The Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan is available from the Council website at www.corkcoco.ie. If required, a hard copy of the document may be inspected between the hours of **9.30 a.m. and 4.00p.m.**, from **Wednesday 16th November 2016** to **Friday 06th January 2017** at the following locations:

- Planning Department, Floor 1, County Hall, Cork.
- Planning Department, Norton House, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.
- Cork County Council Offices, Mallow
- Public Libraries - Please check libraries regarding opening times and availability.

CD copies of the documents may be requested by phone (Tel: 021-4285900) or collected from the Planning Department, Floor 1, County Hall between the hours of **9.30am** and **4.00pm** during the above period.

Submissions or observations regarding the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan document are hereby invited from members of the public, children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children and other interested parties during the period **Wednesday 16th November 2016** to **4.00pm** on **Friday 06th January 2017**.

Submissions may be made in either of the following two ways:

- On-line via www.corkcoco.ie following the instructions provided

OR

- In written form to the Senior Planner, Planning Policy Unit, Cork County Council, Floor 13, County Hall, Cork. T12R2NC.

All such submissions lodged within the above period and prior to the close of business at **4.00pm on Friday 6th January 2017**, will be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the Municipal District Local Area Plan.



Environmental Reports

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Blarney Macroom Municipal District

1 Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This is the Environmental Report on the strategic environment assessment of the Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 and it describes the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan.
- 1.1.2 Cork County Council sets out its land use planning strategy for the development of the towns and villages of the county in a series of ten Electoral Area Local Area Plans.
- 1.1.3 Local Area Plans sit at the lower end of the planning policy hierarchy and must be consistent with the higher level plans like the County Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines.



- 1.1.4 The most recent Local Area Plans were adopted in 2011. The Plans have a six year life and the Council is now commencing the process of preparing new plans which will be in place by August 2017. Following the re-organisation of local government in 2014, the electoral structure of the County is now based on eight Municipal Districts; see Table 1.1 and Figure 1.1. A new Local Area Plan will be prepared for each of the eight Municipal Districts in the County.
- 1.1.5 Currently the Town Development Plans adopted by the nine former Town Councils of Cobh, Clonakilty, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Skibbereen and Youghal remain in force pending the making of the next Cork County Development Plan in 2020. It is proposed to vary the Town Development Plans, such that the zoning provisions and associated policy objectives of the Town Development Plans are updated and incorporated into the new Local Area Plans. The Town Plans will remain in force but the relevant zonings provisions will be those of the new Local Area Plan.

Table 1.1 Municipal Districts in County Cork				
Municipal District		Population 2011	Main Towns	No of villages
1	Ballincollig - Carrigaline	71,946	Ballincollig, Carrigaline, Passage West/ Monkstown/ Glenbrook, Cork City South Environs, Ringaskiddy	5
2	Bandon - Kinsale	42,454	Bandon, Kinsale	34
3	Blarney - Macroom	43,398	Blarney, Macroom	54
4	Cobh	53,544	Carrigtwohill, Cobh, Glanmire, Little Island, Cork City North Environs. (Monard is proposed new town and a designated Strategic Development Zone)	24
5	East Cork	42,399	Midleton, Youghal	30
6	Fermoy	42,226	Charleville, Fermoy, Mitchelstown	29
7	Kanturk - Mallow	47,305	Buttevant, Kanturk, Mallow, Millstreet, Newmarket	46
8	West Cork	56,530	Bantry, Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull, Skibbereen	67 & 7 Inhabited Islands



Figure 1.1 Municipal Districts in the County

1.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

- 1.2.1 From a legislative viewpoint, the concept of SEA was initially introduced by way of the Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27th June 2001 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) which was transposed into Irish legislation by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004) and Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). Subsequently, these statutory instruments were amended by S.I. 200 of 2011 and S.I. No. 201 of 2011. This SEA is being undertaken under S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (as amended) in accordance with Article 8, insofar as this legislation relates to land-use planning.
- 1.2.2 Strategic Environment Assessment is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations. The SEA process is undertaken using a methodical iterative approach. The methodology followed in this report is derived from a number of sources including the appropriate legislation and guidance documents prepared on a national and EU level. Legally, the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) transposed Irish regulations and associated amendments to provide the legislative framework. The main sources of guidance include the documents detailed below:
- Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities, Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2004;
 - SEA Pack and Scoping Guidance Document, EPA.
 - SEA Process Checklist, EPA.

1.3 Stages of SEA

- 1.3.1 There are a number of stages involved in the SEA process which are listed as follows:
- (1) Screening
 - (2) Scoping
 - (3) **Collection of baseline data, assessment and compilation of the Environmental Report (current stage).**
 - (4) Consultation with designated environmental authorities on Environmental Report and Draft Plan.
 - (5) Evaluation of submissions received in response to the consultation and amendments to the plan as appropriate with designated environmental authorities.
 - (6) Issuing of the final SEA Statement identifying how environmental considerations have been integrated into the final adopted Plan.
 - (7) Monitoring of significant environmental effects following adoption and implementation of the Plan.
- 1.3.2 This report only deals with stages 1-3.

Screening

- 1.3.3 The purpose of screening is to determine definitively if there is a necessity for a strategic environmental assessment to be undertaken. There is a mandatory requirement under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended) to undertake a strategic environmental assessment in respect of Local Area Plans for areas with a population of 5,000 or more, so in this instance, screening was not required and the SEA process proceeds to the next stage.

Scoping

- 1.3.4 The process of scoping for SEA is defined as the procedure whereby the range of environmental issues and the level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report are decided upon, in consultation with the prescribed environmental authorities. Scoping is necessary in order to establish, with objectivity, the potential impacts of the implementation of the draft plan on a number of environmental elements from consultations with a range of environmental bodies and the incorporation of associated submissions into the draft plan by way of their inclusion in the Environmental Report.
- 1.3.5 Scoping for the current SEA was commenced with the circulation of a Draft Scoping Report to all the environmental authorities on the 22nd April 2016. A total of two (2) submissions were received from EPA and Irish Water respectively. The Scoping Report was finalised on the 31st May 2016 and issues raised were considered further in the preparation of this Draft Local Area Plan and SEA Environment Report.

Collection of Baseline Data, Assessment and Environmental Report.

- 1.3.6 In order to assess the likely significant impacts of the Plan, baseline data on the current state of the environment has to be collected and evaluated and the potential effects of the plan predicted and considered. In accordance with legislation and guidance, the existing environment is described with respect to biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water (surface freshwater, coastal, transitional, groundwater, bathing and water services (drinking water and waste water treatment), air, climatic factors, material assets (roads, transportation, energy etc), cultural heritage (including architectural and archaeological heritage), landscape and the interrelationships between these factors as appropriate. Any existing problems relevant to the new Plan are also identified at this baseline stage.
- 1.3.7 Identification of baseline environmental status provides for the identification of key resources and sensitivities within the Plan area and the identification of potential threats to the environment, thus allowing for the inclusion of mitigation measures that may need to be incorporated into the new Plan to ensure that it does not exacerbate existing problems. Assessment of the baseline environment also enables plan-makers to consider how the environment might evolve in the absence of the proposed plan.
- 1.3.8 As the data is compiled and plan policies evolve the likely significant effects of implementing the plan are identified, described and evaluated and this is described in the Environmental Report.
- 1.3.9 The information to be contained in the environmental report is set out in Annex 1 of the SEA Directive and reproduced in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as inserted by Article 12 of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004). The structure of this report is summarised as follows:

Table 1.2: Information to be contained in an Environmental Report

Item	Information to be contained in an Environmental Report	Relevant Section of Environmental Report
A	Outline of the contents and main objectives of the draft plan and relationship with other relevant plans or programmes	Section 2: Context of the Plan
B	Description of the relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan	Section 3: Baseline Environment
C	Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Section 3: Baseline environment
D	Description of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan including those relating to any areas of a particular environmental importance, such as Natura 2000 sites	Section 3: Baseline environment
E	Description of environmental protection objectives (EPOs), established at international, EU or national level, which are relevant to the plan and the way those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account during its preparation	Section 4: EPOs
F	Description of the likely significant effects on the environment, including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and interrelationships between these factors	Section 6: Evaluation of Draft Plan
G	Description of the measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan	Section 6: Evaluation of Draft Plan
H	Outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, with a description of how the assessment was undertaken and including any difficulties encountered in compiling the information	Section 5: Alternative Scenarios.
I	Description of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring of the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan	Will be included in SEA Statement once plan finalised
J	A non-technical summary of the above information.	

Documenting the SEA process

- 1.3.10 The SEA Process produces two documents – this environmental Report which is published with the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan and an SEA statement which will be published at the end of the process, once the plan is adopted.
- 1.3.11 This Environmental Report will be submitted to the Elected Members with the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan. The Members must take account of the Environmental Report before the Plan is adopted. When the Plan is adopted, an SEA Statement will be published, summarising, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan and the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted over other alternatives considered in the Environmental Report.
- 1.3.12 Should alterations to the Draft Plan be proposed, there will be a further submission period of not less than four weeks during which time submissions and/or observations may be made on the proposed alterations. If material alterations are proposed they will need to undergo a screening process to determine if SEA is required. The proposed alterations, the screening document and SEA Environmental report, where relevant, will be sent to the Minister, the Board and the prescribed authorities and will be made available for public inspection.

1.4 Habitats Directive Assessment

- 1.4.1 Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs both the plan making process and the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process. It involves analysis and review of draft policies as they emerge during each stage of plan making, to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats or species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard must also be had to the potential for policies to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans or policies.
- 1.4.2 The results of this analysis and review are presented in a Habitats Directive Screening Report which is contained in Section 3 of Volume Two of the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan. At the end of the plan making process, an Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement will be produced which contains a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites have been integrated into the Plan. The final Natura Impact Report and a declaration in relation to the potential for the plan to affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within its potential impact zone will also be produced at this time.

1.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

- 1.5.1 As part of the review of the Local Area Plan, and in order to meet the needs of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and the requirements of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government / Office of Public Works Guidelines, “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” (2009), Cork County Council also undertook a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA).
- 1.5.2 The assessment provides for an improved understanding of flood risk issues within the Municipal District and the spatial distribution of flood risk. The SFRA report sets out how the Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken, as well as how its findings were addressed and integrated into the Draft Plan. It should be read in conjunction with the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan.

1.6 Difficulties Encountered

1.6.1 During the preparation of the Environmental Report, habitats mapping for towns outside Metropolitan Cork was carried out and forms part of this report. No other new research was undertaken and information was gathered from existing sources of data. It should be noted that there are a number of areas where data was not readily available which include:

- No wetland inventory
- Habitat Mapping for the Non Metropolitan Towns was not finalised in time to inform preparation of report.
- Information is largely paper based with exceptions of designated areas in digitised format (GIS)
- Lack of guiding legislation in some areas e.g. soils and their conservation.
- Limited Air Quality monitoring data for the plan area. The frequency of this monitoring is also identified as an issue.
- Lack of a data on compliance records for waste water treatment systems on settlements of less than 500 p.e.
- Lack of information on the effectiveness of existing septic tank systems within the county.
- The lack of centralised data source for environmental baseline data posed a difficulty to the SEA process.

1.6.2 In addition, the status of a number of Transitional and Coastal Water bodies was not available. Not only did this impede the preparation of the baseline assessment, it also highlights a potential problem with the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

Section 2: The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan

Sub-Section

- 2.1 Introduction
- 2.2 County Development Plan Strategy
- 2.3 Local Area Plan Strategy
- 2.4 Growth Strategy
- 2.5 Contents of the Draft Plan
- 2.6 Relationship with Other Relevant Plans and Programmes

2 The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 In accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended a planning authority may at any time, and for any particular area within its functional area, prepare a local area plan in respect of that area.
- 2.1.2 The current Blarney and Macroom Electoral Area Local Area Plans were adopted in 2011 and must be replaced by end of July 2017. On the 14th December 2015 the Council commenced a review by publishing a Preliminary Consultation Document for each of the 8 Municipal Districts and placing notices in the press to advise the public of the commencement of a 6 week period of public consultation. Submissions received were considered and included in a Chief Executive's Report to the Elected Members of the Council in April 2016. This was followed up by a series of briefing sessions to allow for consultation with members on issues raised and what needed to be addressed in the Draft Plan.

2.2 County Development Plan Strategy

- 2.2.1 A new Cork County Development Plan came into force in 2014. This plan, which has also been subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment, sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County as a whole, including population targets for each Municipal District and each of the main towns. Within each Municipal District a combined population target is also given for the villages and rural areas. The County Development Plan 2014 has also identified the amount of new housing required in each Municipal District / Town /Village to meet the needs of the target population.
- 2.2.2 The County Development Plan has been prepared so that it is consistent with national targets issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South West Region. The Plan also sets out county-wide objectives for issues such as housing, social and community facilities, economy and employment, town centres and retail, energy and digital economy, transportation and mobility, water services, heritage, green infrastructure and the environment and zoning and land use.
- 2.2.3 The new Local Area Plan must be consistent with the objectives of the Cork County Development Plan 2014 and comply with the Local Area Plan Guidelines for Planning Authorities prepared by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and various legislative and other policy documents issued by the Government.

2.3 Local Area Plan Strategy

Overview

- 2.3.1 The Blarney-Macroom Municipal District is located to the north west of Cork City and in 2011 the population of the area stood at 43,398. This population is spread across a network of settlements including 2 Main Towns, 55 smaller settlements and the open countryside, as detailed in Table 2.1.

Outside the main towns the district is largely rural/agricultural in character with over 65% of the population of the Municipal District living in the open countryside i.e. not within a settlement.

- 2.3.2 Macroom is the largest town within the Municipal District with a population of 3,879 in 2011. Blarney is the only other major settlement located within the Municipal District with a population of 2,437 in the last Census.

Table 2.1: Distribution of Population within the Blarney Macroom Municipal District 2011

	Settlement	Estimated Population 2011	%
Towns(2)	Blarney (2,437), Macroom (3,879)	6,316	15%
Key Villages (7)	Ballineen-Enniskeane, Ballingearry, Ballymakeery/ Ballyvourney, Coachford, Grenagh, Kilmuney/ Ovens, Tower	8872*	20%
Villages (15)	Aherla, Aghabullogue, Cloghduv, Clondrohid, Courtbrack Crookstown, Crossbarry, Dripsey, Inchigeelagh, Kilnamatyr, Kilmurry, Model Village (Dripsey), Newcestown, Rylane/ Seiscne, Stuake/ Donoughmore, Upper Dripsey.		
Village Nuclei (26)	Ballinacurra/Brinny, Ballinagree, Bealnamorive, Berrings, Canovee, Carrigadrohid/ Killinardrish, Carriganimmy, Cloghroe, Coolea, , Farnanes, Farnivane, Firmount, Fornaght, Kilbarry, Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross, Lissarda, Lower Dripsey, Matehy, Murragh, New Tipperary, Reananerree, Rusheen, Toon Bridge, Tooms, , Upton		
Other Locations (7)	Bealnablath, Farran/ Farran Lower, Gougane Barra, Gurrans, Iniscarra, Srelane Cross, Waterloo		
Rural Areas**		28,210*	65%
Total population		43,398	

* Village and Rural Populations are estimated figures

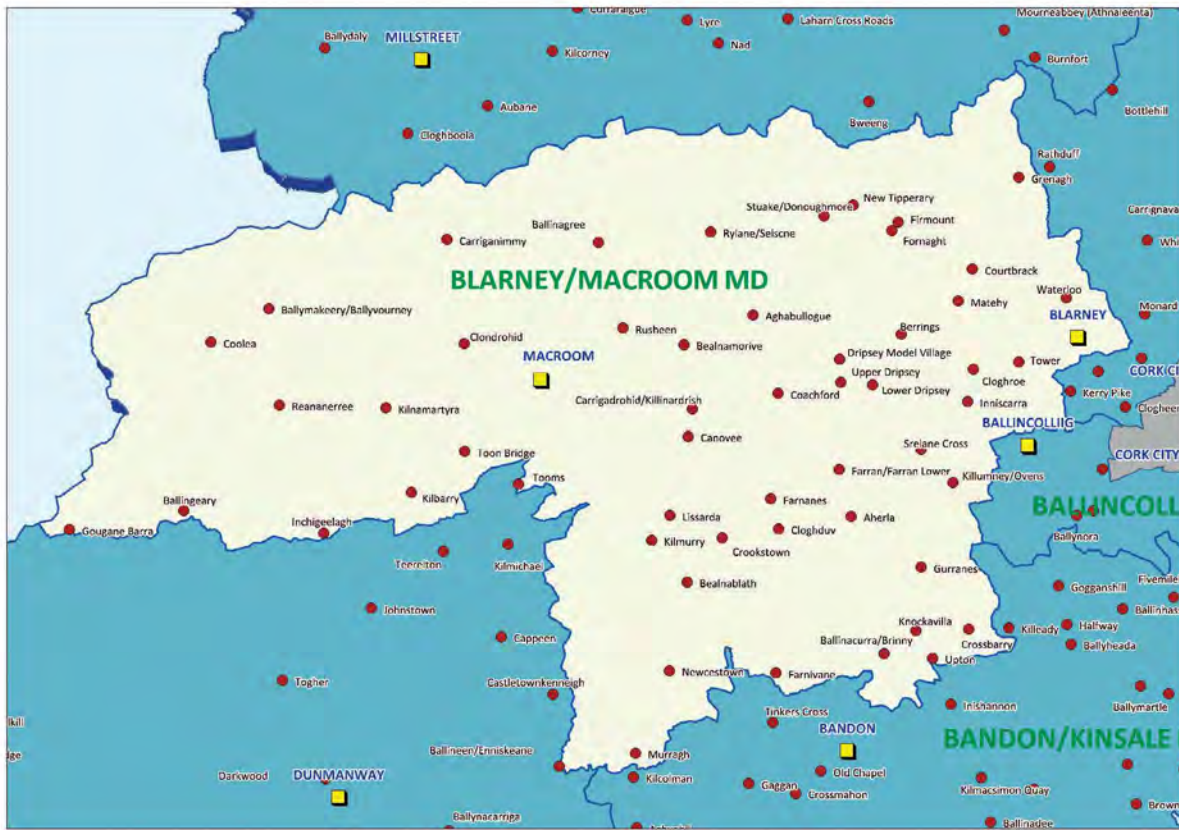


Figure 2.1: Blarney Macroom Municipal District Settlements

Population Trends

2.3.3 Within the Blarney Macroom Municipal District the County Development Plan provides for growth in population of 6,575 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 5,236 leading to a net requirement for 6,022 new houses within the Municipal District. The County Development Plan indicates that 126ha of residentially zoned land is required.

2.3.4 The population growth target will require the provision of 6,022 new housing units, with at least 3,034 units allocated to the 2 Main Towns of Blarney (2,566) and Macroom (571). Housing growth is also planned for the villages of 1,526 units.

	Population 2011	Population Target 2022
Total Main Towns	6,316	12,069
Total Villages and Rural Areas	37,082	37,904
Total Population	43,398	49,973

2.4 Growth Strategy

2.4.1 At present planning policy for the settlements within the Blarney Macroom Municipal District is spread across the Blarney Electoral Area Local Area Plan adopted in 2011, the Macroom Electoral Area Local Area Plan adopted in 2011 and the Macroom Town Development Plan 2009. The intention is that local planning policy for all settlements within the Municipal District will be contained within the new Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017.

2.4.2 It is anticipated than many of the provisions of the current local area plan adopted in 2011 will be continued into the new Local Area Plan unless there is a specific requirement for change arising from changes in national planning policy, legislation, government guidelines, changes in local circumstances, needs etc or to reflect the provisions of the new County Development Plan adopted in 2014.

2.4.3 Within the Blarney Macroom Municipal District the County Development Plan provides for growth in population of 6,575 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 5,236 leading to a net requirement for 6,022 new houses within the Municipal District. The County Development Plan indicates that 126ha of residentially zoned land is required to meet this level of housing provision in the main towns, in addition to housing opportunities in the villages and rural areas.

2.4.4 Through its County Development Plan 2014, the Council has allocated the majority of this growth to the towns with 4,330 new houses proposed, the majority of which are planned for Blarney (3,146). Housing growth is also planned within the villages (1,526 units).

2.4.5 Table 3.1 below shows that the current provision of zoned lands within the main towns is sufficient to accommodate 5,856 new dwelling units providing 24% headroom. Table 3.1 also shows that the greatest number of new dwellings is planned in Blarney with significant new growth also planned in Macroom.

2.4.6 Table 2.2, shows that, the County Development Plan 2014 identifies a net requirement within the towns of the Municipal District for 3,034 new dwelling units and capacity, in terms of the current provision of zoned lands, to accommodate 3,976. Currently the overall land supply makes provision for headroom of 24% in terms of the amount of housing units required.

	Housing Requirement				Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Est. Net Residential area zoned (ha)	Estimated Housing Yield
Blarney	2,437	7,533	2,566	103	153.47	3,146
Macroom	3,879	4,536	571	23	66.9	1,184
Main Towns	6,316	12,069	3,034	126	220.37	4,330
Villages	8,872	12,070	2,105	--	--	1,526
Rural	28,210	25,833	741	--	--	--
Total Villages and Rural	37,082	37,904	2,846	--	--	1,526
Total for District	43,398	49,973	5,880	126	220.37	5,856

Current Estimated Strategic Land Reserve for this Municipal District is 94.37Ha

2.4.7 The scale of growth for the individual settlements of the Municipal District as provided for in this Local Area Plan is outlined in Table 2.2. For the towns, the 'Overall Scale of New Development' figure is the same target figure established by the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan and sufficient residential land has been zoned within the plan to cater for this level of growth and to provide for additional spare capacity in the form of headroom.

2.4.8 Taking into account the need for a robust housing land supply in the Cork Metropolitan areas, there is a need to consider additional residential land of approximately 4-500ha in order to provide sufficient headroom of overall requirements. Therefore, the Ballincollig - Carrigaline and Cobh Municipal District draft Local Area Plans have identified options for this strategic land reserve. A total of 1489ha in 12 sites has been identified in these two Municipal District LAP's. A full assessment of these potential land options will be undertaken prior to the publication of the Chief Executive Report in February 2017. Once the preferred sites have been selected, they will be brought forward at the amendment stage of the plan.

2.4.9 Based on estimated current and target population figures for the villages, the County Development Plan (Core Strategy) estimated the number of new houses that that may need to be accommodated within the villages of this Municipal District as 2,846 units. This local area plan has retained the scale of growth figures for the villages at the 2011 figures which is at lower level of development at 1,526 units.

2.4.10 Within the village network it is suggested that the new local area plan should maintain the scale of growth established in the 2011 Local Areas Plans in order to respect the scale and character of the villages and because there are significant deficits in water services infrastructure. Ample land is available within the development boundaries of the villages to accommodate the expected level of growth and at this stage of the process it is not intended to make any significant changes to the development boundaries of any of the villages. The main factor constraining development in the villages is likely to be inadequate water services infrastructure. As outlined above, there is enough land available within the towns within the Municipal District to accommodate any development which cannot take place within the villages due to lack of infrastructure.

2.4.11 The Settlement network of this Municipal District includes seven 'Other Locations' Bealnablath, Farran/Farran Lower, Gougane Barra, Gurranes, Iniscarra, Srelane Cross and Waterloo. County Development Plan Strategy recognises other locations, as areas which may not form a significant part of the settlement network, but do perform important functions with regard to tourism, heritage, recreation and other uses. No changes are proposed to the strategy for 'Other Locations' as part of the review of the Local Area Plans.

2.5 Contents of the Draft Plan

2.5.1 The Draft Local Area Plan provides a blueprint for the development of Blarney Macroom Municipal District for the next 6 years. Set out below are details of the structure and broad chapter content of the Draft local Area Plan.

Section 1 Introduction

2.5.2 This Section sets out the review process to date, the overall plan context and the overall approach/key policies that will influenced the preparation of the Draft Plan namely;

Role of the Cork County Development Plan 2014

Approach to deal with Town Council Development Plans

Special Policy Areas-Framework Masterplans

Settlement Network

Infrastructure

Water Services

Flood Risk

Regeneration Areas

Quality in Urban Design

Green Belts around Towns

Environmental Assessment including

Strategic Environmental Assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Habitats Directive Assessment

Section 2 Local Area Strategy

2.5.3 This section set out the overall strategy for the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. It sets out the housing requirements and zoned housing land supply for each of the 2 main towns, sets out the appropriate scale of growth within the village network and the current infrastructure position for all the main towns and smaller settlement within the settlement network. It assesses the current employment position in the Municipal District and the key Environment and Heritage assets within the area. The key message is that sufficient land has been provided to meet population targets but that infrastructure remains a key constraint to delivering on those targets.

Section 3 Main Towns

2.5.4 The purpose of this section is to set out the policies and objectives including land use zoning maps for the 2 Main Towns of Blarney and Macroom in the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. Where appropriate Regeneration Areas have also been identified.

	Housing Requirement					Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	Total New Households	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (Ha)	Net Estimated Residential Area Zoned (Ha)	Estimated Housing Yield
Macroom	3,879	4,536	497	468	23	66.9	1,184
Blarney	2,437	7,533	2,255	2,566	103	153.47	3,146

2.5.5 There are two Main Towns in this Municipal District, the Metropolitan Town of Blarney and the Ring Town of Macroom.

2.5.6 In the Cork County Development Plan 2014 **Blarney** is defined as one of nine “Metropolitan Towns” within the Cork Gateway. Blarney, located 8km north-west of Cork city, is internationally regarded for its Castle, its attractive surroundings and the historic character of the village itself. It is an iconic tourist centre with a range of associated tourist related facilities.

2.5.7 The Cork County Development Plan 2014 suggests that Blarney should maintain its role to act as an Integrated Employment Centre, with additional employment uses considered to form an important part of the mixed-use development at Stoneview. Employment and economic activity in Blarney is currently focused on the retail and service sectors with an emphasis on tourism. Blarney Castle and the “Woollen Mills” complex are together a significant tourist attraction. In addition to the established employment uses within the town, the Blarney Business Park, located, 1km’s to the north east of Blarney provides for employment. The Stoneview development also includes provision for additional business development on lands to the south of the railway, with access from the current junction serving the Blarney Business Park. These lands can facilitate the future expansion of the Blarney Business Park.

2.5.8 The **Stoneview Urban Expansion Area** is approximately 1.8km north of Blarney on the northern side of the N20 National Primary Road and the Dublin to Cork railway line. The site is approximately 154 ha in size with a number landowners. The site will accommodate a mixed use development to include at least 2,100 residential units, associated community facilities, a town centre, school sites, parks, a railway station and a park and ride facility and employment uses over a number of phases. Development within each phase should vary in terms of type and density in order to avoid uniformity in design.

- 2.5.9 The **Ringwood New Residential Area** adjoins the existing development boundary approximately 1km east of Blarney town centre on the western side of the N20 National Primary Road and to the south of the Dublin to Cork railway line. This prominent site is approximately 56 ha in size with one landowner. Delivering the development of these lands and associated road/ rail infrastructure is a part of the Cork County Councils development framework for Metropolitan Cork. Therefore these lands have been identified as a New Residential Area and the plan sets out a clear pathway for the future development of the Ringwood site. The site will accommodate a mixed use development to include up to 750 residential units, a neighbourhood centre and cultural/commercial uses over a number of phases. Development within each phase will include a variety of house types and sizes and a range of densities.
- 2.5.10 **Macroon** is one of six “Ring Towns” where the strategic aim is to provide a better balance of development throughout the Greater Cork Ring Area. Macroon is the largest main town within the Blarney-Macroon Municipal District and it is an important centre of population and employment in the south west region.
- 2.5.11 The Cork County Development Plan 2014 identifies Macroon as one of six Ring Towns in the network of settlements. This means the town is prioritised as a centre of growth within the Greater Cork Ring Strategic Planning Area with a corresponding priority in terms of infrastructural investment.
- 2.5.12 Macroon is a market town with an attractive natural setting and benefits from amenities such as the Sullane River and the Gearagh. Macroon has an attractive streetscape and a good range of facilities and services for its size.
- 2.5.13 The Cork County Development Plan 2014 identified Macroon as a third tier employment location after the Cork Gateway (including Mallow Hub) and Clonakilty. The employment objectives within “Other Towns” are to “focus on local catchment employment in the town”. Part of the strategy for such towns is to provide an accompanying infrastructure programme to service land supply identified for future employment development focused on medium to small business/industry. Macroon Town contains a variety of industries and enterprises which are mainly concentrated in the town itself with a few industrial clusters occurring in Masseytown, the old industrial park at Hartnetts Cross and the Macroon Environmental Business Park.
- 2.5.14 Historically, the Square has been the focal point of the Town, playing a pivotal role in the administrative, commercial, cultural and recreational functioning of the Town. The Area has a distinctive character and accommodates a number of buildings of architectural merit.

Section 4 Key Villages

2.5.15 There are 7 Key Villages in the Blarney Macroom Municipal District as follows; Ballineen/Enniskeane, Ballingearry, Ballymakeery/ Ballyvourney, Coachford, Grenagh, Kilmuney/ Ovens, Tower.

2.5.16 It is a strategic aim of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 to establish key villages as the primary focus for development in rural areas in the lower order settlement network and allow for the provision of local services, by encouraging and facilitating population growth at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of each village, where water services and waste water infrastructure is available. Supporting the retention and improvement of key social and community facilities, and inter urban public transport.

Table 2.5: Appropriate Scale of Development for Key Villages

Name	Existing Number of Houses Q1 2015 (Geodirectory)	Growth 2005 to 2015 (Geodirectory)	Overall Scale of Development (No. of houses)	Normal Recommended Scale of any Individual scheme
Ballineen/Enniskeane	344	44	195	20
Ballingearry	96	18	60	15
Ballymakeery/ Ballyvourney	260	82	45	15
Coachford	181	23	116	20
Grenagh	217	70	150	36
Kilmuney/ Ovens	476	261	251	50
Tower	1161	130	182	40
Total Key Villages	2735	-	999	

Section 5 Villages, Village Nuclei and Other Locations

2.5.17 There are 15 **villages** in the Blarney Macroon Municipal District as follows; Aherla, Aghabullogue, Cloghduv, Clondrohid, Courtbrack, Crookstown, Crossbarry, Inchigeelagh, Kilnamatyra, Kilmurry, Model Village (Dripsey), Newcestown, Rylane/Seiscne, Stuake/Donoughmore.

2.5.18 It is a strategic aim of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 to encourage and facilitate development at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of each village, where water services and waste water infrastructure is available and support the retention and improvement of key social and community facilities within villages, including the improved provision of interurban public transport.

Table 2.6: Scale of Development for Villages in Blarney-Macroon Municipal District

Villages	Existing Number of Houses Q1 2015 (Geodirectory)	Growth 2005 to 2015 (Geodirectory)	Overall Scale of Development (No. of houses)	Normal Recommended Scale of any Individual scheme.
Aghabullogue	24	-	19	5
Aherla	142	-	50	15
Cloghduv	116	200	80	10-15
Clondrohid	72	-	20	5
Courtbrack	43	28	66	12
Crookstown	92	27	40	15
Crossbarry	116	19	75	15
Inchigeelagh	93	-	60	15
Kilnamatyra	49	3	20	5
Kilmurry	54	46	15	5
Model Village (Dripsey)	141	-	30	20
Newcestown	24	-	15	2-3
Rylane/Seiscne	70	28	40	10
Stuake/Donoughmore	11	6	20	8
Upper Dripsey	36	3	25	4
Total Villages		-	575	-

2.5.19 There are 26 Village Nuclei in the Blarney – Macroon Municipal District as follows; Ballinacurra/Brinny, Ballinagree, Bealnamorive, Berrings, Canovee, Carrigadrohid/ Killinardrish, Carriganimmy, Cloghroe, Coolea, Courtbrack, Farnanes, Farnivane, Firmount, Fornaght, Kilbarry, Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross, Lissarda, Lower Dripsey, Matehy, Murragh, New Tipperary, Reananerree, Rusheen, Toon Bridge, Tooms, Upper Dripsey and Upton.

2.5.20 It is a strategic aim of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 to preserve the rural character of village nuclei and encourage small scale expansion at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of each village, where water services and waste water infrastructure is available generally through low density individual housing, in tandem with the provision of services..

Table 2.7: Scale of Development in Blarney- Macroom Municipal District Village Nuclei				
Village Nuclei	Existing Number of Houses Q1 2015 (Geodirectory)	Growth 2005 to 2015 (Geodirectory)	Overall Scale of Development (No. of houses)	Normal Recommended Scale of any Individual scheme.
Ballinacurra/Brinny	11	-	5	2-3
Ballinagree	18	1	15	5
Bealnamorive	7	-	5	2
Berrings	32	-	16	2-3
Canovee	-	-	3	3
Carrigadrohid/ Killinardrish	24	-	5	3
Carriganimmy	12	-	5	3
Cloghroe	36	-	10	2-3
Coolea	-	-	5	3
Farnanes	20	1	5	3
Farnivane	6	-	5	3
Firmount	8	7	6	2
Fornaght	10	-	9	1-2
Kilbarry	2	5	3	3
Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross	-	-	5	5
Lissarda	14	-	5	3
Lower Dripsey	4	-	5	5
Matehy	4	1	4	2
Murragh	18	1	3	3
New Tipperary	12	-	5	2
Reananerree	10	1	5	5
Rusheen	10	-	5	2-3
Tooms	8	-	5	2-3
Toon Bridge	19	1	5	2-3
Upton	7	-	3	3
Total Village Nuclei		-	147	-

- 2.5.21 There are seven **Other Locations** in the Blarney Macroom Municipal District as follows; Bealnablath, Farran/Farran Lower, Gougane Barra, Gurranes, Iniscarra, Srelane Cross, Waterloo.
- 2.5.22 It is a strategic aim of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 to recognise Other Locations, as areas which may not form a significant part of the settlement network, but do perform important functions with regard to tourism, heritage, recreation and other uses.

Section 7 Putting the Plan into Practice

- 2.5.23 This section assigns responsibility for the implementation of the Plan's policies to various agencies including the Local Authority. It also sets out the expected timeframes for the delivery of physical and social infrastructure, including the assignment of Plan priorities and funding streams necessary to secure key development objectives. It also outlines the approach to monitoring and how the Plan will inform other Plans within its functional area.

2.6 Relationship with Other Relevant Plans and Programmes

- 2.6.1 The Local Area Plan is part of a hierarchy of County, Regional and National plans. The Plan should be consistent with higher-level plans such as those of a county, regional or national nature. The following National, Regional and County Plans have influenced the policies contained in this Draft Local Area Plan.

National Policy

- 2.6.2 **National Spatial Strategy:** The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is a twenty year planning framework for the entire country which is designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development and population growth between regions. The main focus of the NSS is to bring people, jobs and services closer together, in order to achieve a better quality of life for people, a strong, competitive economic position for the country and to ensure environmental protection.
- 2.6.3 Cork is identified as a gateway, a nationally significant centre whose location, scale and service base supports the achievement of the type of critical mass necessary to sustain strong levels of growth. Cork will build on its substantial and established economic base to lever investment into the South West region, with the support of its scale of population, its third level institutions and the substantial capacity for growth identified in the Cork Area Strategic Plan (CASP). Implementation of CASP is important to secure the objectives of the NSS. Mallow is identified as a 'hub' and will perform an important role within the national structure at regional and county level. Improvements in regional accessibility through roads, advanced communications infrastructure and public transport links are key supporting factors. The NSS also seeks to develop the potential of other towns and villages. Large towns near Cork City need to be promoted as self-sustaining towns. Medium sized towns in coastal and peripheral areas have a critical role to play as service centres and in economic development. In the more rural parts of the County "a dynamic and nationally important tourism product has been developed which will require effective management and sustainable development of the natural and cultural heritage to sustain it for the future".
- 2.6.4 **National Development Plan 2007 – 2013:** The National Development Plan (NDP) Transforming Ireland — A Better Quality of Life for All sets out our national investment priorities and has four basic objectives: to continue sustainable national economic and employment growth, to strengthen and improve Ireland's international competitiveness, to foster balanced regional development and to promote social inclusion. In Cork, the NDP identifies the need to accelerate growth and development and identifies a number of investment priorities for Cork including motorways, integrated public

transport systems, enhancement of tourism, leisure and recreational facilities, developing employment, research and development capacity etc.

- 2.6.5 Food Harvest 2020– A Vision for Irish Agri-Food and Fisheries:** The agri-food and fisheries sector is Ireland’s most important indigenous industry and is recognised as having a key role to play in Ireland’s export-led economic recovery. With €7bn in exports the sector currently accounts for over half of manufacturing exports, by Irish owned firms. The geographical distribution of the sector ensures that any future wealth and employment generated will be of direct benefit to rural and coastal communities. The 2020 vision for the sector seeks to increase the value of primary output in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector by €1.5 billion by 2020 (an increase of 33% on 2007-2009 levels); increase value added in the agri-food, fisheries and wood products sector by €3 billion (+40%) and achieve an export target of €12 billion for the sector (+ 42%). Meeting these targets will have significant environmental challenges including reducing the carbon intensity of Irish agriculture and ensuring the sector plays its part in reducing our overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. As a County with a strong agri-food and fisheries sector already, there is obvious scope of sustainable growth in this area which should bring many benefits to the County as a whole.
- 2.6.6 National Climate Change Strategy (2007 – 2012) / Climate Change Adaption Framework 2012:** The National Climate Change Strategy 2007 – 2012 sets out a range of measures, building on those already in place under the first National Climate Change Strategy (2000) to ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol. The Strategy provides a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions.
- 2.6.7 The National Climate Change Adaptation Framework** introduces an integrated policy framework, involving all stakeholders on all institutional levels to ensure adaptation measures are taken across different sectors and levels of government to manage and reduce Ireland's vulnerability to the negative impacts of climate change. Under the Framework, the relevant Government Departments, Agencies and local authorities have been asked to commence the preparation of sectoral and local adaptation plans and to publish drafts of these plans by mid-2014
- 2.6.8 National Renewable Energy Action Plan:** The National Renewable Energy Action Plan (NREAP) sets out the Government’s strategic approach and concrete measures to deliver on Ireland’s 16% target under European Renewable Energy Directive 2009/28/EC. The development of renewable energy is central to overall energy policy in Ireland. Nationally, the Government’s ambitions for renewable energy and the related national targets are fully commensurate with the European Union’s energy policy objectives and the targets addressed to Ireland under the Renewable Energy Directive. Ireland’s energy efficiency ambitions (20% of energy from renewable sources by 2020) as set out in the National Energy Efficiency Action Plan are duly reflected in the NREAP.
- 2.6.9 National Biodiversity Plan: Action for Biodiversity 2011 – 2016:** Ireland’s second National Biodiversity Plan sets out a vision for the conservation and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems in Ireland and includes the overarching target of “reducing biodiversity loss and degradation of ecosystems in Ireland by 2016, and achieving substantial recovery by 2020”. The Plan sets out a number of strategic objectives and actions which are aimed at mainstreaming biodiversity in the decision making process across all sectors, strengthening the knowledge base and increasing awareness of biodiversity in order to support the achievement of the target.
- 2.6.10 Our Sustainable Future -A framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland (2012):** This framework recognises that the green economy and sustainable development agendas are a key element of Ireland’s economic recovery strategy and sets out the range of environmental, economic and social measures required to move these agendas forward. The framework sets out 70 measures that will ensure we improve our quality of life for current and future generations and sets out clear measures, responsibilities and timelines in an implementation plan. These include areas such as the sustainability of public finances and economic resilience, natural resources, agriculture, climate change, transport,

sustainable communities and spatial planning, public health, education, innovation and research, skills and training, and global poverty. The framework recognises that some aspects of the pattern of development that emerged in Ireland over the last decade present major challenges from a sustainable development perspective and spatial planning is one of the mechanisms, along with wider public policy coordination and fiscal policy, to effect change at national, regional and local level and deliver more sustainable communities.

2.6.11 Smarter Travel. A new transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020: Smarter Travel recognises that transport and travel trends in Ireland are unsustainable. Even with the investment in Transport 21, if we continue with present policies, congestion will get worse, transport emissions will continue to grow, economic competitiveness will suffer and quality of life will decline. Smarter travel is designed to show how we can reverse current unsustainable transport and travel patterns and reduce the health and environmental impacts of current trends and improve our quality of life. Actions are aimed at influencing overall travel demand and reducing emissions in both urban and rural areas. Key actions include the following:

- Actions to reduce distance travelled by private car and encourage smarter travel, including focusing population growth in areas of employment and to encourage people to live in close proximity to places of employment and the use of pricing mechanisms or fiscal measures to encourage behavioral change,
- Actions aimed at ensuring that alternatives to the car are more widely available, through improved public transport service and investment in cycling and walking,
- Actions aimed at improving the fuel efficiency of motorised transport, and
- Actions aimed at strengthening institutional arrangements to deliver the targets.

2.6.12 National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007 – 2016: This National Action Plan for Social inclusion, complemented by the social inclusion elements of the National Development Plan 2007-2013: Transforming Ireland– a Better Quality of Life for All, sets out how the social inclusion strategy will be achieved over the period 2007-2016. The overall goal of this Plan is to reduce the number of those experiencing consistent poverty to between 2% and 0% by 2012, with the aim of eliminating consistent poverty by 2016.

2.6.13 National Heritage Plan 2002: The National Heritage Plan sets out a clear and coherent strategy and framework for the protection and enhancement of Ireland’s national heritage. The core objective of the Plan is to protect the national heritage as well as promoting it as a resource to be enjoyed by all.

Regional Policy

2.6.14 South Western Regional Planning Guidelines: Prepared by the South West Regional Authority to provide a broad canvas to steer the sustainable growth and prosperity of the region in line with the key principles of national strategy. Planning Authorities are required to have regard to the guidelines in the discharge of their functions.

2.6.15 South West River Basin District Management Plan has been prepared on foot of the EU Water Framework Directive to create an integrated approach to managing water quality on a river basin basis. It requires that management plans be prepared on a river basin basis in six year cycles and specifies a structured approach to developing those plans with the first plans to cover the period 2009 to 2015. The South West River Basin Management Plan is the mechanism for protecting and improving the County’s water resources and ensures that development permitted meets the requirements of the relevant River Basin Management Plan and does not contravene the objectives of the EU Water Framework Directive.

2.6.16 Waste Management Plan: A joint waste management strategy was prepared for the Cork City and county in 1995 by the both Local Authorities. Since then separate waste management plans have been prepared for each jurisdiction and the most recent plan for the County covers the period 2004-2009. Waste minimisation is a key element of the most recent Plan (2004) and includes a number of measures including waste prevention, reduction at source, reuse, recycling and recovery and is achieved through the use of bring sites, civic amenity sites, waste transfer stations, authorised transfer facilities and material recovery. All of these have a role to play in achieving national recycling targets.

Local Policy

2.6.17 Cork County Development Plan 2014: The Cork County Development Plan, 2014 adopted on the 8th December 2014 sets out the blueprint for the development of the county, underpinned by the core principles of sustainability, social inclusion, quality of design and climate change adaptation. The County Development Plan includes over 200 objectives on a range of issues including:

- Housing,
- Rural, Coastal and Island Development;
- Social and Community facilities;
- Economy and Employment;
- Town Centres and Retail Development;
- Tourism;
- Energy and Digital Economy;
- Transport and Mobility;
- Water Services, Surface Water (including Flooding) and Waste;
- Heritage;
- Green Infrastructure and Environment;
- Zoning and Land use.

2.6.18 The objectives of the County Development Plan have not been repeated in the Local Area Plan and so the two documents must be read together when planning a development. All proposals for development, put forward in accordance with the provisions of this Local Area Plan, must demonstrate compliance with the objectives of the County Plan.

2.6.19 It is expected to remain in force (subject to any interim variations that the Council may make) until late 2020. It is a six year development plan for the County that attempts to set out, as concisely as possible; Cork County Council's current thinking on planning policy looking towards the horizon year of 2022. The plan also sets out the overall planning and sustainable development strategy for the county which must be consistent with the National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020 and the South West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022.

2.6.20 The Plan is the county's principle strategic planning policy document. Detailed land-use zoning maps for the main settlements of the county are contained in the Municipal District Local Area Plans.

2.6.21 Local Economic and Community Plans: The Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) was adopted in 2016. It is provided for in the statutory Local Government Reform Act 2014. This Act requires that a six-year plan be adopted by Cork County Council, setting out high level goals, objectives and actions required to promote and support local economic and community development within the county. The strategic aim of this Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) is, ultimately, the

“Removal of barriers to facilitate individuals and organisations in achieving their ambitions, within a long-term and sustainable framework”

- 2.6.22 This strategic aim seeks to absorb and reflect the breadth and complexity of modern life, where opportunities exist for individuals and organisations to fulfil their ambitions, whether personal, economic or social. Places and societies that best provide for those ambitions, within a sustainable framework, are the places where people want to live and work. In turn, places where people want to live are the places that become socially and economically relevant. Impediments – be they linked to issues around physical, organisational, environmental, economic, educational, equality, access, or related to any of the other aspects of our collective lives – are the barriers to our ambitions. This plan seeks to commence a process that will lead to removal of those barriers by those with the capacities to do so.
- 2.6.23 The legislation envisaged that the LECP will be consistent with its informing strategies, set at a European, National and Regional level, while also being consistent and integrated with complementary plans at its own level. In particular, the LECP must be consistent with the County Development Plan Core Strategy and the planned for Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES), currently the Regional Planning Guidelines.
- 2.6.24 This Local Area Plan will play a key role in implementing the LECP’s aims and objectives as they apply to this Municipal District while at the same time the LECP will set out a pathway to address many of the social and economic issues facing the District identified in this Local Area Plan.
- 2.6.25 **County Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014:** This plan addressed how the wildlife resources of the County, including native plants, animals and the ecosystems that they combine to produce, will be managed and protected. Its implementation will contribute to achieving national and international targets for the conservation of biodiversity in the context of constantly accelerating rates of species extinction and habitat loss and deterioration globally.
- 2.6.26 **Cork County Heritage Plan 2005-2010:** The development of the County Heritage Plan had its origins in the National Heritage Plan published in 2002. The aim of the plan is to ‘ensure the protection of our heritage and to promote its enjoyment by all’. This is underpinned by the core principle that heritage is communal and we all share a responsibility to protect it.
- 2.6.27 **Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021:** The city plan is of relevance because the city is the main economic and retail focus for the county as a whole and the focus of public transport services within the metropolitan area. The Plan includes a population target for the city of 150,000 by 2022 and re-emphasises the potential for the development of brownfield land in the City Centre, Docklands, Mahon and Blackpool to cater for the sustainable growth of the city.

Legislative Context

- 2.6.28 The Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment (the SEA Directive) and its transposed Irish legislation, including amendments form the legislative framework for the SEA process, including its documentation in the form of an Environmental Report. The Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended) also forms an integral part of SEA and additional guidance from a European context and national context has been listed within this Section. Additional key pieces of legislation pertaining to environmental considerations include the following list which is regarded as not exhaustive:
- EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)
 - EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC)
 - The Wildlife Act, 1976 (as amended)

- The Flora (Protection) Order 1999
- UN Convention of Biological Diversity 1992 (ratified 1996)
- Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention 1971)
- European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations, 2011
- Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations, 2001 and 2004 and Amendments (2010)
- Water Services Act, 2007
- Water Services (Amendment) Act, 2013
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) Regulations, 2009
- European Communities Environmental Objectives (Groundwater) Regulations, 2010
- EU Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)
- European Communities (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations, 2010
- EU Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC)
- Bathing Water Quality Regulations, 2008
- Bathing Water Quality (Amendment) Regulations, 2011
- Shellfish Waters Directive (2006/113/EC)
- European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) Regulations, 2006
- European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters) (Amendment) Regulations, 2009
- Waste Water Discharge (Authorization) Regulations, 2007
- European Communities (Environmental Liability) Regulations, 2008
- Air Quality Standards Regulations, 2011
- Environmental Noise Regulations, 2006
- The European Landscape Convention, 2000

Section 3: Environmental Baseline

Sub-Section

- 3.1 Introduction
- 3.2 Population and Human Health
- 3.3 Biodiversity-Flora and Fauna
- 3.4 Soils
- 3.5 Water
- 3.6 Air and Climatic Factors
- 3.7 Material Assets
- 3.8 Cultural Heritage
- 3.9 Landscape

3 Environmental Baseline

3.1 Introduction

3.1.1 The environmental baseline of this Municipal District is described in this section. This baseline information outlines the environmental context within which the Draft Blarney –Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan will operate. The purpose of this section is to provide enough environmental baseline data to:

- support the identification of environmental problems;
- support the process of assessing the environmental effects;
- provide a baseline against which future monitoring data can be compared.

3.1.2 A number of key environmental issues set the context for the collection of the baseline data and each section includes an overview of the current situation, the key environmental problems and an analysis of the likely evolution in the absence of the Draft Plan. The Environmental issues are listed below:

- Population and Human Health,
- Biodiversity – Flora and Fauna,
- Soil,
- Water,
- Air and Climatic factors,
- Material Assets,
- Cultural Heritage,
- Landscape.

3.1.3 A number of maps are included to illustrate the baseline environment of the Municipal District County, the majority of which indicate the existing situation for the environmental issues identified above. However in many cases the maps and information is only available at a County Level.

3.1.4 The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) circular SEA 1/8 and NPWS 1/8 requires that under the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment of the ecological implications of a plan is conducted. An appropriate assessment of the Draft Plan was conducted by Cork County Council and is provided as part of this Draft Plan.

3.2 Population and Human Health

3.2.1 In 2011 the population of the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District stood at 43,398. In the period to 2022, the population target allocated by the Cork County Development Plan 2014 provides for the population to grow by 6,575 persons or 15% approximately. The majority of this growth is targeted at the two towns of the District – Blarney and Macroom. Growth is also provided for across the network of 55 smaller settlements within the District and within the rural area.

3.2.2 Within the Blarney Macroon Municipal District the County Development Plan provides for growth in population of 6,575 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 5,236 leading to a net requirement for 6,022 new houses within the Municipal District. The County Development Plan indicates that 126ha of residentially zoned land is required.

3.2.3 The population growth target will require the provision of 6,022 new housing units, with at least 3,034 units allocated to the 2 Main Towns of Blarney (2,566) and Macroon (571). Growth is also provided for across the network of smaller settlements within the District. Housing growth is also planned for the villages of 1,526 units.

Table 3.1 Blarney Macroon Municipal District Housing Requirements and Supply

	Housing Requirement				Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Est. Net Residential area zoned in LAP / TCP (ha)	Estimated Housing Yield (LAPs and TCPs) (Units)
Blarney	2,437	7,533	2,566	103	153.47	3,146
Macroon	3,879	4,536	571	23	66.9	1,184
Main Towns	6,316	12,069	3,034	126	220.37	4,330
Villages	8,872	12,070	2,105	--	--	1,526
Rural	28,210	25,833	741	--	--	--
Total Villages and Rural	37,082	37,904	2,846	--	--	1,526
Total for District	43,398	49,973	5,880	126	220.37	5,856
Current Estimated Strategic Land Reserve for this Municipal District is 94.37Ha						

3.2.4 With regard to Human Health, impacts relevant to SEA are those which arise as a result of interactions with environmental vectors such as air, water or soil through which contaminants or pollutants, which have the potential to cause harm, can be transported so they come in contact with human beings. These issues will be explored in the Environmental Report.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Population and Human Health

3.2.5 The Draft Plan has made provision for the population of the MD to increase leading to increased demand for housing within the area and the provision of supporting social, community and employment/commercial services, facilities and opportunities. The timely delivery of such services is important to the quality of life of the population.

3.2.6 Enabling population growth and sustainable patterns of development in key settlements may be hindered by delays in the delivery of key infrastructure required to facilitate development leading to a housing shortage in some areas and development being shifted to other, potentially less sustainable locations, frustrating efforts to plan for having people, jobs and services located closer together.

3.2.7 Dispersed settlement patterns can lead to an over dependence on car based transport and long journeys to work which can have negative impacts on the health of the population and quality of life.

- 3.2.8 The economic decline of some settlements and/or the failure of others to realise the expected level of growth, can lead to reduced service provision, loss of job opportunities and reduced quality of life for the remaining residents of the area. A key challenge for the Draft Plan is to promote the sustainable growth of the economy of the six main towns of the Municipal District to support the balanced socio economic growth of the area.
- 3.2.9 Improved recreational/walking and cycling facilities are needed to support an increased uptake in physical exercise to help improve / maintain the health of the population.

3.3 Biodiversity-Flora and Fauna

- 3.3.1 European and National Legislation now protect the most valuable of our remaining wild places, through designation of sites as proposed Natural Heritage Area, Natural Heritage Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. The designation of these sites at a national level is the responsibility of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and local Government but it is the responsibility of all of us to protect these sites. The process of designation of such sites is ongoing, with new sites being added, redesignated and boundaries of existing sites being adjusted. The key Natura sites in the Blarney Macroom MD are illustrated in Figure 3.1.
- 3.3.2 There are 4 SPAs, 2 SAC's, 16 NHA's and numerous pNHA's dispersed throughout the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. The reasons for designation range from ecological, plants, ornithological, woodland, heath, bats and vegetation. There are a number of key important river systems including the Lee, Blackwater, Bride, Dripsey, Glashagarriff, Rylane and the Owenna Gearagh Rivers. The River Sullane flows through Macroom Town. The District includes the Gougane Barra and Sheehy Mountains, The Gearagh, Coolea and the foothills of the Derrynasaggart Mountains and the Boggeragh Mts , Lough Allua.
- 3.3.3 In addition, there is one designated Nature Reserve (The Gearagh) which is also a Biogenetic Site and a RAMSAR Site and one Wildfowl Sanctuary (Lee Reservoir).

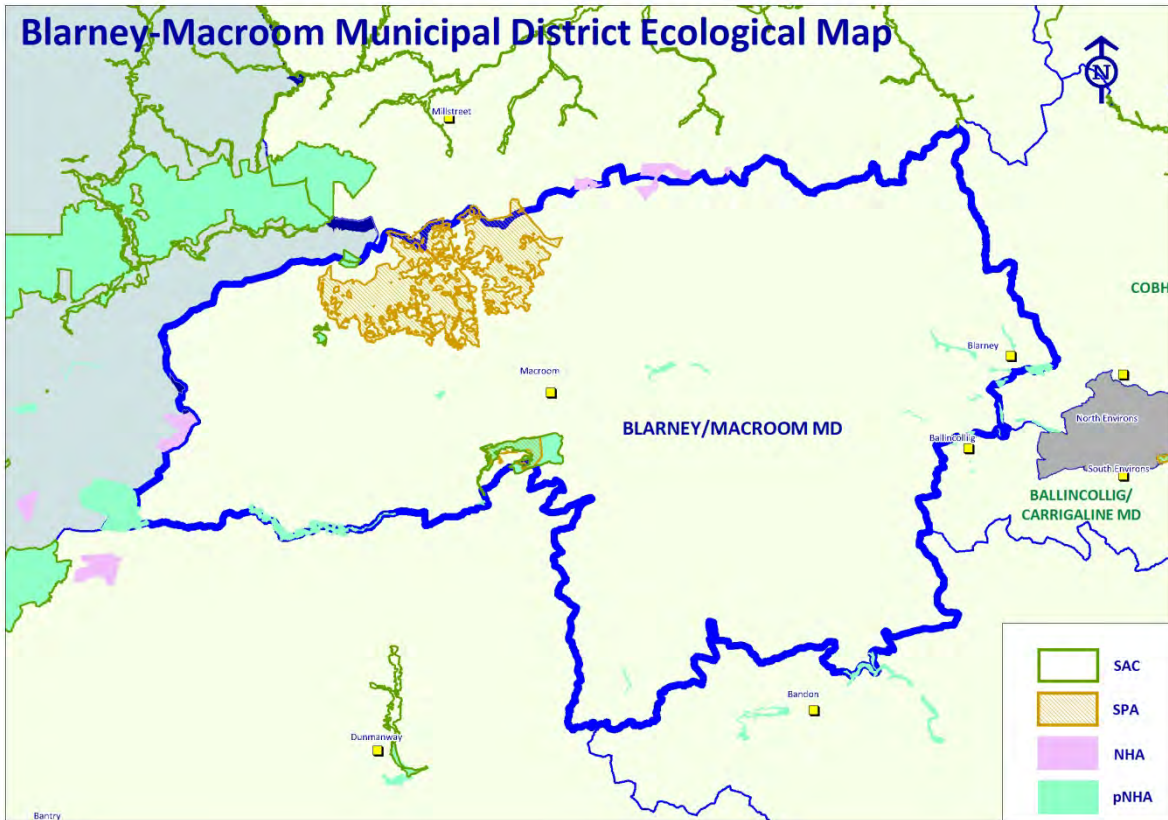


Figure 3.1 Blarney –Macroon Ecological Map

Table 3.2:Special Areas of Conservation		
Name	Environmental Designation	Settlement
Mullaghanish Bog	cSAC; 1890	Ballyvourney
St. Gobnets Wood	cSAC 106	Ballyvourney
The Gearagh	cSAC 108	Macroom
Blackwater River Cork; Waterford	cSAC 2170	Newmarket; Kanturk; Buttevant; Castletownroche; Mallow; Fermoy; Ballyhooly
	cSAC 1058	Midleton; Glounthaune; Carrigtohill

Table 3.3: Special Protection Areas

Name	Environmental Designation	Settlement
Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains	pSPA 4162	Carriganimmy
The Gearagh	SPA 4109	Macroom
Cork Harbour	SPA 4030	Douglas; Midleton; Glounthaune, Carrigtohill; Aghada; Whitegate; Crosshaven; Ringaskiddy; Monkstown; Rochestown

Table 3.4: Natural Heritage Areas and proposed NHAs

Name	Environmental Designation	Settlement
Boggeragh Mountains	NHA 2447	North of Ballinagree
Conigar Bog	NHA 2386	Ballingeary
Ballincollig Cave	pNHA 1249	Ballincollig
Boylegrove Wood	pNHA 1854	Macroom; Kilmichael
Glashgarriff River	pNHA 1055	Ballynamorive
Gouganebarra Lake	pNHA 1057	Ballingeary
Lee Valley	pNHA 0094	Ballincollig
Lough Allua	pNHA 1065	Ballingeary
Lough Gal	pNHA 1067	Coachford
Prohus Wood	pNHA 1248	Macroom
Shournagh Valley	pNHA 103	Blarney; Ballincollig
St. Gobnets Wood	pNHA 106	Ballyvourney
The Gearagh	pNHA 108	Macroom
Toon Bridge Wood	pNHA 1083	Macroom
Mullaghanish Bog	pNHA 1890	Ballyvourney
Ardmadame Wood	pNHA 1799	Blarney
Blarney Bog	pNHA 1857	Blarney
Blarney Castle Woods	pNHA 1039	Blarney
Blarney Lake	pNHA 1798	Blarney
Rock Farm Quarry	pNHA 1074	
Lee Valley	pNHA 0094	Ballincollig
Killaneer House Glen	pNHA1062	North of Murragh
Bandon Valley West of Bandon	pNHA 1034	East of Murragh
Bandon Valley above Inishannon	pNHA 1740	Inishannon
Bandon Valley below Inishannon	pNHA 1515	Inishannon
Ballagh Bog	pNHA 1886	
Silahertane Bog	pNHA 1882	

Protected Species

- 3.3.4 The **Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains pSPA 4162** comprises a substantial part of the Boggeragh/Derrynasaggart Mountains. It is divided roughly into two sectors by the R582 road between Macroom and Millstreet. Most of the site is over 200m in altitude, rising to heights of 475 m in the eastern sector (Musherabeg) and 462m in the western sector (Knockullane). Several important rivers rise within the site, notably the Foherish and Awboy. The site is underlain by Old Red Sandstone. The site consists of a variety of upland habitats, though approximately one-third is forested. The coniferous forests include first and second rotation plantations, with both pre-thicket and post-thicket stands present. Given the location and remoteness of the site the nearest settlements are Ballyvourney, Ballymakeery and Carriganimmy. It is unlikely that any increase in the settlement mass at these locations will impact on this designation. The village of Carriganimmy is located within the pSPA. Other threats may arise from wind farm construction, energy generating schemes and agricultural practice.
- 3.3.5 **St. Gobnet's Wood**, which is about 30 ha in extent, is situated on the side of a hill immediately south of Ballyvourney village in Co. Cork. The site is important for the presence of old oak woodlands, a habitat listed on Annex I of the EU Habitats Directive. The soil of the wood is brown earth to brown podzolic, moist and relatively fertile over most of the area, especially in the vicinity of the small stream near the south-eastern boundary. Seepage areas and rock outcrops occur. The presence of so many planted trees which are themselves regenerating reduces the ecological value of St Gobnet's Wood. It has exceptional amenity value, because of its proximity to Ballyvourney and the existence of pathways within it. To the east of the site there is another wood which is a pNHA. Prohus Wood (1248) is young and even-aged woodland derived from widespread clearance about forty years ago. It has yet to develop much habitat diversity so its species list is limited. The wood is surrounded by farmland.
- 3.3.6 Two km to the south west of Macroom town is the combined **pNHA, cSAC and SPA of the Gearagh**. This site comprises a stretch of the River Lee that was dammed in the 1950s as part of a hydroelectric scheme. The river valley formerly held an extensive area of alluvial forest but only part of the forest now survives. The SPA extends westwards from Annahala Bridge to Toon Bridge. The principal habitat is a shallow lake or reservoir which is fringed by wet woodland, scrub and grassland that is prone to flooding. Alluvial forest occurs on the islands. At times of low water, a diverse pioneering plant community develops on the mud. The Gearagh is a Nature Reserve, a Ramsar Convention site and a Council of Europe Biogenetic Reserve. There are no imminent threats to the wintering bird populations, though some disturbance is caused to the birds by illegal shooting. The Gearagh SPA is a unique site due to the remnants of one of the largest stands of alluvial woodland in Ireland or Britain. This habitat is listed, with priority status, on Annex I of the E.U. Habitats Directive. The reservoir created by the past damming activities now attracts important populations of wintering waterfowl, with six of the species having populations of national importance. Also of note is that two of the species which occur regularly, Whooper Swan and Golden Plover, are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive.
- 3.3.7 This extensive water body is located to the south of Macroom Town. This area has three designations so is an important nature sanctuary. Settlement expansion may impact on its integrity. At present there is a buffer between the designation and town development boundary. A further cluster of designations are located to the north east of Macroom above the River Lee. Located here are the pNHA 1067 Lough Gal and the pNHA 1055 Glashgarriff River. This is a small stream descending from the Boggeragh Mountains to the Lee Reservoir; the Glashgarriff has a notable waterfall and several series of rapids. The wooded, humid valley has regions of seepage and exposed rock. *Carex laevigata* (a sedge) is characteristic of the former with the willow *Salix aurita* while the rocks are generally covered by mosses or, in the shaded places, *Hymenophyllum* sp (filmy ferns). The waterfall was the site of a colony of *Trichomanes speciosum* (Killarney fern) in the last century but it has now disappeared. The ground flora of the woodlands is moderately rich for the upland situation. *Anemone nemorosa* (wood anemone), *Primula vulgaris* (primrose), *Hyacinthoides non-scriptus* (bluebell) and the bulbous form of *Ranunculus ficaria* (celandine) occur. Lough Gal is a little known lake now largely grown over by the fen of

Curraghindaveagh. The plant communities include floating fen with some peat development especially in the SW corner. *Apium inundatum* (marshwort) and several *Potamogeton* sp (pondweeds) are recorded from the lake. To the south of the Gearagh towards Inchigeelagh is the pNHA of Boylegrove Wood (1854) and Lough Allua pNHA 1065. The area is a wintering ground for wildfowl and swans and a breeding area for Mallard and Teal.

3.3.8 Within the area there are protected species identified. The Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains pSPA 4162 is a stronghold for the Hen Harrier. A survey in 2005 resulted in 5 confirmed breeding pairs, which represents over 3% of the national total. A similar number had been recorded in the 1998- 2000 period. The mix of forestry and open areas provides optimum habitat conditions for this rare bird, which is listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive.

3.3.9 A large and important nature conservation area to the east of the Blarney Macroom District is the **Cork Harbour SPA 4030**. Cork Harbour is a large, sheltered bay system, with several river estuaries – principally those of the Rivers Lee, Douglas and Owenacurra. The SPA site comprises most of the main intertidal areas of Cork Harbour, including all of the North Channel, the Douglas Estuary, inner Lough Mahon, Lough Beg, Whitegate Bay and the Rostellan inlet. Cork Harbour is an internationally important wetland site, regularly supporting in excess of 20,000 wintering waterfowl, for which it is amongst the top five sites in the country. Several of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Golden Plover, Bar-tailed Godwit, Ruff and Common Tern. This is a very important habitat and one of the largest in the county. With its location adjoining Cork city and other harbour area settlements the site would be sensitive to land use changes, population increase, recreational demands, intensification of uses and surface water run-off. This site does not form part of any of the settlements in this electoral area. This SPA bounds the Glanmire settlement and expansion of this settlement southwards may encroach into this designation.

3.3.10 Located to the north of Cork Harbour is the **Great Island Channel cSAC 1058**. The Great Island Channel stretches from Little Island to Midleton, with its southern boundary being formed by Great Island. It is an integral part of Cork Harbour which contains several other sites of conservation interest. Geologically, Cork Harbour consists of two large areas of open water in a limestone basin, separated from each other and the open sea by ridges of Old Red Sandstone. Within this system, Great Island Channel forms the eastern stretch of the river basin and, compared to the rest of Cork Harbour, is relatively undisturbed. Within the site is the estuary of the Owennacurra and Dungourney Rivers. These rivers, which flow through Midleton, provide the main source of freshwater to the North Channel. The site is of major importance for the two habitats listed on the EU Habitats Directive that it contains, as well as for its important numbers of wintering waders and wildfowl. It also supports a good invertebrate fauna. This is a very important habitat and one of the largest in the county. With its location adjoining Cork city and other harbour area settlements the site would be sensitive to land use changes, population increase, recreational demands, intensification of uses and surface water runoff. This site is located to the south of Glounthaune and bounds the settlement. It is also located near Carrigtohill.

3.3.11 The second major concentration of designations is around Blarney village. The sites comprise of pNHAs and include Blarney Bog, pNHA 1857, pNHA 1798 Blarney Lake, pNHA 1039 Blarney Castle Wood and pNHA 1799 Ardamadame Wood. Blarney Bog is a small area of Reed grass (*Phalans anendinnacea*) fen, situated in the flat valley floor of the River Blarney. It is located a half km west of Blarney Town and 4.5km North West of Cork City. Blarney Lake is an artificial lake surrounded by a narrow band of woodland predominantly Oak (*Quercus* sp.), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and Silver Fir (*Abies* sp). Blarney castle woodland is made up of old estate woodland with oak, ash, sycamore and beech, a patch of scrub with hazel and ash and a linear oak and birch wood stretching northwards along the Martin river towards Waterloo. Ardamadame Wood is located north of Blarney village, 6km north-west of Cork City. It is situated along the banks of the River Martin. The site is bounded in parts by the river, the old Blarney-Mallow road and on the eastern side by an embankment and the new Cork road. This site comprises mainly dry deciduous oak woodland (*Quercus petraea*) and Birch (*Betula pubescens*) with some scrub

woodland and improved agricultural grassland. The above environmental designations are located in close proximity to the village and it is important that they are properly managed as they contribute to the overall setting and public perception of the village.

- 3.3.12 Threats potentially posed by the plan. The closest designation to the village is pNHA 1857 and if Blarney Village expands eastwards it will impact on this site. This location has an important recreational role for the area and if there is an increase in population the intensification of use may impact on biodiversity and habitat here. Similarly expansion of the village northwards with associated infrastructure improvements will impact on pNHA 1799. The designations pNHA 1798 and pNHA 1039 area adjacent to the settlement boundary of the village and if the settlement expands in this direction it will impact on the intactness of these designations.
- 3.3.13 The Blarney Electoral area is bounded to the north by the Blackwater River cSAC and to the south by the Lee Valley pNHA. The most western designation is the Shournagh Valley pNHA103 and is described as an interesting area particularly for its unexpected marsh communities; the Shournagh is a good, unpolluted example of a turbulent river. Another important site is pNHA 0079 Bride Valley and Bunaglanna adjacent to the settlement of Glenville. The upper part of the Bride Valley is a region of high floristic interest with natural communities in the river itself and in its immediate vicinity. Some of the micro fungi have not been recorded elsewhere. The area is deemed to be highly vulnerable and afforestation may have a significant effect on water quality in this area and thus on river life. It does this by acidification of the drainage water and it is important to keep planting well back from the watercourses
- 3.3.14 On an area basis it is acknowledged that developments associated with agricultural activities, wind farms, afforestation, urban development and certain infrastructural works within or close to the areas of ecologically sensitive sites must be carefully planned and managed so as not to compromise the integrity of these sites. Wastewater discharges, agriculture run-off, leachate from landfills and contaminated sites and nutrient input from forestry can all have detrimental effects on water quality resulting in subsequent impacts on biodiversity. Annex II species such as freshwater pearl mussel and salmon are particularly sensitive to pollution. The protection of shellfish growing areas from pollution is an issue of significant environmental concern within the electoral area. Certain development works on shorelines and floodplains and the associated infilling of wetlands is a potential environmental problem within the area.
- 3.3.15 The SEA has been informed by the findings of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and will include appropriate mapping highlighting important sites within the area. The SEA process has also been informed by the Ecological Baseline study commissioned by the Council.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Biodiversity

- 3.3.16 New development has the potential to impact on biodiversity, flora and fauna through the loss of some Greenfield land, habitat loss or disturbance, contribution to climate change and impacts on water quality.
- 3.3.17 The Council is commissioning a baseline ecological status report for some areas which will help inform the development of the new local area plan and minimise the loss of ecological resources.

Ecological Baseline Study for Main Towns in Blarney Macroom Municipal District

- 3.3.18 Habitat Mapping for the Blarney and Macroom Towns is ongoing however it was not completed in time to inform this Draft Plan. When completed the Draft Plan will be assessed against its findings and any changes required will be brought forward by way of Amendment to the Draft Plan.

3.4 Soils

3.4.1 The SEA examined soil issues within the Municipal District, looking at the most common soil types within the plan area and how they might be affected by the development proposed in the Draft Plan. The SEA considered the challenges facing soil generally together with issues such as erosion, geology and quarrying as appropriate.

3.4.2 The dominate soil type in the area are acid brown soils and gleys which provide a mix of productive and moderately productive soils enabling grassland and crop production with the main agricultural use being grassland and cereal crops.

Table 3.5 Blarney Macroom MD - Soil Types

Rolling Lowland	Acid Brown Earths 60% Most occur on lime-deficient parent materials, therefore acidic in nature, relatively mature and well drained	Grey-Brown Podzolics 40% Usually formed from calcareous parent material which counteracts the effects of leaching, can be light to heavy textured	Old Red Sandstone carboniferous limestone glacial till
Rolling Lowland	Brown Podzolics 60% Less depleted of nutrients than podzols, good physical characteristics.	Acid Brown Earths 40% Most occur on lime-deficient parent materials, therefore acidic in nature, relatively mature and well drained	Old Red Sandstone, lower avonian shale and rhyolite glacial till
Mountain and Hill	Peaty Podzols 75%	Climatic Peat and Lithosols 25%	Mostly Granite; Old red sandstone
Mountain and Hill	Reclaimed Podzols 75% Formed by leaching of nutrients (podzolisation process), acidic and poorly drained	Gleys 25% Developed under the influence of permanent or intermittent waterlogging, impervious with poor physical structure, unsuitable for cultivation or intensive grazing	Mostly Old Red Sandstone

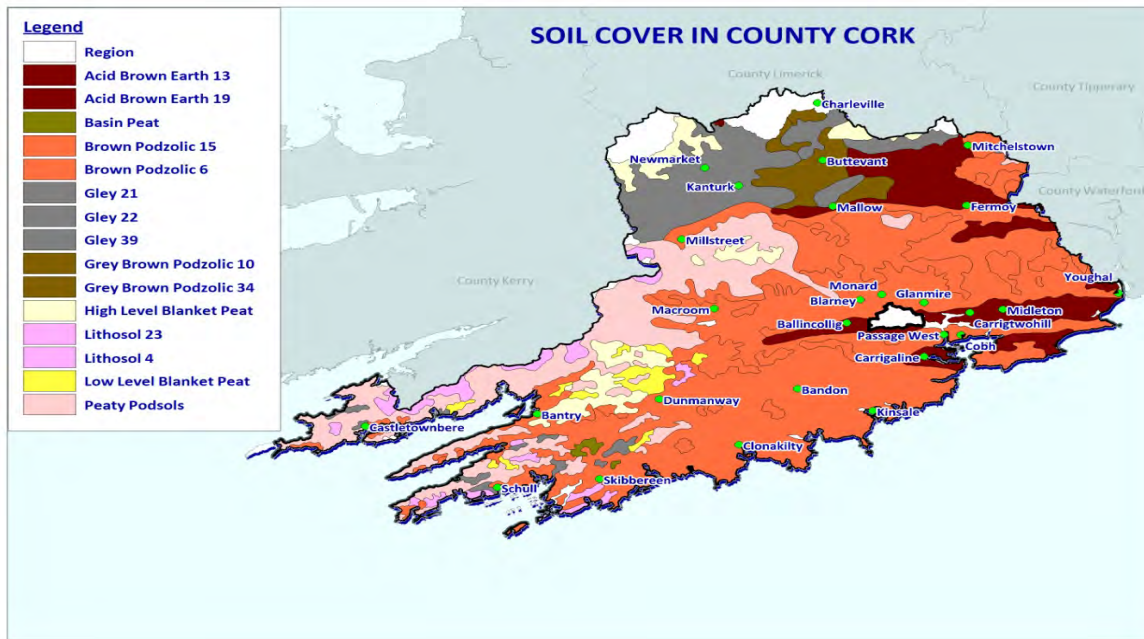


Figure 3.2 Soil Cover in County Cork

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Soil

4.5.3 Additional development may lead to damage to or loss of the soil resource or impact on its functions.

3.5 Water

3.5.1 This section of the SEA will consider issues in relation surface water (rivers and lakes, estuarine and coastal waters) and groundwater in the Municipal District as appropriate looking at the status and quality of these waters. The section will also examine water services infrastructure (drinking water supply, wastewater treatment and storm water).

3.5.2 Consideration was given to current and future loading within key water catchments, the potential impacts of additional development on water quality, surface water management, climate change and the need for new infrastructure to serve anticipated demands.

3.5.3 Water services of the all the infrastructure requirements needed to facilitate new development is the most critical, as in the absence of it, no development can take place. Since January 2014 Irish Water is responsible for the operation of public water services (drinking water and wastewater) including management and maintenance of existing water services assets. Those intending to carry out development must now obtain consent to connect to Irish Water Infrastructure for new development. Irish Water also has responsibility for planning for future infrastructure needs and for the delivery of new infrastructure and future decisions in relation to investment in new water services infrastructure will be made by Irish Water. Developers must also satisfy themselves that Irish Water will make adequate services available in order to meet the needs of any development they propose.

3.5.4 The Cork County Development Plan, 2014 and the new Municipal District Local Area Plans are important documents that Irish Water should take into account in formulating its plans and programmes. As part of the review of the Local Area Plans it is proposed to prepare a companion document outlining the Water Services Infrastructural Investment needs in each Municipal District.

3.5.5 So far as the villages are concerned, in many cases (see Table 3.7) the water services infrastructure needed to deliver the 2011 housing requirements is often not in place. In general the Councils approach to this, which is summarised in Table 3.6, is that where Irish Water already have water services infrastructure in a town or village then Irish Water will need to upgrade that infrastructure as necessary to meet the demands of current and future customers in the settlement.

Table 3.6 :Strategy for Water Services Provision		
Normally Expected level of Water Services		Policy Approach
Towns	Public Drinking Water and Waste Water Treatment	Adequate water services infrastructure to be prioritised.
Key villages		
Villages	Public Drinking Water	Adequate drinking water services infrastructure to be prioritised
	Public Waste Water Treatment	Adequate waste water treatment facilities to be prioritised for villages which already have some element of public infrastructure.
		For smaller villages where services are not available or expected, development will be limited to a small number of individual houses with their own treatment plant.
Village Nuclei	Public Drinking Water	Where already present, adequate drinking water services to be maintained. In the absence of public drinking water, individual dwellings may be permitted on the basis of private wells subject to normal planning and public health criteria.
	Public Waste Water Treatment	In these smaller settlements within no public services, it is proposed to limit development to a small number of individual houses with their own treatment plant.

3.5.6 Across the County as a whole the water services infrastructure needed to deliver the scale of growth envisaged by the County Development 2014 is often not in place. In general the Councils approach to this is that where Irish Water already have water services infrastructure in a town or village then Irish Water will need to up upgrade that infrastructure as necessary to meet the demands of current and future customers in the settlement.

3.5.7 Therefore, while the current water services infrastructure may not immediately be able to deliver the overall scale of growth set out in the LAP, the proposal is to retain the target with the expectation that the infrastructure will be delivered over time by Irish Water.

Table 3.7: Blarney-Macroon Municipal District – Proposed Scale of Development

Name	Existing Number of Houses Q1 2015 (Geo directory)	Outstanding Planning Permissions Q1 2015 (No. of houses)	Scale of Development (Drinking Water Status	Waste-Water Status
Main Towns (2)		-			
Blarney	-	-	2,566		
Macroon	-	-	468		
Total Main Towns			3,034		
Key Villages (7)					
Ballineen/Enniskeane	344	125	195		
Ballingeary	96	16	60		
Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney	260	12	45		
Coachford	181	102	116		
Grenagh	217	-	150		
Kilumney/ Ovens	476	241	251		
Tower	1161	120	182		
Total Key Villages			999		
Villages (15)					
Aherla	142	-	50		None
Aghabullogue	24	-	19		
Cloghduv	116	200	80		
Clondrohid	72	-	20		
Courtbrack	43	28	66	Private GWSS	None
Crookstown	92	27	40		
Crossbarry	116	19	75		None
Inchigeelagh	93	-	60		
Kilnamatryra	49	3	20		
Kilmurry	54	46	15		None
Model Village (Dripsey)	141	-	30		
Newcestown	24	-	15		None
Rylane/ Seiscne	70	28	40		
Stuake/ Donoughmore	11	6	20		None
Upper Dripsey	36	3	25		None
Total Villages			575		
Village Nuclei (26)					
Ballincurra/ Brinny	11	-	5	None	None
Ballinagree	18	1	15		
Bealnamorive	7	-	5	None	None
Berrings	32	-	16	Private GWSS	None
Canovee	-	-	3		None
Carrigadrohid/ Killinardish	24	-	5		None
Carriganimmy	12	-	5	None	None
Cloghroe	36	-	10		
Coolea	-	-	5		
Farnanes	20	1	5	None	None
Farnivane	6	-	5	None	None

Table 3.7: Blarney-Macroom Municipal District – Proposed Scale of Development

Name	Existing Number of Houses Q1 2015 (Geo directory)	Outstanding Planning Permissions Q1 2015 (No. of houses)	Scale of Development (Drinking Water Status	Waste-Water Status
Firmount	8	7	6		None
Fornaght	10	-	9		None
Kilbarry	2	5	3	None	None
Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross	-	-	5	None	None
Lissarda	14	-	5	None	None
Lower Dripsey	4	-	5		None
Matehy	4	1	4	None	None
Murragh	18	1	3		None
New Tipperary	12	-	5		None
Reenanerree	10	1	5	None	None
Rusheen	10	-	5	None	None
Toon Bridge	19	1	5	None	None
Tooms	8	-	5	None	None
Upton	7	-	3		None
Total Village Nuclei			147		
Overall Total			4,755		
Water Services Key	Irish Water Services in place with broadly adequate existing water services capacity.				
	Irish Water Services in place with limited or no spare water services capacity.				
	None – no existing Irish Water Services.				

Flooding

3.5.1 The assessment and management of flood risks in relation to planned future development is an important element of the local area plan. The majority of towns, villages and smaller settlements have a river or stream either running through the built-up area or close by and are inevitably exposed to some degree of flood risk when those rivers or streams overflow their normal course. Similarly, in coastal areas flooding can periodically occur following unusual weather or tidal events.

3.5.2 As part of the preparation of this Local Area Plan the Council has updated the flood zone mapping used in the 2011 Local Area Plans to take account of the information that has become available from the National CFRAM programme (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management), and other Flood Schemes undertaken by the OPW. In addition, flood risk mapping for rural areas, outside of settlements boundaries, is also now available and is being published simultaneously with this Draft Local Area Plan.

3.5.3 The Council's overall approach to Flood Risk Management is set out in Chapter 11 of the County Development Plan 2014 and intending developers should familiarise themselves with its provisions. In Council's approach to flood risk is to:

- Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding; and
- Where development in floodplains cannot be avoided, to take a sequential approach to flood risk management based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of risk.

- 3.5.4 A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of this plan, and all zoned lands in areas at risk of flooding have been reviewed. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is included in Volume 2 of this Plan and explains in detail the overall approach to flood risk management that has been followed. It is important to read this document in conjunction with Volume 1 of the plan.
- 3.5.5 Where development is proposed within an area at risk of flooding, either on land that is subject to a specific zoning objective, lands within the “existing built up area” of a town, within a development boundary of a village, or in the open countryside, then intending applicants need to comply with the provisions of Chapter 11 of the Cork County Development Plan 2014 and Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2, as appropriate, and with the provisions of the Ministerial Guidelines – ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management’.
- 3.5.6 Flood Zone Mapping for the rural parts of the Municipal District (i.e. outside of a settlement boundary) is also now available to view online, for information purposes, as part of the Local Area Plan Map Browser at www.corkcoco.ie.
- 3.5.7 Flood Zone Mapping for the rural parts of the Municipal District (i.e. outside of a settlement boundary) is also now available to view online, for information purposes, as part of the Local Area Plan Map Browser at www.corkcoco.ie.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Water

- 3.5.8 In terms of water services infrastructure within the Municipal District Table 3.7 details the current status of the water services infrastructure within the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. Additional investment will be required in some settlements in order to facilitate development in line with Core Strategy provisions of the County Development Plan 2014.

3.6 Air and Climatic Factors

- 3.6.1 The SEA for this Plan considered Air and Climatic Factors potentially affecting the plan area including air quality, noise, greenhouse gases etc.
- 3.6.2 Air quality is generally good in the County and Cork is located in an area with a relatively mild climate and has an almost continuous movement of clean air. Nationally, it is now evident that, due mainly to the very significant increase of vehicles on the public roads, the biggest threat now facing air quality in urban areas is emissions from road traffic. As the population grows and more development takes place emissions will rise.
- 3.6.3 Cork County and City Councils have prepared a joint Noise Action Plan which deals with the mitigation of noise within the Cork conurbation as well as along all national and some regional roads within the county. Common sources of noise within the County include road vehicles, aircraft, railways, industry, construction, commercial premises and entertainment venues, sports and recreation venues and windfarms.
- 3.6.4 Development Plans and Local Area Plans have an important role to play in the prevention and limitation of adverse noise effects and can ensure that conflicts do not occur between noise-generating and noise sensitive uses such as housing, hospitals, schools, places of worship etc., by guiding development to the right locations and where necessary, specifying design and layout solutions, planning authorities can limit the overall number of people exposed to potential noise effects.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Air and Climate

3.6.5 One of the key manifestations of climate change is flooding. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) has been undertaken as part of the preparation of this plan, and all zoned lands in areas at risk of flooding have been reviewed. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is included in Volume 2 of this Plan and explains in detail the overall approach to flood risk management that has been followed. It is important to read this document in conjunction with Volume 1 of the plan.

3.6.6

3.6.7 The Council has a body of information in relation to the areas that are at risk of flooding and will test the outputs of the proposed new local area plan against that information as part of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of the new plan as contained in this volume. The dispersed nature of the settlement patterns throughout the county results in high levels of car based commuting which contributes to the overall transport emissions which impacts on air quality.

3.7 Material Assets

3.7.1 The EPA SEA Process Draft Checklist (2008) defines material assets as the critical infrastructure essential for the functioning of society such as: electricity generation and distribution, water supply, wastewater treatment, transportation, etc. Water Supplies and Waste Water Treatment infrastructure will be dealt with under Water in Section 3.5. This section of the SEA will deal with other essential infrastructure within the plan area i.e. Transport (Road, Rail, Public Transport, airports, ports/ harbours) etc as appropriate and Waste.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Material Assets

3.7.2 Additional population and economic growth in the area is dependent on the provision of appropriate and sustainable water services and transport infrastructure to underpin sustainable growth. The Draft Plan has identified areas where additional investment is required in order to meet population growth targets.

3.8 Cultural Heritage

- 3.8.1 The SEA will consider Archaeological and Architectural Heritage. Cork County has a vast resource of archaeological heritage with over 19,000 monuments registered throughout the County. Figure 4.2 indicates the distribution of recorded monuments within the county. The County has the highest concentration of National Monuments (58 in total).
- 3.8.2 Within the network of settlements designated for growth, a number of towns are subject to zones of archaeological potential including Bandon, Buttevant, Clonakilty, Cobh, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Skibbereen and Youghal. Some of these towns are also walled towns and subject to recently released national policy and guidelines regarding “walled towns” (Youghal, Bandon, Kinsale & Buttevant).
- 3.8.3 County Cork has a wealth of industrial archaeology and this is protected through the archaeological record. Underwater Archaeology is now recognised as an important element of our cultural heritage. Given the coastal geography of County Cork and the significance role that some of the County’s coastal ports and towns played in historic events over the centuries there is very high potential for underwater cultural material in the form of shipwreck remains and associated artifacts. Some of the coastal towns may have been subject to reclamation and infrastructure may have been developed to facilitate the maritime landscape. Maritime artifacts such as quays, jetties, anchorages, access routes to the sea etc are all important cultural heritage resources

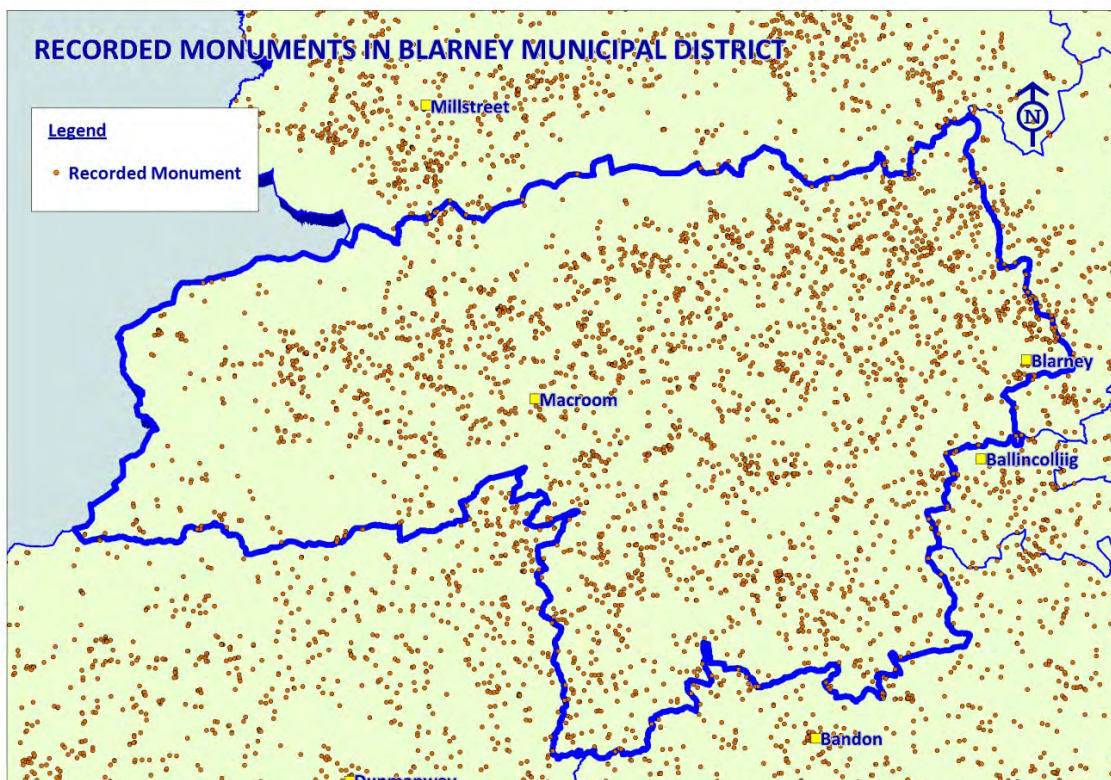


Figure 3.3: Recorded Monuments

- 3.8.4 In terms of Architectural Heritage, the Planning and Development Act sets out the requirements for County Development Plans to protect structures of “architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic,

cultural, scientific and technical interest” by including a Record of Protected Structures (RPS) or the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) to protect areas of townscape value. There are currently in excess of 1,400 structures on the RPS as part of the County Development Plan 2014 and a further 1,462 structures currently designated as part of the 9 Town Council Plans.

- 3.8.5 There are currently 53 structures on the Macroom Town Council RPS and 4 structures on the RPS within the development boundary of Blarney including the following: Blarney Catholic Church (00376), Blarney Bridge (00378), Blarney Woollen Mills (00383), and Blarney Church of Ireland Church (00384). There are four additions RPS located to the south of Blarney and outside the development boundary including the following Blarney Ornamental Tower (00379), Blarney Castle Country House (00380), Icehouse (00454), and Blarney Tower House & Bawn (00382).
- 3.8.6 Figure 3.4 illustrates the distribution of protected structures in the Blarney Macroom MD while Table 4.5 provides information at main town level.
- 3.8.7 There are 44 Architectural Conservation Areas designated within the County Development Plan 2014 (within a total of 26 towns) and all of the town councils contain 1 or more Architectural Conservation Areas within their boundaries.
- 3.8.8 The area of Blarney town centre and Blarney Castle Estate was designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) in the CDP 2014 and incorporates of core of Blarney Town and Blarney Castle. The ACA within Macroom is outlined on the Built Heritage Map within the Macroom Town Plan, 2009. It extends from New Street to the Bus Depot and takes in the areas of Castle Street, Market Square, North Square, South Square, Sleeveen Lane, and Main Street
- 3.8.9 Under the Planning Act it is an objective to protect the special character of an area which generally comprises of a collection of buildings and their setting and in many cases may include a historic demesne or park.

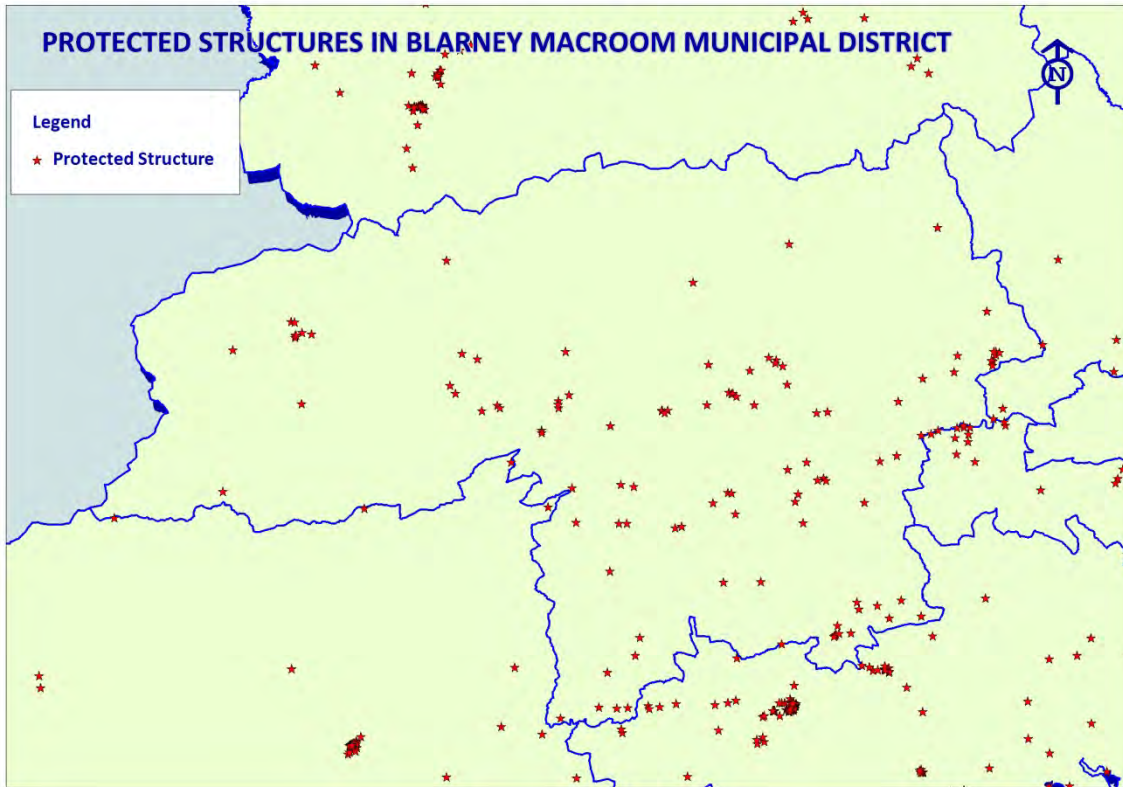


Figure 3.4: Protected Structures

Table 3.8 Blarney Macrooom Built Heritage Designations				
Settlement Name	ACA	RPS	NIAH (Buildings & Gardens)	Archaeology Source: www.archaeology.ie
Blarney	1	4 within the DB	24 (2 outside town)	4 sites (including historic town*)
Macrooom	1	53	Total 64 NIAH (1 of National Importance and 63 Regional Importance)	c. 25 sites in boundary

3.9 Landscape

3.9.1 The landscape sensitivity of the Blarney Macroom MD has been classified in accordance with Figure 4.5. The SEA will explore landscape issue as they relate to the Local Area Plan process in accordance with the policy set out in the County Development Plan.

Table 3.9 Landscape Character Assessment				
Landscape Character Types	Main Settlements located within LCT	LCT Value	LCT Sensitivity	LCT Importance
Type 10(a) Fissured Fertile Middleground	South of Gearagh	Low	Low	Local
Type 12a Rolling Marginal and Forested Middleground	(Ballyvourney Gaeltacht)	High	High	Local
Type 13a Valleyed Marginal Middleground	(Macroom and Environs)	High	High	County
Type 16a Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gougane Barra)	Glaciated and Forested Cradle Valley (Gougane Barra)	High	High	National

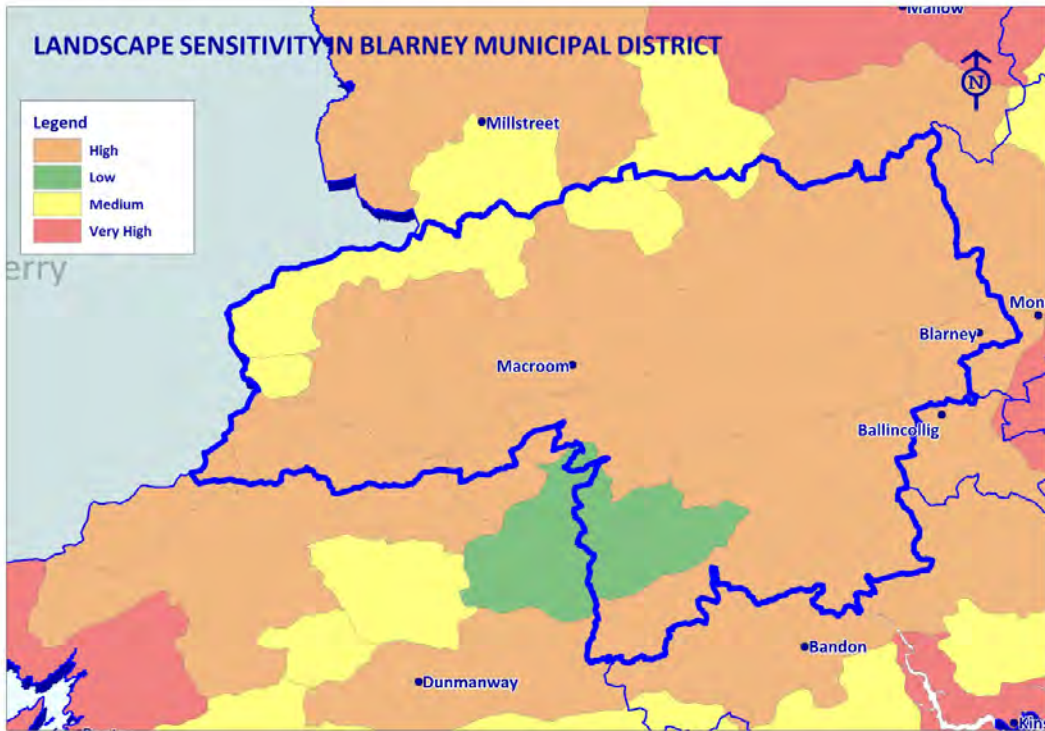


Figure 3.5: Landscape Sensitivity in Blarney Macroom MD

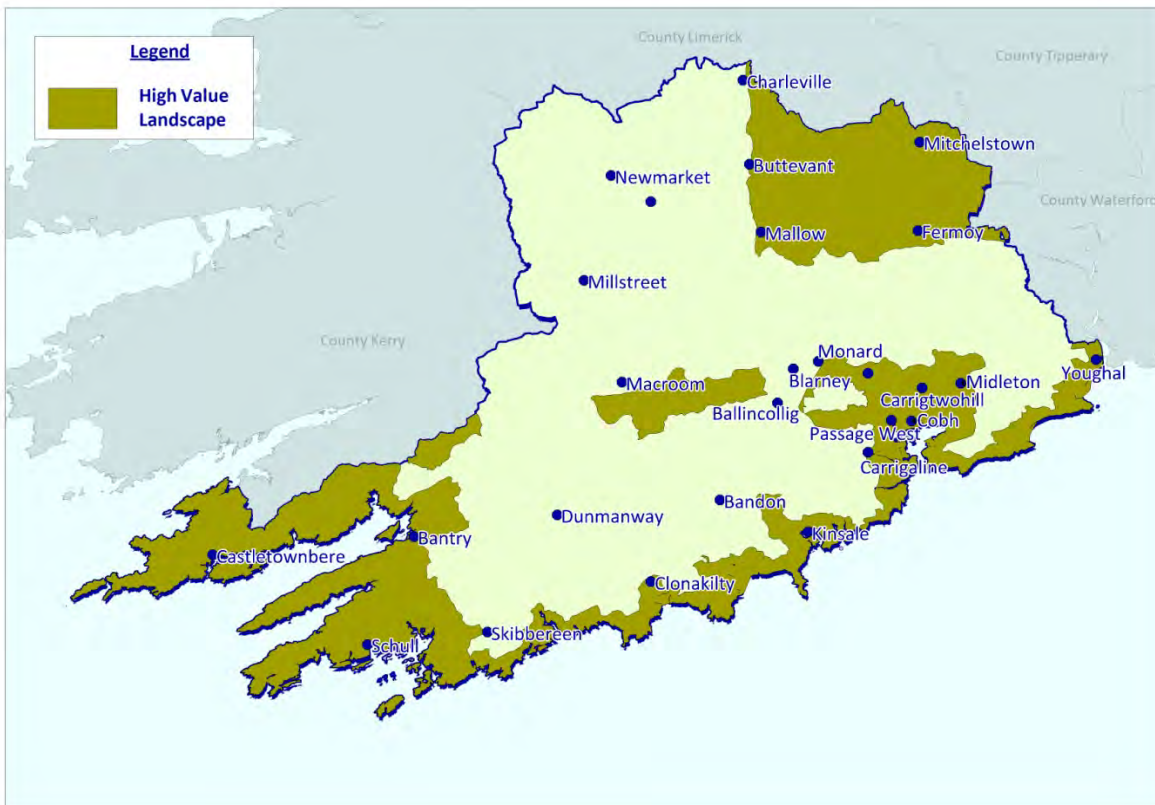


Figure 3.6: Landscape Value

Section 4: Environmental Protection Objectives

Sub-Section

- 4.1 Introduction
- 4.2 Population and Public Health
- 4.3 Biodiversity-Flora and Fauna
- 4.4 Soils
- 4.5 Water
- 4.6 Air Quality and Climatic Factors
- 4.7 Cultural Heritage
- 4.9 Landscape
- 4.8 Material Assets
- 4.9 Flooding

4 Environmental Protection Objectives

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 This section identifies the Strategic Environmental Protection Objectives used in the assessment of the Draft Plan. Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) are methodological measures against which the environmental effects of the Plan can be tested. If complied with in full, EPOs would result in an environmentally neutral impact from the implementation of the Plan. The EPOs are set out under a range of topics and are used as standards against which the provisions of the Plan can be evaluated in order to help identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, unless mitigated.
- 4.1.2 The SEA Directive requires that the evaluation of plans and programmes be focused upon the relevant aspects of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected. EPOs are developed from international, national and regional policies including various European Directives which have been transposed into Irish law and which are intended to be implemented within the County. The EPOs selected have also been informed by Table 4B of the SEA Guidelines (DEHLG, 2004), those used in the preparation of the current County Development Plan and the issues arising from the baseline assessment. The use of EPOs, although not a statutory requirement, does fulfil obligations set out in Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004).
- 4.1.3 The EPOs are linked to indicators which can facilitate monitoring the environmental effects of implementing the Plan when adopted, as well as to targets which the Plan can help work towards.

4.2 Population and Human Health

- 4.2.1 The impact of the Plan on the population and human health is potentially multifaceted as the plan interacts with all the environmental receptors. The plan guides physical land use and seeks to promote sustainable development, guiding the spatial distribution of population across the county. Key directives and policy documents relevant to population have been referenced earlier in this document and include the National Spatial Strategy, Regional Planning Guidelines, National Development Plan, Our Sustainable Future – A Framework for Sustainable Development in Ireland 2011-2016, Smarter Travel, Guidelines for Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, Sustainable Rural Housing, Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2005 etc.
- 4.2.2 The impact of the plan on human health will be influenced by nature, location and design of new development permitted under the plan and its impact on environmental factors like water quality, air quality, noise, landscape and in the long term on climatic factors. The EPOs, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.3 Biodiversity-Flora and Fauna

- 4.3.1 County Cork has a rich and diverse natural heritage which is described in the baseline section of this report (Chapter 3). Key directives and policy documents relevant to biodiversity, flora and fauna have been referenced earlier in this document and include the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC), the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC), UN Convention on Biological Diversity, the National Biodiversity Plan – Action for Biodiversity 2011-2016 and the County Biodiversity Action Plan 2009-2014. The EPOs,

Indicators and Targets set out in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.4 Soils

4.4.1 There is currently no legislation specific to protecting soil resources. Successive development plans have sought to protect and sustainably manage the soil resource of the county. The EPOs, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.5 Water

4.5.1 Water Quality is governed by a large body of legislation and is subject to regular monitoring. As discussed in Chapter 3, the Water Framework Directive has introduced a new approach to water protection. The current baseline status of waters in Cork is varied (see Chapter 3) and the improvement of less than good water quality status is a priority for the future. Key directives and policy documents relevant to water have been referenced earlier in this document and include the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) and Groundwater Quality Directive 2006/118/EC. The EPO, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.6 Air Quality and Climate Factors

4.6.1 The main impacts on air quality are likely to arise from traffic emissions and noise from traffic and other sources. The land use policies of the plan affect the journeys people make every day to work, school, shopping or for leisure purposes etc. At present approximately 90% of journeys to work within the county are made by the private car. The transport sector is also a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions. Key directives and policy documents relevant to Air/ Climate change include Directive 96/62/EC – Air Quality Framework Directive, the Kyoto Protocol and the National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012) and Climate Change Adaption Framework 2012. The EPO, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.7 Cultural Heritage

4.7.1 Cork has a rich architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage. Key directives, legislation and policy documents relevant to cultural heritage include the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2013, National Monuments Acts, National Heritage Plan 2000 and the Framework & Principles for the Protection of Archaeological Heritage (DAHGI 1999). The EPO, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.8 Landscape

- 4.8.1 The European Landscape Convention was signed in 2000 and came into force in Ireland in 2004. The European Landscape Convention aims to promote the protection, management and planning of European landscapes and to organise European co-operation on landscape issues. The Convention highlights the importance and need for public involvement in the development of landscapes. It encourages a joined up approach through policy and planning in all areas of land-use, development and management, including the recognition of landscape in law and is the first international treaty to be exclusively concerned with the protection, management and enhancement of the European landscape. The Convention covers natural, rural, urban and peri-urban areas. It deals with ordinary and degraded landscapes as well as those of outstanding beauty.
- 4.8.2 The preparation of a National Landscape Strategy is underway since 2011 but has yet to be completed. A Draft Landscape Strategy for County Cork was prepared in 2008 and identifies landscapes in the county in terms of their Character, Value, Sensitivity and Importance and includes recommendations on balancing development and change with landscape protection. Once the National Landscape Strategy is finalised the County Strategy will need to be reviewed and completed.
- 4.8.3 The EPOs, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.9 Material Assets

- 4.9.1 Material Assets, for the purposes of SEA, comprises the infrastructure the population needs for the functioning of society and includes roads, transport, water services, energy and telecommunications infrastructure, the building stock of the county, production facilities (factories etc), green infrastructure (parks open spaces, recreational facilities etc.). Large infrastructural installations have the potential to have significant effects on the environment, both during its construction/ development stage and during its use and operation. Such projects will generally require EIA as part of the planning process which would evaluate such impacts and introduce mitigation measures where necessary to minimise any negative environmental effects. The EPO, Indicators and Targets in Table 4.1 have been identified having regard to the policy context and the environmental baseline described in Section 3.

4.10 Flooding

- 4.10.1 In order to meet the needs of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and the requirements of the Department Guidelines “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” the Draft Local Area Plan has been subject to flood risk assessment procedures. Government Guidelines require, and it is an objective of this plan, that future development is avoided in areas indicated as being at risk of flooding. More detailed information on the approach to flooding and how development proposals in areas at risk of flooding have been assessed is given in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report contained in Volume 2 Environmental Reports, of the Draft Plan.

Table 4.1; List of Environmental Protection Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
<p>Population (P)</p> <p>EPO 1: To ensure the sustainable development of area so people have the opportunity to live in communities with high quality residential, working and recreational environments with sustainable travel patterns.</p>	<p>Deliver on the population target for the Municipal District, especially in the main towns.</p> <p>Promote the economic development of the area.</p> <p>Co-ordinate new housing development and the delivery of social and community infrastructure</p> <p>Decrease journey time and distance travelled to work during the lifetime of the plan.</p> <p>All large scale housing development to be accompanied by a Design Statement.</p>	<p>Significant increase in the population of the main towns.</p> <p>Distance and mode of transport to work/ school.</p>
<p>Human Health (HH)</p> <p>EPO 2: To protect and enhance human health and manage hazards or nuisances arising from traffic & incompatible land uses.</p>	<p>Avoid incompatible development nears SEVESO sites or IPPC licensed sites</p> <p>Ensure new development is well served with community facilities and facilitates including walking and cycling routes.</p>	<p>No of planning permissions granted within the consultation distance of Seveso sites/IPPC facilities.</p> <p>No of new primary health care/schools/crèches/ community facilities provided.</p> <p>Amount of (Km) new cycleways provided.</p>
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna (BFF)</p> <p>EPO 3: Throughout the county, conserve and restore ecosystems, habitats and species in their natural surroundings, and ensure their sustainable management, including the ecological corridors between them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the favourable conservation status of all habitats and species, especially those protected under national and international legislation. • Implement the actions of the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan. • Establishment of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County • Protect habitats from invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments receiving planning permission within designated sites or within the consultation distance of designated sites where the HDA process identified potential for impacts. • Reduction in the quantum of greenfield land in the county as measured by the increase in the amount of brownfield land associated with each settlement and the no. of one off houses

Table 4.1; List of Environmental Protection Objectives, Targets and Indicators		
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
		<p>being built in the countryside.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of actions achieved in Biodiversity Action Plan • Progress on Green Infrastructure strategy
<p>Soil (S)</p> <p>EPO 4: Protect the function and quality of the soil resource in the West Cork Municipal District</p>	<p>Reduce the use of greenfield land by encouraging the reuse of brownfield sites.</p> <p>Encourage sustainable extraction of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits and the reuse and recycling of construction and demolition waste.</p>	<p>No of brownfield sites that have been redeveloped.</p> <p>Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled.</p> <p>Reduction in number of vacant and derelict buildings.</p>
<p>Water (W)</p> <p>EPO 5: Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and improve the management and sustainable use of these resources to comply with the requirements of the WFD.</p>	<p>To achieve 'good' status in all bodies of surface waters (lakes rivers, transitional and coastal waters).</p> <p>Achieve compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC (protection of groundwater).</p> <p>Not to permit development where it would result in a WWTP exceeding the terms of its discharge license.</p> <p>Encourage future population growth in areas served by urban waste water treatment plants and public water supplies.</p>	<p>Trends in classification of overall status of surface water under Surface Water Regulations 2009 (SI No 272 of 2009)</p> <p>Trends in Classification of Bathing Waters as set by Directive 2006/7/EC.</p> <p>Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC.</p> <p>No of households served by urban waste water treatment plants/ septic tanks/ individual WWTP or other systems.</p> <p>No of households served by public water supplies.</p> <p>% of water unaccounted for.</p>
<p>Air Quality and Climate Factors (AQ/C)</p> <p>EPO 6: Protect and improve air quality.</p>	<p>Ensure air quality monitoring results are maintained within appropriate emission limits.</p> <p>Increase modal shift in favour of public transport, walking and cycling.</p> <p>Encourage production and</p>	<p>Trends in Air Quality monitoring data.</p> <p>Percentage of population travelling to work by public transport, walking or cycling.</p> <p>No of wind turbines permitted.</p>

Table 4.1; List of Environmental Protection Objectives, Targets and Indicators		
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
EPO 7: Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	<p>use of renewal energy.</p> <p>Encourage energy efficiency in building design and construction.</p> <p>Provide flood protection measures where appropriate.</p> <p>Avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood risk.</p>	No of developments permitted within areas at risk of flooding.
Cultural Heritage (CH) EPO 8: Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage (including Gaeltachtaí) in County Cork.	<p>No loss of or adverse impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments (RMP).</p> <p>No loss of or adverse impact on the architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures.</p> <p>No loss of or adverse impact on structures recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage.</p> <p>Implement the Cork County Heritage Plan</p>	<p>Loss of or adverse impact on monuments on the Record of Monuments (RMP).</p> <p>Loss of or adverse impact on protected structures included on the RPS or structures included on the NIAH.</p>
Landscape (L) EPO 9: Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in County Cork.	No large scale development permitted in areas of high landscape value.	Number of large scale developments permitted in areas of high landscape value.
Material Assets (MA) EPO 10: Make best use of the material assets of the area and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure to provide for the current and future needs of the population.	<p>Develop the road, rail and public transport infrastructure of the county to facilitate sustainable growth and travel patterns.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate water services infrastructure is delivered in areas targeted for population growth.</p> <p>Protect and optimise the use of the existing building stock.</p> <p>Facilitate the sustainable</p>	New critical infrastructural projects completed (projects identified by the CDP).

Table 4.1; List of Environmental Protection Objectives, Targets and Indicators

Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
	<p>expansion of production facilities to enable economic growth and create new employment opportunities.</p> <p>Protect and enhance green infrastructure.</p> <p>Protect existing recreational facilities and green infrastructure.</p>	
<p>Flooding (F) EPO 11: Protect flood plains and areas at risk of flooding from inappropriate development.</p>	<p>No inappropriate development permitted in areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>All applications in areas at risk to be accompanied by detailed a flood risk assessment.</p>	<p>Number and nature of developments permitted in areas at risk</p>

Section 5: Alternatives

Sub-Section

- 5.1 Introduction
- 5.2 SEMPre
- 5.3 Description of Alternative Plan Scenarios
- 5.4 Evaluation of Alternative Scenarios
- 5.5 The Preferred Scenario

5 Alternatives

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The SEA Directive and Regulations require the Environmental Report to consider 'reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and geographical scope of the plan or programme' and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives selected. The alternatives must be reasonable and capable of implementation within the statutory and operational requirements of the Plan.

5.1.2 Three alternative scenarios have been considered during the drafting process for the preparation of the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan. Each scenario was prepared having regard to Ministerial Guidelines, the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South West Region, including its population targets, and the key aims of the County Development Plan 2014. Any scenario that runs counter to these higher level plans would not be reasonable and has not been considered as part of the Environmental Assessment process.

5.2 SEMPRe

5.2.1 The SEMPRe Settlement Sustainability project for Cork was completed in 2013. The study involved a detailed analysis of the sustainability of the 26 main towns in County Cork using Sustainability Evaluation Metric for Policy Evaluation (SEMPRe) which is an indicator based method of sustainability measurement. The study identified the relative sustainability of the 26 main towns using a series of 25 sustainable indicators, (Table 5-2) of which 5 were identified as key performance indicators (measure significant aspects of sustainability). Each settlement was assessed and awarded a score out of 100, enabling settlements to be ranked in terms of relative sustainability. The Sustainable Development Index (SDI) scores for the 26 main settlements in Cork are detailed in Table 5-1 and are organised into 3 categories. It can be observed that in general, larger settlements are more sustainable and as distance from Cork city increases, settlement sustainability decreases:

- Category 1 settlements have the highest SDI results,
- Category 2 have intermediate SDI results, and
- Category 3 has the lowest SDI results.

Table 5.1: Settlement Sustainable Development Indicators

Infrastructure and location
Infrastructural capacity for settlement expansion**
Connected to gas distribution network
Index of recycling facilities
Proportion of households with broadband internet
Presence of farmers markets
Water and wastewater
Water quality of water bodies
Wastewater treatment spare capacity
Unaccounted for water
Populated area at risk of flooding**
Urban wastewater treatment status
Population and urban form
Planned population density **
Proportion of population unemployed
Proportion of population with 3 rd level education
Housing vacancy rate
Distance to nearest largest retail centre
Transport and energy
Average transport CO ₂
Settlement walkability
Number of public transport services/1000 population**
Average household heating CO ₂
Proportion of population travelling to work by private car
Livability
Distance to nearest acute hospital**
Tidy Towns points score
SAC, SPA, HA within 5km of settlement
Distance to nearest park, nature reserve or wildlife park
Presence of 24 hour Garda station
** key performance indicators

Table 5.2: Main Towns Sustainable Settlement Ranking

Settlement	SDI Score 2013	Category	Population 2011
Ballincollig	62.8	1	17,368
Blarney	61.5	1	2,437
Carrigaline	57.2	1	14,775
Carrigtwohill	56.8	1	4,551
Midleton	54.9	1	12,001
Cobh	54.8	1	12,347
Bandon	54.5	1	6,640
Mallow	53.6	1	11,605
Glanmire	53.5	1	8,924
Bantry	53.1	1	3,348
Clonakilty	50.3	2	4,721
Kinsale	50.3	2	4,893
Fermoy	49.6	2	6,489
Passage West	48.6	2	5,709
Macroom	46.7	2	3,879
Buttevant	46.1	2	945
Schull	43.8	2	658
Mitchelstown	42.8	2	3,677
Charleville	41.1	3	3,646
Newmarket	41.0	3	988
Skibbereen	39.2	3	2,670
Youghal	38.2	3	7,794
Dunmanaway	37.8	3	1,585
Castletownbere	37.7	3	912
Millstreet	36.7	3	1,574
Kanturk	35.3	3	2,263

5.2.2 In general Category 1 settlements are relatively large in terms of population size and are located in relatively close proximity to Cork city. Category 1 settlements benefit from economies of scale in terms of infrastructure and services. All settlements in the County Metropolitan Strategic Planning Area are Category 1 settlements with the exception of Passage West which falls into Category 2. Category 1 settlements outside of the Metropolitan SPA are: Mallow, Bandon and Bantry.

5.2.3 Category 2 settlements generally have smaller population sizes and are more peripheral relative to Cork City. Certain settlements such as Schull and Buttevant have population sizes of less than 1,000 persons and peripheral locations yet fall into the intermediate sustainability category.

- 5.2.4 Category 3 settlements are the least sustainable (with an average SDI of 38.4) and range in population size from Castletownbere (912 persons) to Youghal (7,794 persons) with an average of 2,682 persons. In general category 3 settlements are smaller settlements sited in more peripheral locations relative to Cork city, and are mainly located in the North and West Strategic Planning areas.
- 5.2.5 The score each town receives is determined by how the town measures up in relation to the indicators used in the study which were arrived at following consultation with a range of stakeholders. Indicators chosen were limited by data availability and applicability at the spatial scale of individual towns and it is acknowledged that the use of different indicators may yield different results. The lack of public transport provision and the high reliance on the private car as a means of travelling to work means that most settlements score poorly in terms of transportation while those with an older housing stock score poorly in terms of energy due to higher household heating CO2 emissions. Proximity to the city influenced two indicators (proximity to large retail centre and an acute hospital) so for some towns their sustainability automatically decreases with distance from the city. A sample of potential measures for enhancing the sustainability of these settlements is set out in Appendix A. The study has informed the consideration of alternative scenarios for development in the formulation of the Draft Plan.

5.3 Description of Alternative Plan Scenarios

- 5.3.1 Blarney Macroom MD has an extensive urban structure comprising towns and villages. The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan provide for the development of 2 main towns and 55 smaller settlements, the open countryside and a number of specialist locations with specific industrial/ tourism functions e.g. Blarney and Macroom. Table 3.7 show the network of settlements provided for within the current Draft Blarney – Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan.
- 5.3.2 Successive County Development Plan strategies have sought to encourage balanced growth across the county to sustain the economies and service levels of the main towns and villages and the key aims of the Draft Plan support the continuation of this approach, seeking sustainable patterns of growth in urban and rural areas.
- 5.3.3 The Regional Planning Guidelines support this balanced approach to development in order to maintain vibrant rural communities with an equal level of urban and rural growth. The population targets set out in Regional Planning Guidelines distribute the population growth target for the SW Region to the Cork Gateway (including Metropolitan Cork), the Greater Cork Area, equivalent to the CASP Ring, the Northern Area which includes North Cork and parts of North and East Kerry, and the Western Area which includes West Cork and South and West Kerry. Targets for the North and West Areas have been allocated between Cork and Kerry in their respective County Development Plan strategies.
- 5.3.4 The scenarios considered in preparing this Draft Plan have therefore been prepared in this context. The overall level of growth allocated to each Municipal District is the same for each scenario, in line with targets of the Core Strategy in the County Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines. The scenarios look at options for development within each MD. Scenarios which would be inconsistent with this approach, by focusing more growth on one MD over another for example, have not been considered.

Scenario 1: Public Transport

- 5.3.5 This scenario seeks to focus development within Metropolitan Cork within the city suburbs in the first instance and then along a north/ south public transport corridor between Blarney /Cork City/Ballincollig to facilitate greater use of public transport infrastructure and underpin additional investment in public transport services. In the Greater Cork Ring, Strategic Planning Area the scenario focuses a greater proportion of development in a smaller number of settlements to enhance the viability of bus based inter-urban public transport services. Under this scenario the potential for growth is still dispersed over the entire settlement network but a greater proportion of the growth is focused on a smaller number of locations.
- 5.3.6 Within Metropolitan Cork this scenario looks at directing higher levels of growth to the environs of the City and the towns along the Midleton- Cork City – Ballincollig transport corridor. Growth would involve development of brownfield and greenfield areas and would need a proactive planning approach to secure its delivery. This strategy would also ensure that more people are able to live closer to the employment opportunities offered by the metropolitan area. This strategy would also give rise to increased demand for supporting infrastructure and services within the metropolitan area, supporting the strategy for growth in the city.
- 5.3.7 The second phase of growth would concentrate development increasingly along a west east corridor, from Ballincollig - Cork City – Blarney. High density development, both residential and employment related would be encouraged along the route corridor, on brownfield and greenfield lands.
- 5.3.8 Very little growth has been allocated to the rural area under this scenario. It is anticipated that the reduced growth targets for the rural areas combined with a revised approach to managing rural housing, would serve to further consolidate growth in those areas along the preferred public transport corridors.
- 5.3.9 In the Greater Cork Ring, this scenario concentrates growth in fewer settlements.
- 5.3.10 In summary, within the Blarney- Macroom Municipal District, this scenario concentrates growth in fewer settlements, with most of the growth directed towards Blarney and Macroom with the aim of delivering a sufficient critical mass of population in these towns so as to justify further investments in primarily rail and bus based public transport around the county and growth in rural areas is curtailed.

Environmental Impacts of Scenario 1

- 5.3.11 Scenario One allocates some growth to every settlement in the network and to villages and rural areas, while seeking to concentrate a greater proportion of the growth in a smaller number of settlements. Many of these settlements have inadequate drinking water supply and/or waste water treatment infrastructure, and significant public investment in infrastructure will be required to enable such development to take place. Such investment is essential to accommodate the growth and mitigate impacts on water quality, human health etc. This dispersed pattern of growth will generally give rise to some cumulative impacts on ground and surface water quality, heritage, landscape and biodiversity and will lead to increased levels of environmental effects associated with additional commuting such as increased energy consumption, emissions to air, road traffic noise etc.
- 5.3.12 In those areas where more intense levels of growth are promoted, there is greater potential for negative environmental impacts on soil, air quality, biodiversity and landscape. Such impacts can however be managed by adherence to good practice guidance and procedures in development management. Intense development in some areas would also be balanced with lower development pressures in other areas, particularly the villages and rural areas which will lead to less pressure on biodiversity, groundwater resources, flora and fauna etc. and the general rural amenities of the county.

5.3.13 Investment in infrastructure in the main growth centres can be more targeted, potentially leading to better quality provision/ design solutions/ economies of scale.

5.3.14 Within the main growth areas, the correlation between population growth and public transport infrastructure will have a neutral to positive environmental impact particularly on air quality, climatic factors and human health due to the reduction in the need to travel and road traffic emissions. The concentration of population within the built up area of the city and its environs might also encourage a greater proportion of people to consider a move to other modes of transport such as walking and cycling with positive benefits on human health, air quality etc.

Planning Effects of Scenario One

5.3.15 While the settlement pattern for the county remains dispersed, overall commuting should decrease as a greater proportion of population growth is accommodated in the main settlements where public transport is available, reducing commuting distances and car dependency with associated positive benefits for the population.

5.3.16 The concentration of growth in the manner proposed by this strategy may lead to reduced levels of investment in the other areas which may have negative impacts on quality of life and the quality of the urban environment if there are higher levels of vacancy. The reduced population targets for towns outside the corridor may also hinder their ability to secure investment in waste water infrastructure in the future if there are lower levels of population and employment growth.

5.3.17 Dispersed settlement pattern means limited resources for infrastructural investment have to be spread over a large number of settlements, leading to deficiencies in the level of service provided with potential for negative impacts on the environment (most likely in the area of waste water treatment and water quality). The reduced population targets for towns outside the corridor may also hinder their ability to secure investment in waste water infrastructure in the future if there are lower levels of population and employment growth.

Table 5.3: Scenario 1: Public Transport - Population Targets

	Census Population 2011	CDP 2014 2022 Target Population	Scenario 1 Population Target 2022	Scenario 1 Population Growth 2011 - 2022
Blarney Macroom MD				
Blarney	2,437	7,533	8,000	5563
Macroom	3,879	4,536	4,536	657
Total Main Towns	6,316	12,069	12,536	6220
Villages and Rural	37,082	37,904	37,437	355
Total Blarney Macroom	43,398	49,973	49,973	6575

Scenario 2: Employment Towns

- 5.3.18 This strategy continues to focus the greatest proportion of population growth to the Metropolitan Area which is the employment focus for the Cork City Gateway. This approach is similar to the planning strategy adopted in the previous County Development Plan.
- 5.3.19 Within the Cork Ring the growth strategy is adjusted to focus higher levels of growth in a fewer number of settlements where accessibility to good roads infrastructure is available and these towns can perform an important sub-regional focus. This is offset by lower levels of growth in the remaining Ring Towns.
- 5.3.20 This Scenario looks at employment-led growth which focuses development in key locations where employment growth is more likely to be delivered and differs from previous Plan strategies which spread growth more evenly across all the Main Settlements.
- 5.3.21 In summary, within the Blarney Macroom MD this scenario focuses growth in Blarney with reduced growth targets in Macroom. This takes account of the proposed employment policies of the Plan. This approach reinforces the important regional employment focus allocated to Blarney as part of the Metropolitan Gateway in the CDP and acknowledges the existing role Macroom plays as an employment centre serving a wider hinterland area.

Environmental Impacts Scenario Two

- 5.3.22 Scenario Two allocates growth across the full settlement network, while seeking to concentrate a greater proportion of the growth in a smaller number of settlements where economic/employment growth may be more easily achieved. Many of these settlements have inadequate drinking water supply and/or waste water treatment infrastructure, and significant public investment in infrastructure will be required to enable such development to take place. Such investment is essential to accommodate the growth and mitigate impacts on water quality, human health etc. This dispersed pattern of growth will generally give rise to some cumulative impacts on ground and surface water quality, heritage, landscape and biodiversity and will lead to increased levels of environmental effects associated with additional commuting such as increased energy consumption, emissions to air, road traffic noise etc.
- 5.3.23 This scenario concentrates economic growth and employment growth in a smaller number of settlements, making them more self sufficient. This could potentially have negative impacts on soil, air quality, biodiversity and landscape but these impacts can be mitigated by implementing good proactive in development management and would be balanced with lower development pressures in other areas, particularly the villages and rural areas with less pressure on the water quality, biodiversity, landscape etc. in these areas. In addition more people will have the opportunity to work locally and possible switch to walking or cycling modes, thus reducing travel distances, traffic volumes and traffic emissions within positive benefits to air quality, climatic factors and human health.
- 5.3.24 The concentration of growth in the manner proposed by this strategy may lead to reduced levels of investment in the other areas which may have negative impacts on quality of life and the quality of the urban environment if there are higher levels of vacancy and reduced employment opportunities at these locations. The reduced population targets for towns outside the designated employment nodes may also hinder their ability to secure investment in waste water infrastructure in the future if there are lower levels of population and employment growth.

Planning Impacts

- 5.3.25 The concentration of growth in the manner proposed by this strategy will strengthen the economic position of these towns chosen as the main growth centres, underpinning further investment and making them more attractive places to live. The strategy may also lead to reduced levels of investment

in the other areas which may have negative impacts on quality of life and the quality of the urban environment of those areas if there are higher levels of vacancy and reduced employment opportunities at these locations. The reduced population targets for some towns may also hinder their ability to secure investment in waste water infrastructure in the future if there are lower levels of population and employment growth.

- 5.3.26 Lower levels of development in the rural areas will help conserve the landscape and amenity of those areas, potentially making it more attractive for visitors.

Table 5.4: Scenario 2: Employment Towns - Population Targets				
	Census Population 2011	CDP 2014 2022 Target Population	Scenario 2 Population Target 2022	Scenario 2 Population Growth 2011 - 2022
Blarney Macroom MD				
Blarney	2,437	7,533	8,500	6463
Macroom	3,879	4,536	4,200	321
Total Main Towns	6,316	12,069	12,700	6784
Villages and Rural	37,082	37,904	37,273	191
Total East	43,398	49,973	49,973	6975

Scenario 3: Balanced Growth

5.3.27 In this scenario, significant growth is allocated across the main settlements with lower levels of growth in the villages and rural areas. The principle strength of this scenario lies in the balanced approach allowing for the majority of growth to take place in the main settlements but at the same time allowing for continued, more modest growth in the villages and rural areas, continuing to support the economies of these areas to underpin local services and quality of life. The pattern of population distribution in this scenario is more dispersed than in the other scenarios as it seeks to support all the main towns. However this is balanced with an employment strategy which seeks to bring people and jobs closer together either in the same settlement or by high quality transport links connecting settlements together.

5.3.28 In summary, within the Blarney Macroom MD, the majority of the growth is assigned to Blarney with more modest growth in the other main town of Macroom. Additional growth is also allocated to the villages and rural areas.

Environmental Impacts

5.3.29 The concentration of both population and employment growth in the main urban areas of the County would serve to reduce commuting patterns as more people would be afforded greater opportunities to live closer to their places of employment and/or travel using high quality public transport links. Such an approach would have a positive environmental effect by serving to reduce CO2 emissions and would enhance people's quality of life.

5.3.30 Focusing population growth across the settlement network will necessitate significant investment in water services infrastructure.

5.3.31 While allowing for growth in rural areas, this scenario will result in some negative impacts on the environment. It is unlikely that developments in rural area will be connected to public wastewater

treatment networks. While not as significant on their own, the cumulative impact of rural development could have significant negative impacts both on biodiversity and particularly on water quality.

- 5.3.32 This scenario would still give rise to the growth of rural housing outside the settlement network which would contribute to further unsustainable commuting patterns and increased car dependency.

Planning Impacts

- 5.3.33 In common with the other scenarios, this scenario has a strong urban influence. It sets out population targets for the main settlements that, while ambitious, will ultimately help them perform their function as the primary growth centres in the county.
- 5.3.34 The scenario also recognises that there is a demand for growth in rural areas and provides for some additional growth in the key villages and lower order settlements in rural areas. Facilitating population growth in these areas would in turn encourage the retention of services in these locations. The scale of growth envisaged however is not of a scale that would serve to undermine the growth of the main urban centres in the county.

Table 5.5: Scenario 3: Balanced Growth - Population Targets				
	Census Population 2011	CDP 2014 2022 Target Population	Scenario 3 Population Target 2022	Scenario 3 Population Growth 2011 - 2022
Blarney Macroom MD				
Blarney	2,437	7,533	7,533	5,096
Macroom	3,879	4,536	4,536	657
Total Main Towns	6,316	12,069	12,069	5,753
Villages and Rural	37,082	37,904	37,904	822
Total East	43,398	49,973	49,973	6575

5.4 Evaluation of Alternative Scenarios

- 5.4.1 The evaluation of the three proposed alternative scenarios for their respective impacts on the environment was undertaken utilising the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) specifically developed to protect, maintain, conserve or restore environmental elements within the Municipal District. Each scenario was assessed as to whether it was likely to have a positive, negative, uncertain or neutral impact on the EPO's. The EPO's against which the three scenarios were assessed are set out in Section 4, Table 4.1 and are outlined below together with a matrix assessment of each scenario.
- 5.4.2 All scenarios are assessed on the basis **that appropriate water services infrastructure will be available to cater for growth and development will not be permitted in the absence of this critical infrastructure.**

EPO Reference number	Table 5.6: Environmental Objectives
EPO 1	To ensure the sustainable development of Cork County so the people of Cork have the opportunity to live in communities with high quality residential, working and recreational environments with sustainable travel patterns.
EPO 2	To protect and enhance human health and manage hazards or nuisances arising from traffic and incompatible land uses.
EPO 3	Throughout the county, conserve and restore ecosystems, habitats and species in their natural surroundings, and ensure their sustainable management, including the ecological corridors between them.
EPO 4	Protect the function and quality of the soil resource in County Cork
EPO 5	Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and improve the management and sustainable use of these resources to comply with the requirements of the WFD.
EPO 6	Protect and improve air quality.
EPO 7	Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change
EPO 8	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage (including Gaeltachtaí) in County Cork.
EPO 9	Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in County Cork.
EPO 10	Make best use of the material assets of the county and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure to provide for the current and future needs of the population.
EPO 11	Protect flood plains and areas at risk of flooding from inappropriate development.

5.5 The Preferred Scenario

- 5.5.1 The Planning Acts require that a Local Area Plan must be consistent with the objectives of the development plan, its core strategy and any regional spatial and economic strategy that applies to the area. This makes the consideration of alternative scenarios more difficult and the key parameters have already been determined. The provisions of the core strategy imply that higher level plans are the ones where the strategic alternative scenarios need to be considered and subjected to rigorous environmental assessment.
- 5.5.2 Given the parameters established by the Regional Planning Guidelines and the extensive nature of the designated settlement network within the county, the alternatives considered in preparing the draft plan are all rather similar in promoting balanced development across the county and have relatively similar impacts.
- 5.5.3 Scenario 3 is the one that places the most emphasis on building on what has already been achieved within the county in terms of supporting the network of settlements, the established employment areas while continuing to support the development of villages and rural areas and it is therefore the preferred scenario, giving the most positive interaction for most of the population with EPO 1. Scenarios 1 and 2 in promoting a more focused development pattern would inevitably lead to the decline and contraction of some of the other towns, villages and rural areas resulting in the loss of economic opportunities in those areas, reduced investment and an overall reduction in the quality of life for the people living in those areas.

Table 5.7: Alternative Scenarios interaction with Environmental Protection Objectives

	Positive Interaction with status of EPOs	Negative Interaction with status of EPOs	Uncertain Interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral Interaction with status of EPOs
Scenario 1	EPO 2, 6, 7, 10	EPO1 3, 5		EPO 4, 8, 9
Scenario 2	EPO 2, 6, 7, 10	EPO 1, 3, 5		EPO 4, 8, 9
Scenario 3	EPO 1, 2, 6, 7, 10			EPO 3, 4, 5, 8, 9

Section 6: Evaluation of the Draft Local Area Plan

Sub-Section

- 6.1 Introduction
- 6.2 Evaluation
- 6.3 Mitigation/Recommended Changes

6 Evaluation of the Draft Local Area Plan

6.1 Introduction

6.1.1 SEA legislation requires the Environmental Report to include the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. This includes secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term, permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects. The effects should be shown on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above.

6.2 Evaluation

6.2.1 The following section identifies the effects on the environment of implementing the Draft West Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan. The assessment is done on a Section by Section basis, looking at the key provisions and individual objectives of each Section the expected outcome of implementing the Section and the implications for the environment. The Section is then assessed for its likely interaction with the Environmental Protection Objectives and the assessment concludes with recommendations for changes to the Draft Plan. Interactions are assessed on the basis of being:

- Positive (+)
- Negative (-)
- Uncertain (?), or
- Neutral (Ne)

6.2.2 This exercise will set out any environmental problems that are likely to arise from the implementation of the Draft Local Area Plan. Arising from this analysis, the Environmental Report provides recommendations on what mitigation measures will be taken. Mitigation measures can take the form of:

- Amend the wording of an existing objective
- Delete the objective
- Addition of a new objective

6.2.3 A column has been provided to show the Environmental Report's recommendations and another has been provided to display the resulting Local Area Plan's action or response to these recommendations. The Local Area Plan's action could be to reject, accept or to partly accept the Environmental Reports recommendation.

6.2.4 The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 document has been prepared by undertaking a review of the existing statutory plans for the area including the Blarney Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011 (as amended) and the Macroom Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011(as amended), the Macroom Town Development Plan 2009 (as varied) and updating the provisions those plans as necessary to take account of by changes in national planning policy, legislation, government guidelines etc which has taken place in the interim and by changes in local circumstances, needs etc. It is important to recognise that the current statutory plans for the area i.e. the Blarney Electoral Area Local Area Plan, the Macroom Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011 and the Macroom Town Development Plan 2009, where themselves subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and Habitats Directive Assessment prior to adoption, and many of the provisions of these plans have been carried forward,

unchanged, into the new Draft Plan 2016. Therefore there are not that many new issues arising that need to be assessed *de novo*.

- 6.2.5 In addition, given the current body of planning knowledge of the area gathered from previous planning work for the area, policy and objectives likely to give rise to significant environmental effect are simply not put forward in the first instance. In this way many of the possible environmental impacts of objectives were avoided or had previously been anticipated and mitigated for through the inclusion of objectives in the current statutory plans.
- 6.2.6 The County Development Plan 2014 includes many protective objectives in relation to issues such as Development Management and Protection of Amenities, Sustainable Residential Development, Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage, Biodiversity, Landscape, Water Quality, Pollution Control, protecting Air Quality, managing Noise and Light emissions, flood risk management, sustainable energy etc. All proposals for development under the Local Area Plan, must comply in the first instance, with the all the provisions of the County Development Plan.
- 6.2.7 In this context all of the objectives of the Draft Plan were assessed for possible impacts within the context of these existing mitigation measures. As these mitigation measures negate or mitigate any significant negative impacts that could otherwise have been expected, there were few recommendations arising from the SEA process in relation to the Draft Local Area Plan.
- 6.2.8 Key mitigation measures included in previous plans, and carried forward in the current Draft Local Area Plan relate to issues such as timely delivery of key infrastructure needed to cater for new development. In relation to water quality for example the plan recognises that in some areas the water services infrastructure needed to facilitate planned growth is not currently in place. In response to this the Draft Plan includes strong objectives requiring that appropriate and sustainable water and waste water infrastructure is provided and operational in advance of the commencement of any discharges from the development. In addition the objectives provide that such infrastructure must be capable of treating discharges to ensure that water quality in the receiving water does not fall below legally required levels, while also meeting the objectives of the relevant River Basin Management Plan, and the requirements of any Natura sites in the area.
- 6.2.9 In relation to Traffic and Transportation the plan requires the submission of traffic impact assessments for key sites to ensure that these impacts are fully assessed and mitigated as appropriate, at the project stage.

Ecological Baseline Study for Main Towns in East Cork Municipal District

- 6.2.10 Habitat Mapping for Blarney and Macroom Towns is currently being prepared but was not complete in time to fully inform the preparation of the Draft Plan. Once complete any recommendations arising from the work will be considered at the amendment stage of the plan making process and can be integrated it to the plan, as appropriate, at that stage.

Evaluation of the Objectives of the Draft Local Area Plan

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives						
Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
Section 1 Introduction						
IN-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 6, EPO 8,	No change required	
GB1-1	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO4, EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
GB1-2	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO4,EPO 6, EPO 8 EPO 4	No change required	
Section 2 Local Area Strategy						
LAS-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3,			EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11					
Section 3 Main Towns						
Blarney & Macroom – General Objectives						
BL -GO -01 MM-GO-01		EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10,		EPO 2, EPO 6, EPO 8, EPO 11	No change required	
BL-GO -02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
MM-GO -02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
BL-GO -03	EPO 1,				No change	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				required	
BL-GO-04 MM-GO -03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
MM-GO -04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	No change required	
BL-GO-05	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	10, EPO 11					
MM-GO-05	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	No change required	
BL -GO-06	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
MM-GO-06	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	No change required	
BL-GO-07	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4,			EPO 8	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11					
MM-GO-07	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	No change required	
BL-GO-08	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
BL-GO-09	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
BL-GO-10	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4,			EPO 8	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11					
MM-GO-08 BL-GO-11	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
MM-GO-09 BL-GO-12	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 6, EPO 8,	No change required	
Section 3 Main Towns						
Blarney – Specific Zoning Objectives						
BL-R-01, BL-R-02, BL -R-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	
BL-R-04	EPO 1, EPO 2,			EPO 3, EPO 6,	No change	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
BL -R-05 BL-R-06 BL -R-07 BL -R-08	EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	required	
BL-R-09 BL-R-10 BL-R-11 BL-R-12 BL-R-13 BL-R-14 BL-R-15 BL-R-16 BL-R-17 BL-R-18	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
MM-R-18	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	
BL-B-01 BL-B-02 BL-B-03	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
BL - T-01	EPO 1, EPO 2,			EPO 3, EPO 5,	No change	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8, EPO 9,	required	
BL - T-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	
BL C-01 BL C-02 BL C-03	EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 8, EPO 11	No change required	
BL-U-01, BL-U-02, BL-U-03, BL-U-04, BL-U-05, BL-U-06, BL-U-07, BL-U-08 BL-U-09, BL-U-10, BL-U-11	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
BL-U-12, BL-U-13 BL-U-14, BL-U-15, BL-U-16, BL-U-17	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 11 EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9,	No change required	
BL-U-14, BL-U-16,	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 10,			EPO 11		
BL-O-01, BL-O-02, BL-O-03, BL-O-04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11			EPO 10,	No change required	
BL-O-05, BL-O-06, BL-O-07, BL-O-08	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11			EPO 10,	No change required	
MD-X-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	
Section 3 Main Towns						
Macroom – Specific Zoning Objectives						
MM-R-01, MM-R-02, MM-R-03 MM-R-04, MM-R-05, MM-R-06, MM-R-07, MM-R-08, MM-R-09, MM-R-10, MM-R-11, MM-R-12, MM-R-13, MM-R-14, MM-R-15,	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
MM-R-16	11					
MM-B-01, MM-B-02, MM-B-03, MM-B-04 MM-B-05.	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
MM-I-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
MM -T-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	
MM -C-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10			EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 8, EPO 11	No change required	
MM -U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 9, EPO 11		
MM -U-02 – MM -U-04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
MM -U-05	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
MM -O-01 – MM -O-04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11			EPO 10,	No change required	
Section 4 Key Villages						
GO-01 (a) – (p)	EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7,	No change required	
Ballineen/Enniskeane						
DB -01	EPO 1, EPO 2,			EPO 3, EPO 4,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 10			EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
U-01, U-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Ballingeary						
DB -01, DB -02, DB-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9,				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 10, EPO 11					
U-01 – U-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney						
DB-01 – DB-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01, O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
X-01 , X-02	EPO 1 EPO 10,			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
U-01 – U-04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Coachford						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
B-01	EPO 1 EPO 10,			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Grenagh						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	10			EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
T-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
0-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
X-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Killumney/Ovens						
DB-01 – DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 9, EPO 11		
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
X-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Tower						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
0-01 – 0-06	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	10, EPO 11					
U-01 – U-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
X-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 5, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Section 5: Villages						
GO-01 (a) – (n)	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7,	No change required	
Aghabullogue						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Aherla						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
B-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 11		
T-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Clondrohid						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Courtbrack						
DB-01 – DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Crookstown						
DB-01 - DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Crossbarry						
DB-01 – DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	11					
U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Inchigeelagh						
DB-01 – DB-05	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
C-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
U-01 – U-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 6, EPO 11		
Kilnamatya						
DB-01, DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
0-01 , 0-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Kilmurry						
DB-01 – DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Model Village (Dripsey)						
DB-01, DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 9, EPO 11		
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Upper Dripsey						
DB-01 – DB-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	11					
U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
C-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Rylane/Seiscne						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	10			EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
C-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
DB-01 – DB-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9,				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 10, EPO 11					
T-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Upper Dripsey						
DB-01 - DB-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
Village Nuclei						
GO-01	EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 2,EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7,	No change required	
Ballincurra/Brinny						
DB-01 - DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Ballinagree						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 11		
C-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Bealnamorive						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Berrings						
DB-01	EPO 1,			EPO 3,	No change	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	required	
Canovee						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Carrigadrohid/Killinardish						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01 – O-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Carriganimmy						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	10			EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	No change required	
Cloghroe						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Coolea						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 11		
Farnanes						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
X-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Farnivane						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
Firmount						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Fornaght						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Kilbarry						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Knockavilla/Old Chapel Cross Roads						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Lissarda						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
Lower Dripsey						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Matehy						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Murragh						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
New Tipperary						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Reananerree						

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Rusheen						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
Tooms						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Toon Bridge						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2,			EPO 3, EPO 4,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 10			EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
O-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				No change required	
T-01	EPO 1			EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11	No change required	
Upton						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Other Locations						
GO-01	EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 8,			EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 7,		
Bealnablath						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Farran/Lower Farran						
DB-01 – DB-04	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Gougane Barra						
DB-01 – DB-03	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Gurranes						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
Inniscarra						
DB-01 – DB-02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Srelane Cross						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Waterloo						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	

6.3 Mitigation/Recommended Changes

- 6.3.1 This purpose of this section is to outline the mitigation measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of the Municipal District arising from the implementation of the LAP, thereby consolidating the SEA process. Environmental issues have been identified in Section 3 and the environmental impact of the plan has been analysed in Section 6.
- 6.3.2 As outlined above, as this plan is a review of previous plans for the area which have already been through the SEA process, many of the possible environmental impacts of objectives were avoided or had previously been anticipated and mitigated for through the inclusion of objectives in the current statutory plans for the area. Protective mitigation measures are also contained in the County Development Plan 2014. All of the objectives of the Draft Plan were assessed for possible impacts within the context of these existing mitigation measures. As these mitigation measures negate or mitigate any negative impacts that could otherwise have been expected there were few recommendations arising from the SEA process.
- 6.3.3 Habitat Mapping for Blarney and Macroom is ongoing however it was not completed in time to inform this Draft Plan. When completed the Draft Plan will be assessed against its findings and any changes required will be brought forward by way of Amendment to the Draft Plan.
- 6.3.4 The following issues were identified and recommended mitigation measures were proposed:

Issue One – The Correlation between Sustainable Population Growth and the provision of Infrastructure,

In the Municipal District the main towns in particular have been allocated substantial population target growth.

In many instances wastewater infrastructure is at overcapacity or reaching capacity, in most cases there are programmes in place for the delivery of adequate waste water services to address this issue, however if the programmes are not delivered in a timely manner, development may not proceed as planned.

In the Urban Expansion Area of Stoneview and the Area for New Residential Development at Ringwood, both in Blarney it will be important the developments are implemented in accordance with the general and specific objectives of the Draft plan and the phasing schedule and the phasing schedule which provides for adequate mitigation measures

Mitigation Measures - Recommendations

To sustainably achieve the population and growth targets outlined in this plan a general objective has been included for the towns which are mainly affected by deficiencies in water and waste water infrastructure, which requires that appropriate Water and Waste water infrastructure be provided in tandem with proposed developments.

Furthermore prospective developers whose sites may be affected by the deficiencies highlighted above are required to enter into agreement with the council on the timing and provision of the necessary infrastructure before the design and layout of the development is commenced. This requirement is contained within the relevant site specific objectives.

Section 7: Monitoring and Next Steps

Sub-Section

- 7.1 Introduction
- 7.2 Next Steps
- 7.3 How to make a Submission

7 Monitoring and Next Steps

7.1 Introduction

7.1.1 The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans are monitored in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring can also be used to analyse whether the Local Area Plan is achieving its environmental protection objectives and targets, whether such objectives need to be re-examined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.

7.1.2 Section 4 identifies the Strategic Environmental Protection Objectives used in the assessment of the Draft Plan. The Section also identifies a number of indicators that will be used to assess the environmental Impact of implementing the plan. In addition to the indicators set out in this Section, the evaluation of the plan also sets out additional indicators that can be used to monitor the impacts of the plan. A completed list of indicators that will be used to monitor the predicted environmental impacts of implementing the plan will be set out in the Environmental Statement that will be prepared in the final stages of the SEA process. .

7.2 Next Steps

7.2.1 This Environmental Report forms a key element of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). However, the preparation of the environmental report does not bring the SEA process to an end. The SEA process should continue from the time the environmental report is completed through to the time Cork County Council monitors the implementation of the Municipal District Local Area Plan and will act as an important reference point for the continuing SEA of all policies, plans, strategies and programmes carried out by the Council.

Table 6.1: General Overview of the Process after the Environmental Report
A - Preparing the Environmental Report
B - Consulting on the Environmental Report and Draft Local Area Plan
C - Response of Consultation Authorities and the Public
D - Taking Account of Consultation Opinion
E - Adopting Local Area Plan
F - Providing Information
G - Monitoring plan

Preparing the Environmental Report

7.2.2 This Environmental Report has been produced to comply with the requirements of the Guidance for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC). The Baseline analysis outlined the current state of the environment and was prepared using the most up to date information from a wide variety of state agencies. The evaluation of the plan as set out in Section 6, identifies a number of concerns with policies as they are presented in the draft plan and has suggested a number of changes that should be incorporated into the Draft Local Area Plan before publication.

Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Draft Plan

7.2.3 Consultation is an important element of the SEA process. The Environmental Report will be part of the consultation exercise for the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan. Consultation will be carried out with a range of statutory bodies, including the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the public. As well as having an opportunity to comment on the Draft Plan, these bodies will have an opportunity to comment on the content of the environmental report and the overall SEA process.

Taking account of the consultation opinion

7.2.4 It is recognised that the opinion expressed through the public consultation exercise can be very useful in improving the quality of the plan being prepared. In order to track these changes, the consultation exercise will aim to include documentation of all the comments and the changes made.

Adopting Plan

7.2.5 The overriding aim of the SEA process is to improve the quality of the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan and to ensure that it protects the environment; it is important that the relevant findings in the environmental report and any outcomes from the consultation process are incorporated into the plan before its adoption.

Providing information

7.2.6 Once the Draft Municipal District Local Area Plan is adopted a number of post-adoption steps are required to conclude the SEA process. The essence of this stage is to provide information regarding the difference the SEA process has made to the plan. This will involve the publication of an Environmental Statement which will specify: -

- How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan;
- How the environmental report has been taken into account;
- How opinions expressed during various consultations have been taken into account;
- The reasons for choosing the plan as adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives; and
- Measures to monitor significant environmental effects.

Monitor Plan

7.2.7 Once the plan is adopted and the necessary information is provided, the County Council will seek to monitor the significant environmental effects identified through the SEA process. The detail of the monitoring process will be included in the environmental statement. The framework for monitoring used in the environmental report /statement will be used to identify unforeseen adverse effects at an early stage so that, if necessary, the appropriate remedial action can be undertaken.

7.3 How to make a Submission

7.3.1 The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan is available from the Council website at www.corkcoco.ie. If required, a hard copy of the document may be inspected between the hours of **9.30 a.m. and 4.00p.m, from Wednesday 16th November 2016 to Friday 06th January 2017** at the following locations:

- Planning Department, Floor 1, County Hall, and Cork.
- Planning Department, Norton House, Skibbereen, Co. Cork.
- Cork County Council Offices, Mallow
- Public Libraries – Please check libraries regarding opening times and availability.

7.3.2 CD copies of the documents may be requested by phone (Tel: 021-4285900) or collected from the Planning Department, Floor 1, County Hall between the hours of 9.30am and 4.00pm during the above period.

7.3.3 Submissions or observations regarding the Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan document are hereby invited from members of the public, children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children and other interested parties during the period **Wednesday 16th November 2016 to 4pm on Friday 06th January 2017.**

7.3.4 Submissions may be made in either of the following two ways:

- On-line via www.corkcoco.ie following the instructions provided
- OR
- In written form to the Senior Planner, Planning Policy Unit, Cork County Council, Floor 13, County Hall, Cork. T12R2NC.

7.3.5 All such submissions lodged within the above period and prior to the close of business at **4.00pm on Friday 06th January 2017**, will be taken into consideration in the finalization of the Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan.

Section 8: Non Technical Summary

Sub-Section

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan
- 8.3 Environmental Baseline
- 8.4 Environmental Protection Objectives
- 8.5 Alternatives
- 8.6 Evaluation of the Draft Local Area Plan
- 8.7 Monitoring

8 Non Technical Summary

8.1 Introduction

8.1.1 This is the non technical summary of the Environmental Report of the Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016, Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The purpose of this summary report is to provide a clear synopsis of the overall findings of the SEA process in relation to the Draft Amendment and outline the key likely environmental consequences of policies and objectives. Correspondingly, the findings of each chapter are dealt with below.

8.1.2 The SEA is being carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the SEA Regulations and in order to improve the planning and environmental management of the area. This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016. A Strategic Environmental Assessment is an important mechanism in promoting sustainable development and in raising awareness of significant environmental issues and in ensuring that such issues are addressed within the capacity of the planning system. It seeks to inform the decision making process before a decision is made to adopt the draft plan.

8.2 The Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan

8.2.1 In accordance with the Planning and Development Act, 2000 as amended a planning authority may at any time, and for any particular area within its functional area, prepare a local area plan in respect of that area.

8.2.2 The current series of Local Area Plans were adopted in 2011 and must be replaced by end of July 2017. On the 14th December 2015 the Council commenced a review by publishing a Preliminary Consultation Document for each of the 8 Municipal Districts and placing notices in the press to advise the public of the commencement of a 6 week period of public consultation. Submissions received were considered and included in a Chief Executive's Report to the Elected Members of the Council in April 2016. This was followed up by a series of briefing sessions to allow for consultation with members on issues raised and what needed to be addressed in the Draft Plan.

8.3 Environmental Baseline

8.3.1 This section of the Environmental Report summarises the environmental baseline in the Municipal District. The baseline assessment methodology contains the following steps:

- Description of the current state of the environment
- The primary environmental issues of relevance to the Plan
- The characteristics of the environment likely to be significantly affected by the Plan.
- The evolution of the environment in the absence of the Plan
- The interaction between environmental topics

8.3.2 The baseline has been compiled using all available datasets and in conjunction with indicators suggested during scoping. The main sources of data used in the compilation of this baseline were (amongst others):

- Scoping Responses from the Environmental Authorities
- Existing databases such as the EPA, Cork County Council and the (CSO)
- Information supplied by Cork County Council during the SEA scoping stage.

8.3.3 The characteristics of the existing environment are described under the following headings:

- Biodiversity/Flora and Fauna
- Soil and Geology
- Water Resources
- Air and Climate
- Cultural Heritage including Architectural and Archaeological Heritage
- Landscape

8.3.4 There are also a number of maps included in this section to highlight the baseline environment of the area, the majority of which indicate the existing situation for the environmental issues identified above. A cumulative sensitivity map at the Municipal District level has also been provided as effects cannot be considered in isolation.

8.4 Environmental Protection Objectives

8.4.1 This section aims to identify the relevant Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs). SEA objectives are used to help show whether the objectives of the plan are beneficial for the environment, to compare the environmental effects of alternatives, or to suggest improvements. The Environmental Protection Objectives set out in this section are set out under a range of topics and are used as the standards against which the future development scenarios, strategic aims, strategic principles and development objectives of the plan can be evaluated, to help to identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur, if unmitigated.

8.5 Alternatives

8.5.1 The following section identifies and describes the alternative scenarios considered during the drafting process of the Local Area Plan Plan. Article 5 of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive requires the Environmental Report to consider “reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan. The alternative population growth scenarios that were considered included an employment-focused approach; a public transport focused approach and a balanced approach and the preferred scenario from an environmental perspective is provided. Mitigation measures which attempt to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects of the environment of implementing the preferred alternative are identified in this chapter where applicable.

8.6 Evaluation of the Draft Local Area Plan

8.6.1 This chapter outlines in a tabular form the likely positive and negative impacts of the Local Area Plan policies on the EPO objectives detailed in Section 4. It is considered that the majority of the policies will either improve the state of the EPO or else are unlikely to interact with them adversely. However, a certain amount of policies are more likely to have either an uncertain or negative impact and in these cases it is recommended that mitigation objectives be included so as to minimise damage to the relevant EPO.

Recommended Changes

8.6.2 This section will outline the possible mitigation measures or changes envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment, identified in Section 5 arising from the implementation of the Plan and as such seeks to tie together the SEA process. As a result of this analysis and in light of the SEA process, certain mitigation measures have been identified although in general it is considered that where potential conflict or uncertainty has been demonstrated, adequate compensatory objectives are proposed that will seek to negate any potential significant impacts from proposed policies.

8.7 Monitoring

8.7.1 The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans are monitored in order to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action. Monitoring can also be used to analyse whether the Strategy is achieving its environmental protection objectives and targets, whether such objectives need to be re-examined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.

Appendices

Appendix A: Sample Settlement Enhancement Measures

1.1.1 Settlement Enhancement Measures

- 1.1.2 A sample of potential measures for enhancing the sustainability of these settlements is set out in Table D1 below. The key areas where the Plan can deliver enhanced sustainability outcomes are in the areas of transportation and Water and wastewater. The Plan's transportation policies now place a strong emphasis on modal shift targets to sustainable forms of movement especially prioritising walking and cycling for shorter trips and better access to public transport within the towns. A number of towns scored poorly in terms of settlement walkability and recommendations are made to undertake a movement audit at these locations. The audit of the pedestrian and cycling environment of the town should focus on improving the quality, safety, connectivity and attractiveness of the movement network within the town together with a complementary set of traffic calming and parking measures.
- 1.1.3 The provision of good quality public transport provision is inherently linked to density within the service catchment of an operator. Most of the County is starting from a low public transport base but a revised approach to density in the Plan should make the delivery of a more extensive high frequency bus service viable within the Metropolitan area where the largest proportion of the target growth is allocated. The integration of public transport services is also a key consideration at some locations to encourage modal shift together with the provision of stops at convenient locations. The delivery of these enhancement measures will help increase a modal shift to green travel modes and should consequently reduce car based commuting and associated CO2 emissions.
- 1.1.4 The Plan has identified the infrastructure status of all the main settlements allocated growth within the County. Where deficiencies have been identified the Plan has specified that development may only proceed where appropriate infrastructure is available which satisfies the environmental regulations and complies with EPA licensing. Water conservation is also identified as a key priority area of investment in the Plan and a number of Category 3 settlements in North Cork have been identified with significant water leakage issues. While investment in these deficiencies will be outside the scope of the Council, the Plan will not exacerbate the existing situation.

Table D1: Sample Sustainability Enhancement Measures

Town	SDI score	Livability		Infrastructure & Location		Water & Wastewater			Population & Urban Form		Transport & Energy	
		Provide public park	Local employment opportunities	Improve infrastructure Capacity	Provision of recycling facilities	Improve water quality	Compliance with Urban wastewater treatment	Water conservation measures	Address Housing Vacancy	Increase pop density	Improve walking & cycling network	Improve public transport
Ballincollig	1											X
Blarney	1										X	
Carrigaline	1			X								X
Carrigtwohill	1					X	X				X	X
Midleton	1			X	X	X			X		X	
Cobh	1		X	X	X			X			X	X
Bandon	1	X	X								X	X
Mallow	1		X				X			X	X	X
Glanmire	1				X		X				X	X
Bantry	1	X		X								X
Clonakilty	2		X	X			X					X
Kinsale	2				X						X	X
Fermoy	2					X						X
Passage West	2			X	X						X	X
Macroom	2			X					X	X		
Buttevant	2		X	X					X	X		
Schull	2			X					X	X		
Mitchelstown	2		X	X				X				
Charleville	3		X						X	X	X	X
Newmarket	3			X								X
Skibbereen	3			X						X		
Youghal	3		X									X
Dunmanway	3			X			X	X	X	X		X
Castletownbere	3	X		X			X			X		
Millstreet	3	X		X				X				
Kanturk	3		X	X			X	X	X	X		

Draft Blarney-Macroon Municipal District Local Area Plan

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

16th November 2016

How to make a Submission

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Submissions or observations regarding the Draft Blarney-Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan document are hereby invited from members of the public, children, or groups or associations representing the interests of children and other interested parties during the period **Wednesday 16th November 2016 to 4pm on Friday 06th January 2017.**

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

- 1.1.1 This Strategic Flood Risk Assessment of the Draft Blarney -Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 has been prepared in accordance, in so far as is practicable, with 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published in November 2009 by the DEHLG and the OPW, and having specific regard to the areas, within the settlements of this Municipal District, that have been identified as being at risk of flooding.
- 1.1.2 This report sets out how the Flood Risk Assessment was undertaken, as well as how its findings were addressed and integrated into the Draft Local Area Plan. The report should be read in conjunction with the Blarney -Macroom Municipal District Draft Local Area Plan, and the associated maps.

1.2 Report Structure

- 1.2.1 Section 2 of this report provides a brief introduction to the Blarney -Macroom Municipal District, identifying the settlement hierarchy and the key population and household growth targets for the respective categories of settlement with the settlement hierarchy.
- 1.2.2 Section 3 examines the main sources of flood risk within the Municipal District and recent flood events.
- 1.2.3 Section 4 examines how the issue of managing flood risk was addressed in the review of the Local Area Plan and outlines the main provisions of the flood risk management strategy.
- 1.2.4 Section 5 sets out what this assessment has achieved in terms of managing the adverse effects of flooding within the Blarney -Macroom Municipal District. It also identifies how information on flood risk will be reviewed and monitored over the lifetime of the plan.

1.3 The Planning System and Flood Risk

- 1.3.1 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities', published in November 2009, describe flooding as a natural process that can occur at any time and in a wide variety of locations. Flooding can often be beneficial and many habitats rely on periodic inundation. However, when flooding interacts with human development, it can threaten people, their property and the environment. Flooding may be from rivers, the sea, groundwater, sewers or overland flow caused by intense or prolonged periods of rainfall. Climate change effects suggest that the frequency and severity of flooding is likely to increase in the future.
- 1.3.2 The Guidelines describe good flood risk practice in planning and development management and seek to integrate flood risk management into the planning

process, thereby assisting in the delivery of sustainable development. Planning Authorities are directed to have regard to the Guidelines in the preparation of Development Plans and Local Area Plans, and for development management purposes. For this to be achieved, flood risk must be assessed as early as possible in the planning process.

- 1.3.3 Paragraph 1.6 of the Guidelines states that the core objectives are to:
- avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding;
 - avoid new developments increasing flood risk elsewhere, including that which may arise from surface run-off;
 - ensure effective management of residual risks for development permitted in floodplains;
 - avoid unnecessary restriction of national, regional or local economic and social growth;
 - improve the understanding of flood risk among relevant stakeholders; and
 - ensure that the requirements of EU and national law in relation to the natural environment and nature conservation are complied with at all stages of flood risk management".
- 1.3.4 The Guidelines aim to facilitate 'the transparent consideration of flood risk at all levels of the planning process, ensuring a consistency of approach throughout the country. The Guidelines work on a number of key principles, including:
- Adopting a staged and hierarchical approach to the assessment of flood risk;
 - Adopting a sequential approach to the management of flood risk, based on the frequency of flooding (identified through Flood Zones) and the vulnerability of the proposed land use.

1.4 Definition of Flood Risk

- 1.4.1 Prior to discussing the management of flood risk, it is helpful to understand what is meant by the term. It is also important to define the components of flood risk in order to apply the principles of the Guidelines in a consistent manner.
- 1.4.2 Flood risk is generally accepted to be a combination of the likelihood of flooding and the potential consequences arising, and is normally expressed in terms of the following relationship:

$$\text{Flood risk} = \text{Probability of flooding} \times \text{Consequences of flooding}$$

- 1.4.3 Likelihood of flooding is normally defined as the percentage probability of a flood of a given severity occurring in any given year. For example, a 1% probability indicates the severity of a flood that is expected to be exceeded on average once in 100 years, i.e. it has a 1 in 100 chance of occurring in any given year.
- 1.4.4 In the Local Area Plan, flood risks are defined in relation to the following zones;
- **Flood Zone A:** where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is highest (greater than 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding or 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding);

- **Flood Zone B:** where the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is moderate (between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 and 1% or 1 in 100 for river flooding or between 0.1% or 1 in 1000 and 0.5% or 1 in 200 for coastal flooding);
 - **Elsewhere**, sometimes referred to as Zone C, the probability of flooding from rivers and the sea is low (less than 0.1% or 1 in 1000 for both river and coastal flooding). This zone covers all areas of the Plan which are not in zones A or B.
- 1.4.5 Consequences of flooding depend on the hazards caused by flooding (depth of water, speed of flow, rate of onset, duration, wave-action effects, water quality) and the vulnerability of receptors (type of development, nature, e.g. age-structure, of the population, presence and reliability of mitigation measures etc).
- 1.4.6 The 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities', provides three vulnerability categories, based on the type of development, detailed in Table 3.1 of the Guidelines, and are summarised as:
- Highly vulnerable, including residential properties, essential infrastructure and emergency service facilities;
 - Less vulnerable, such as retail and commercial and local transport infrastructure
 - Water compatible, including open space, outdoor recreation and associated essential facilities, such as changing rooms.

Section 2 Local Study Area

2.1 Introduction: The Blarney -Macroom Municipal District

2.1.1 The Blarney -Macroom Municipal District straddles three strategic planning areas as defined in the County Development Plan 2014. The majority of the Municipal District including the Main Town of Macroom is located within the Greater Cork Ring Strategic Planning Area with some western areas located within the West Cork Strategic Planning Area and the eastern portion of the Municipal District including the Main Town of Blarney located within the County Metropolitan Cork Strategic Planning Area which includes Cork City suburban areas and Metropolitan Towns within the county administrative area.

2.1.2 The Blarney-Macroom Municipal District is located to the north west of Cork City and is spread across a network of settlements including 2 Main Towns, 53 smaller settlements and the open countryside, as detailed below. Outside the main towns the district is largely rural / agricultural in character.

2.1.3 It is a predominantly rural Municipal District that accommodates an extensive network of settlements as follows:

- **Two Main Settlements** comprising Blarney and Macroom.
- **Six Key Villages** comprising Ballingeary, Ballymakeery/ Ballyvourney, Coachford, Grenagh, Killumney/ Ovens, Tower.
- **Fourteen Villages** comprising Aherla, Aghabullogue, Cloghduv, Clondrohid, Crookstown, Crossbarry, Dripsey, Inchigeelagh, Kilnamatyra, Kilmurry, Model Village (Dripsey), Newcestown, Rylane/ Seiscne, Stuake/ Donoughmore.
- **Twenty Seven Village Nuclei** comprising Ballinacurra/Brinny, Ballinagree, Bealnamorive, Berrings, Canovee, Carrigadrohid/ Killinardrish, Carriganimmy, Cloghroe, Coolea, Courtbrack, Farnanes, Farnivane, Firmount, Fornaght, Kilbarry, Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross, Lissarda, Lower Dripsey, Matehy, Murragh, New Tipperary, Reananerree, Rusheen, Toon Bridge, Tooms, Upper Dripsey, Upton.
- **Seven Other Locations** comprising Bealnablath, Farran/ Farran Lower, Gougane Barra, Gurranes, Iniscarra, Srelane Cross, Waterloo.

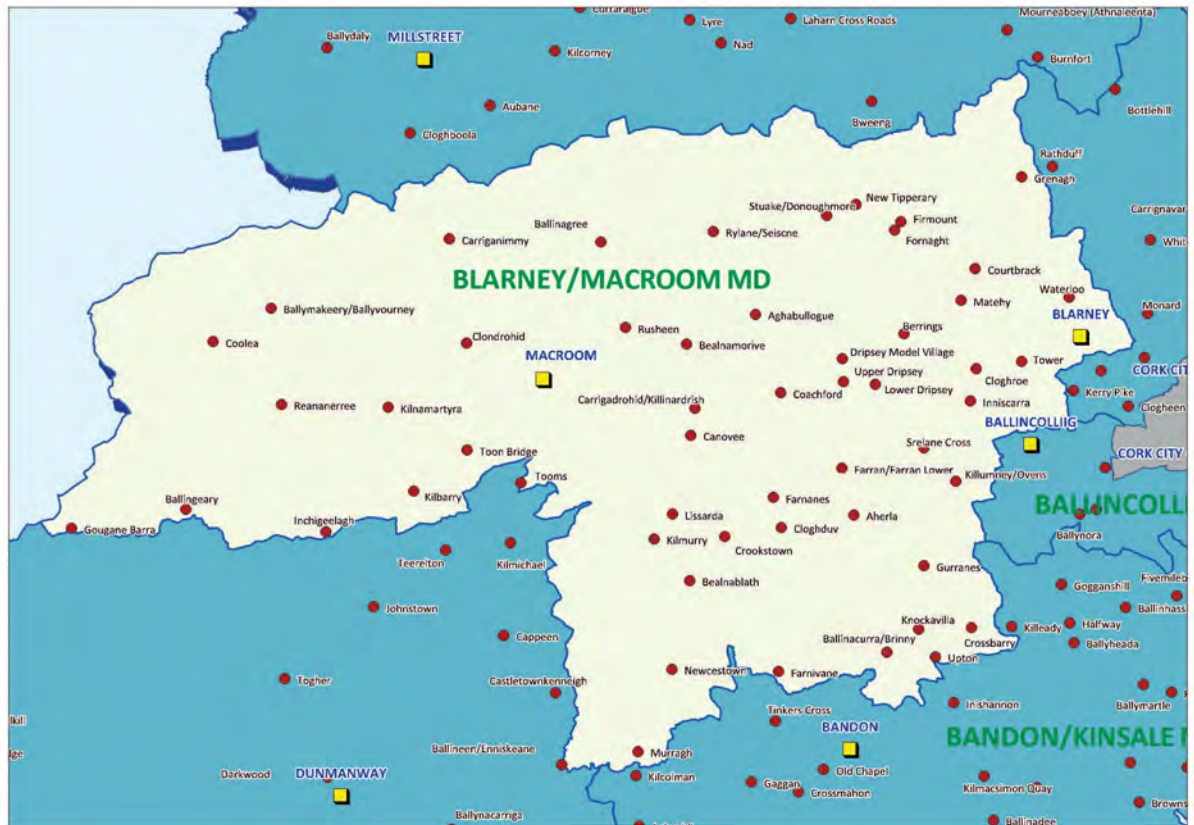


Figure 2.1 Blarney Macroom Municipal District

2.2 Population and Household Growth

2.2.1 Within the Blarney - Macroom Municipal District the County Development Plan provides for growth in population of 6,575 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 5,236 leading to a net requirement for 6,022 new houses within the Municipal District. The County Development Plan indicates that 126ha of residentially zoned land is required to meet this level of housing provision in the main towns, in addition to housing opportunities in the villages and rural areas.

2.2.2 The population growth target will require the provision of 6,022 new housing units, with at least 3,034 units allocated to the 2 Main Towns of Blarney (2,566) and Macroom (571). Housing growth is also planned for the villages of 1,526 units.

Arising from the County Development Plan 2014, Table 2.2 shows that there is a net requirement within the towns of the Municipal District for 3,034 new dwelling units and capacity, in terms of the current provision of zoned lands, to accommodate 3,976.

Table 2.1 Blarney Macroom Municipal District						
	Housing Requirement				Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Est. Net Residential area zoned.(ha)	Estimated Housing Yield (Units)
Blarney	2,437	7,533	2,566	103	92	2,792
Macroom	3,879	4,536	571	23	60.90	1,184
Main Towns	6,316	12,069	3,034	126	152.90	3,976
Villages	8,872	12,070	2,105	--	--	1,526
Rural	28,210	25,833	741	--	--	--
Total Villages and Rural	37,082	37,904	2,846	--	--	1,526
Total for District	43,398	49,973	5,880	126	152.90	5,502

2.3 Environment and Heritage

2.3.1 European and National legislation now protects the most valuable of our remaining wild places, through designation of sites as proposed Natural Heritage Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas. The current list of protected sites is contained in the County Development Plan 2014 and is shown on the Heritage and Scenic Amenity Maps in Volume 3 in that Plan. Designated sites in the Blarney - Macroom Municipal District include 31 designations consisting of 3 cSAC; SPA 1, 1 pSPA, 2 NHA; and 24 pNHA. In addition, there is one designated Nature reserve (The Gearagh) which is also a Biogenetic Site and a RAMSAR Site and one wildfowl Sanctuary (Lee Reservoir) and are detailed in the table below.

Code	Description	Natura 2000 Site
cSAC; 1890	Mullaghanish Bog,	Yes
cSAC 106	St. Gobnets Wood,	Yes
cSAC 108	The Gearagh,	Yes
cSAC 2170	Blackwater River Cork; Waterford. Newmarket; Kanturk; Buttevant; Castletownroche; Mallow; Fermoy; Ballyhooly	
cSAC 1058	Middleton; Glounthaune; Carrigtohill	
pSPA 4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains,	Yes
SPA 4109	The Gearagh,	Yes
SPA 4030	Cork Harbour,	Yes
NHA 2447	Boggeragh Mountains,	No
NHA 2386	Conigar Bog,	No
pNHA 1249	Ballincollig Cave,	No
pNHA 1854	Boylegrove Wood,	No
pNHA 1055	Glashgarrieff River,	No
pNHA 1057	Gouganebarra Lake,	No
pNHA 0094	Lee Valley,	No
pNHA 1065	Lough Allua,	No
pNHA 1067	Lough Gal,	No
pNHA 1248	Prohus Wood,	No
pNHA 103	Shournagh Valley,	No
pNHA 106	St. Gobnets Wood,	No
pNHA 108	The Gearagh,	No
pNHA 1083	Toon Bridge Wood,	No
pNHA 1890	Mullaghanish Bog,	No
pNHA 1799	Ardmadame Wood,	No
pNHA 1857	Blarney Bog,	No
pNHA 1039	Blarney Castle Woods,	No

pNHA 1798	Blarney Lake,	No
pNHA 1074	Rock Farm Quarry	No
pNHA 0094	Lee Valley,	No
pNHA1062	Killaneer House Glen,	No
pNHA 1034	Bandon Valley West of Bandon,	No
pNHA 1740	Bandon Valley above Inishannon	No
pNHA 1515	Bandon Valley below Inishannon	No
pNHA 1886	Ballagh Bog	No
pNHA 1882	Silahertane Bog	No

- 2.3.2 To date, sites of geological interest have not been comprehensively covered by the existing nature conservation designations. Cork County Council recognises the importance of geological heritage and to this end has listed the important geological features within the County, in the County Development Plan 2014, with the intention of maintaining their possible conservation value. Geological features of interest in the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District include; The Gearagh, River Lee (Fluvial – anatomising channel at Gearagh West, the River Sullane (Fluvial – river channel with bog) at Ballymakeery , the Lee and Blackwater Valleys (Quaternary – outwash trains and deltas), Killumney Moraine (Quaternary – glacial moraine) at Killumney.
- 2.3.3 In terms of built heritage, there are numerous recorded monuments and protected structures throughout the Municipal District and these are also detailed in the County Development Plan 2014.

2.4 Infrastructure

- 2.4.1 There are significant infrastructural deficiencies within the Municipal District in terms of waste water treatment and water supply services that will need to be addressed over the lifetime of the Local Area Plan if the growth targets for the Municipal District are to be achieved, including for example the upgrading of waste water treatment plant facilities and the implementation of water conservation measures.
- 2.4.2 Delivery of the Northern Ring Road and the upgrade of the N20 to M20 motorway standard is a significant issue for future development of the District, and particularly for Blarney. The delivery of the N22 Bypass is a significant issue for Macroom Town. The provision of appropriate local road infrastructure serving Stoneview including the N20 Junction Upgrade to facilitate Stoneview and rail to Stoneview is also considered key infrastructure to serve future development.

Section 3 Flood Risk in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District

3.1 Sources of Flooding

- 3.2.1 This SFRA has primarily reviewed flood risk from fluvial (and tidal where relevant) sources. Flood risks from pluvial and groundwater sources or from drainage systems, reservoirs and canals and other artificial or man-made systems have not been considered in detail in this study and such risks will need to be assessed at the project stage.
- 3.2.2 This approach has been adopted for two main reasons. Firstly, the review of flooding in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District shows rivers to be the most common source of damage and it is this source of flooding that has been taken into account in the Local Area Plan process. Other sources of flooding are considered to present a lesser risk in this Municipal District but should be considered at the planning application stage. Secondly, Flood Zones in the 'Planning System and Flood Risk Management' are defined on the basis of fluvial, and where appropriate, tidal flood risk.

3.2 Fluvial Flooding

- 3.2.3 Flooding of watercourses is associated with the exceedance of channel capacity during higher flows. The process of flooding on watercourses depends on a number of characteristics associated with the catchment including; geographical location and variation in rainfall, steepness of the channel and surrounding floodplain and infiltration and rate of runoff associated with urban and rural catchments. There are two main catchment types - large and relatively flat or small and steep, the two giving two very different responses during large rainfall events.
- 3.2.4 In a large, relatively flat catchment, flood levels will rise slowly and natural floodplains may remain flooded for several days, acting as the natural regulator of the flow. In small, steep catchments, local intense rainfall can result in the rapid onset of deep and fast-flowing flooding with little warning. Such “flash” flooding, which may only last a few hours, can cause considerable damage and possible threat to life.
- 3.2.5 The form of the floodplain, either natural or urbanised, can influence flooding along watercourses. The location of buildings and roads can significantly influence flood depths and velocities by altering flow directions and reducing the volume of storage within the floodplain. Critical structures such as bridge and culverts can also significantly reduce capacity creating pinch points within the floodplain. These structures are also vulnerable to blockage by natural debris within the channel or by fly tipping and waste.
- 3.3.1 Rivers are the primary cause of flooding in the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District with flood events attributed to fluvial sources ranging from the major rivers, including the River Lee and its main tributaries, the Sullane River and the River Bride, the BunSheelin River, the Owenboy River, the Curraheen River. The District also includes the Dripsey River and the Shournagh River, to the smaller tributaries, drains and natural lakes.
- 3.3.2 Generally fluvial flooding in the Lee catchment is as a result of prolonged heavy rainfall in the Shehy, Boggeragh and Derrynasaggart Mountains to the west and

northwest of the catchment causing large volumes of water to pass down through the Sullane and Lee Rivers. This water gradually slows down as it passes through Lough Allua and the Lee reservoirs further downstream. However, the flow in the River Lee also gradually increases further downstream as more tributaries join and contribute to flows.

- 3.3.1 The River Lee has its source in the Shehy Mountains near Gougane Barra. The Lee flows from the lake of Gougane Barra as a fast paced torrent, but eases at Ballingearry and flows into Lough Allua. Departing the Lough, east, it again becomes rapid before flowing into the Inniscarra reservoir created by Inniscarra Dam. Moving on, it flows out of Inniscarra dam, a gentle river until it comes to Ballincollig weir located in Ballincollig Park. It then flows into the city under Inniscarra Bridge and flows parallel to the Carrigrohane road. Along this section gauges monitor the water levels from the Inniscarra Dam. It flows over the Lee weir and then is split into the north and south channel by a sluice. The two channels join again at the Cork docks and enter the sea at Cobh.
- 3.3.2 The main tributaries of the River Lee upstream of Cork City include the Sullane River, the River Laney, the Dripsey River, the River Bride and the Shournagh River. The flows in the River Lee are influenced and partly controlled by the Carrigadrohid and Inniscarra hydro-electric dams owned by the Electricity Supply Board (ESB).
- 3.3.3 The Lee catchment covers an area of approximately 2,000 square kilometres. The catchment is defined by the land area drained by the River Lee, its tributaries and Cork Harbour. To facilitate analysis of flood risk, the catchment has been broken down into nine sub-catchments as follows: Upper River Lee; Lower River Lee; Tramore/Douglas River; Kiln River; Glashaboy River; Owennacurra River; Carrigtohill area; Owenboy River; and Cork Harbour. A large part of the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District is covered by the sub catchments of the Upper Lee and Lower Lee with part falling into the Owenboy River catchment. The Upper Lee system flows between Gougane Barra and the Inniscarra Dam. The Lower Lee system runs between Inniscarra dam and the City boundary before entering Lough Mahon.
- 3.3.4 There is a history of frequent floods within the Lee Catchment which cause damage to public roads, properties and farmland and result from both fluvial and tidal mechanisms. In the recent past, notable flood events have occurred in August 1986, November 2000, November 2002, October 2004, December 2006 and most recently in November 2009.
- 3.3.5 Flooding downstream of Inniscarra Dam is affected by a number of factors including the additional flows to the River Lee from the Bride, Shournagh and Curragheen catchments which comprise over 30% of the overall River Lee catchment area. Additionally, high tide levels and storm surges affect water levels in the River Lee in the vicinity of Cork City.
- 3.3.6 The River Sullane runs from the mountains between County Cork and County Kerry in southern Ireland. It runs through the centre of Macroom, to which it provides drinking water (and occasionally floods), joins the River Launa one kilometre east of the town, before joining the River Lee a further kilometre east.
- 3.3.7 The River Sullane flows in a North-Easterly direction towards Ballyvourney which is on the main Cork/Killarney Road. From Ballyvourney it follows close to the main road all the way to Macroom. There are no lakes to be found along its course. There are several white water stretches which make the river ideal for canoeing. It is not until the Sullane reaches the Western outskirts of Macroom that it becomes more

sedate and wider. The Sullane is joined by the Larne which flows from the North of Macroom just before it meets the Lee at the Two Mile Bridge.

- 3.3.8 The Lee is joined by the Bunsheelin River at Ballingearry before flowing into Lough Allua, a chain of lakes to the east of the village. The OPW records one flood event in Ballingearry in November 2009 when torrential rain resulted in the Bunsheelin River bursting its banks at the eastern end of the village. The floodwaters caused extensive damage throughout the village.
- 3.3.9 The River Bride flows through the western end of Crookstown and along the southern part of Killumney/Ovens and is an important angling river. Some lands in close proximity to the River Bride may be liable to flooding.
- 3.2.6 Other Rivers in the Municipal District include the Delehinagh River, River Foherish, Buingea River, River Cumner, Owenboy River and Curraheen River.
- 3.2.7 The Lower River Lee system runs west-east through Cork City. There is an inflow of the Dripsey River to the Inniscarra Reservoir. The Dripsey in turn flows north-south. The Dripsey River is dammed into a small lake habitat in its upper reaches in the townland of Deshart; downstream of this it takes a very natural stream profile.
- 3.3.3 The Lower Lee system runs between Inniscarra Dam and the City boundary before entering Lough Mahon where extensive areas of mudflat define the shallows of the inner harbour between Dunkettle, Fota Island and Glounthaune. The Lower River Lee is joined by its largest tributary the Shournagh River at Leemount Bridge; the Shournagh joins the River Lee from the north at a point approximately 4km south of Blarney. The Shournagh is in turn fed by three large tributaries; the Martin, Blarney and Owenagearagh Rivers. The Shournagh is also fed by a very small low order tributary known as Fiddler’s Brook that runs north-south entering the Shournagh directly south of the townland of Courtbrack.
- 3.3.4 A small river known as the ‘North Bride’ rises directly south of Whitechurch village and ultimately drains into the Lee at Pope’s Quay in the city centre. Its upper reaches contain trout but the stream is impacted by urban encroachment in Blackpool and becomes extensively culverted before it joins with the River Lee in the city centre. The North Bride is also joined by the Glenamought River, which supports a healthy population of Brown Trout.
- 3.3.5 The rivers north of the Lee follow a typical north-south drainage pattern and all ultimately drain into Cork Harbour with the exception of a number of rivers located in the northwest and northeast. The Ahadallane River, Leopard Stream and Pestingah Stream, run adjacent to the north western boundaries of the electoral area and are tributaries of the Clyda River which itself forms part of the larger River Blackwater catchment.
- 3.3.6 The north-eastern area is bordered by the River Bride and its adjoining eastward flowing tributaries, the Toor, Coom, Owenbawn and Glashanabrack Rivers. The Bride itself is a significant tributary of the River Blackwater.
- 3.3.7 The Glashaboy catchment (which includes the Butlerstown River) located immediately east of Cork City, drains the majority of the eastern proportion of the area.

3.3 Other Sources of Flooding

3.3.1 Other sources of flooding including pluvial, ground water, drainage systems and reservoirs are detailed below. Risks from these sources have not been specifically considered in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment undertaken for the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District and need to be addressed at the planning application stage.

- **Pluvial Flooding:** Pluvial flooding is a result of rainfall generated overland flows of water. Flooding of land from surface water runoff is usually caused by intense rainfall that may only last a few hours. The resulting water follows natural valley lines, creating flow paths along roads and through and around developments and ponding in low spots, which often coincide with fluvial floodplains in low lying areas.
- **Groundwater Flooding:** Groundwater flooding is caused by the emergence of water originating from underground, and is particularly common in karstic landscapes. This can emerge from either point or diffuse locations. The occurrence of groundwater flooding is usually very local and unlike flooding from rivers and the sea, does not generally pose a significant risk to life due to the slow rate at which the water level rises.
- **Flooding from Drainage Systems:** Flooding from artificial drainage systems occurs when flow entering a system, such as an urban storm water drainage system, exceeds its discharge capacity, it becomes blocked or it cannot discharge due to a high water level in the receiving watercourse. Sewer flooding problems will often be associated with regularly occurring storm events during which sewers and associated infrastructure can become blocked or fail.
- **Flooding from Reservoirs, Lakes and other Artificial Sources:** Reservoirs can be a major source of flood risk, as demonstrated in the 2009 flooding, when waters released from the Inniscarra Dam flooded sections of Cork City.

Section 4 Addressing Flood Risk in the Blarney-Macroom Local Area Plan

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section details the approach to Flood Risk Management adopted in the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan.

4.2 Collation of Flood Risk Data

4.2.1 In 2010, as part of the review of its Local Area Plans, and in order to meet the needs of the Strategic Environmental Assessment process and the requirements of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government / Office of Public Works Guidelines, “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” (2009), Cork County Council undertook a county wide Strategic Flood Risk Assessment using data prepared on its behalf by JBA Consultants. The Council also conferred with OPW officials, the Lead Agency for Flood Risk Management in Ireland, in completing the county wide assessment of flood risks and in formulating the flood risk management strategy which informed the preparation the 2011 Local Area Plans.

4.2.2 For the purposes of the assessment, information about flood risks was collated from a number of sources including:

- ‘Floodmaps.ie’ – The national flood hazard mapping website operated by the Office of Public Works, where information about past flood events is recorded and made available to the public. ‘Flood point’ information available on this site has not been included for technical reasons.
- ‘Flood Hazard Mapping’ for fluvial and tidal areas commissioned by Cork County Council from JBA Consulting. These indicative flood extent maps provided flood extent information for river catchments where a more detailed CFRAMS study was not available.
- Draft River Lee Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Study (Lee CFRAMS) data was used for areas within the catchment of the study.

4.2.3 This data was amalgamated into a single ‘Indicative Flood Zone Map’ for the County, which was then used as the basis for the flood risk assessment of the 2011 Local Area Plans. The flood zone map showed the areas known to be at risk of fluvial (river) or tidal flooding only. It should be noted that the flood zones are based on an undefended scenario and do not take the presence of flood protection structures such as walls or embankments into account. This is to allow for the fact that there is still a residual risk of flooding behind the defences due to overtopping or breach, and that there may be no guarantee that the defences will be maintained in perpetuity. This is accordance with the requirements of the Guidelines which specify an undefended assessment of risk.

4.2.4 In 2016, as part of the further review of the Local Area Plans the Council commissioned an update of the flood zone mapping used in the 2011 to take account of the information that has become available in the intervening period from other flood studies, including the outputs from the National CFRAM Programme (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management), undertaken by the OPW.

4.2.5 The updated flood zone mapping provides information on the three main flood zones as follows:

- **Zone A** – High probability of flooding. Most areas of the County that are subject to flood risks fall into this category. Here, most types of development would be considered inappropriate. Development in this zone should be avoided and/or only considered in exceptional circumstances, such as in major urban or town centres, or in the case of essential infrastructure that cannot be located elsewhere. A Justification Test set out in Ministerial Guidelines applies to proposals in this zone. Only water-compatible development, such as docks and marinas, dockside activities that require a waterside location, amenity open space, outdoor sports and recreation, would be considered appropriate in this zone.
- **Zone B** - Moderate probability of flooding. In most parts of the County this designation applies only to limited areas of land. In only a few locations do significant sites fall into this category. Here, highly vulnerable development, such as hospitals, residential care homes, Garda, fire and ambulance stations, dwelling houses and primary strategic transport and utilities infrastructure, would generally be considered inappropriate. Less vulnerable development, such as retail, commercial and industrial uses, sites used for short-let for caravans and camping and secondary strategic transport and utilities infrastructure, should only be considered in this zone if adequate sites are not available in Zone C, and subject to a flood risk assessment demonstrating that the risk can be appropriately managed”.
- **Elsewhere** (referred to in the Guidelines as Flood Zone C) – Localised flooding from sources other than rivers and the coast can still occur and may need to be taken into account at the planning application stage.

- 4.2.6 Extracts from the flood zone map are shown, where relevant, on the settlement maps included in the Local Area Plan. The maps are indicative in nature and are intended to primarily function as a screening tool. The areas at risk may be more or less extensive in practice than indicated in the flood mapping. The mapping may be refined where possible over time as other more detailed flood risk assessments are completed by the OPW.
- 4.2.7 Within areas not specifically identified by the plan as being at risk of fluvial or tidal flooding (i.e. within Zone C) a flood risk screening assessment may still be required to assess potential impact of development on adjoining Flood Zones A or B, particularly with respect to surface water management . An assessment of the risk of other sources of flooding such as pluvial or ground water flooding may also be needed.
- 4.2.8 The inclusion of the flood zone information on the settlement maps of the Municipal District is the first step in managing flood risk in the future. The updated mapping provides for an improved understanding of flood risk issues within the County. The maps indicate the extent of flood zones that should be safeguarded from development and will support the application of the sequential approach, and the justification test as appropriate, in areas where development is proposed.
- 4.2.9 As part of the review of the Local Area Plans, all zoned lands in areas at risk of flooding have been considered in the context of the updated indicative flood zone maps.

4.3 Flood Risk within the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District

4.3.1 Flood risk to each settlement has been appraised based on the Indicative Flood Zones which cross the settlement boundary, and is summarised in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
Main Settlements		
Blarney	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Macroom	Yes	
Key Villages		
Ballineen/Enniskeane	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Ballingeary	Yes	
Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney	Yes	
Coachford	Yes	
Grenagh	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Killumney/Ovens	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone
Tower	Yes	

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
		mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Villages		
Aghabullogue	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Aherla	Yes	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Cloghduv	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Clondrohid	No	
Courtbrack	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Crookstown	Yes	
Crossbarry	Yes	

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
Inchigeelagh	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Kilmurry	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Kilnamatyra	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Model Village (Dripsey)	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Newcestown	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Rylane/Seiscne	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Stuake/Donoughmore	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District

Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
		Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Upper Dripsey	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Village Nuclei		
Ballinacurra/Brinny	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Ballinagree	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Bealnamorive	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Berrings	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
Canovee	No	not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Carrigadrohid/Killinardrish	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Carriganimmy	Yes	
Cloghroe	Yes	
Coolea	Yes	
Farnanes	Yes	
Farnivane	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Firmount	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Fornaght	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Kilbarry	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District

Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
		site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Lissarda	No	
Lower Dripsey	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Matehy	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Murragh	No	
New Tipperary	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Reananerree	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.
Rusheen	Yes	All development proposals within the Indicative Flood Zone Areas will need to comply with the flood risk
Toon Bridge	Yes	

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the Blarney-Macroom Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
Tooms	Yes	assessment procedure detailed in Section 4.6 of this report i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate.
Upton	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7 regarding the need for further assessment.

4.4 Flood Risk Management Strategy

- 4.4.1 The assessment and management of flood risks in relation to planned future development is an important element of sustainable development. The majority of towns, villages and smaller settlements have a river or stream either running through the built-up area or close by and are inevitably exposed to some degree of flood risk when those rivers or streams overflow their normal course. Similarly, in coastal areas, flooding can periodically occur following unusual weather or tidal events.
- 4.4.2 Generally, the purpose of zoning is to indicate to property owners and members of the public the types of development which the Planning Authority considers most appropriate in each land use category. Zoning is designed to reduce conflicting uses within areas, to protect resources and, in association with phasing, to ensure that land suitable for development is used to the best advantage of the community as a whole.
- 4.4.3 The approach adopted has generally been to
- Include, on the settlement maps, information on the areas at risk of flooding (extent of Flood Zones A and B),
 - Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding; and
 - Where development in floodplains cannot be avoided, to take a sequential approach to flood risk management based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of risk.
- 4.4.4 In response to local circumstances, particularly where there may be some uncertainties in relation to flood risk data or where land has been zoned in a previous plan or planning permission has already been granted, the approach has been modified and lands have been zoned for development with a requirement that

a detailed site specific flood risk assessment be carried out at the project stage. This is explained in more detail below.

4.5 The Approach to Zoning in Areas at Risk of Flooding.

4.5.1 Within the areas identified by the Indicative Flood Risk Mapping as being at risk (Zone A or B), all proposals for development will need to comply with the Ministerial Guidelines – ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management. In this LAP, land use zoning objectives within the indicative Flood Risk Areas have been included in the plan where either:

- The land use zoning objective has been considered in the context of the “Development Plan Justification Test” set out in the Ministerial Guidelines;
- The zoning objective stemmed from a similar objective in a previous Plan and has been included in this Plan in order to facilitate the local verification of the indicative Flood Risk Maps at the project planning/planning application stage.

4.5.2 In the preparation of the Draft Blarney – Macroom Municipal District LAP, proposed zonings were generally assessed relative to the provisions of the Guidelines and the Justification Test for Development Plans as detailed in the Guidelines. The Justification Test is generally required in situations where the planning authority needs to consider future development in areas at a high or moderate risk of flooding, for uses or development vulnerable to flooding that would otherwise be inappropriate. In such circumstances, all of the following criteria must be satisfied :

- a) the urban settlement is targeted for growth in the NSS, RPGs, or statutory plans defined under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act, 2000, as amended.
- b) the zoning is required to achieve the proper planning and sustainable development of an urban settlement and is
 - Essential to facilitate the regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;
 - Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;
 - Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;
 - Will be essential to achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and
 - There are no suitable alternative lands for the particular use in areas at lower risk of flooding within or adjoining the core of the urban settlement.
- c) A flood Risk Assessment to the appropriate level of detail has been carried out as part of the SEA, which demonstrates that flood risk to the development can be adequately managed and the development will not cause adverse impacts elsewhere.

4.4.5 In the preparation of the Draft Blarney – Macroom Municipal District Local Areas Plan the final element of the Justification Test (part (c) above), which requires a site specific flood risk assessment to be carried out, was not undertaken. In some cases, certain zonings were included in areas at risk of flooding, even when such zoning did not pass the Justification Test, as a response to a desire to retain those zonings

where planning permission had been granted or where the zoning had already been made in a previous Plan.

- 4.4.6 Instead, the approach taken in the Draft Local Area Plan provides, in the first instance, for the detailed assessment of the extent of the actual flood risk relative to that indicated on the indicative mapping via a phased flood risk assessment procedure. The first stage of this assessment process provides a prospective developer with the opportunity to verify the Indicative Flood Zone Mapping in the first instance, and address any local ambiguities. Depending on the outcome of the verification stage, a prospective developer may then have the opportunity to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test and carry out a detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate. This flood risk assessment process is set out in Chapter 11 of the County Development Plan 2014.
- 4.4.7 Development proposals on lands within areas at risk of flooding will also be subject to the ‘Development Management Justification Test’, details of which are set out in the Guidelines.
- 4.4.8 The Table 4.2 lists the specific zoned sites within the Blarney – Macroom Municipal District that are located within either Flood Zone A or B and the circumstances of their inclusion.

Table 4.2: Specific Land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test & Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
Blarney	BL T-01	Justification Test	Partially applied	Part three of the test was not completed.
		Existing Zoning	✓	Previously zoned as town centre in the Blarney Local Area Plan 2011. Only part of the area is subject to flood risk and it is defended. A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.

Table 4.2: Specific Land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test & Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
Blarney	BL X-02	Justification Test	Not Applied	–
		Existing Zoning	✓	<p>Only a small part of this site is subject to flood risk.</p> <p>Objective limits development of the site to flood compatible uses.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.</p>
Macroon	MM B-01	Justification Test	Not Applied	–
		Existing Zonings	✓	<p>Only a small portion of this site is subject to flood risk.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.</p>
Macroon	MM B-05	Justification Test	Not Applied	–
		Existing Zonings	✓	<p>Previously zoned as ‘BITP Business, Industry and Technology Parks’ in the Macroon Town Development</p>

Table 4.2: Specific Land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test & Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				<p>Plan 2009 – 2015.</p> <p>The central portion of this site is subject to flood risk.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.</p>
Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney	X-01	Justification Test	N/a	-
		Existing Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned as an opportunity site in the 2005 Local Area Plan & the 2011 LAP.</p> <p>Objective limits development of the site to flood compatible uses.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.</p>
Ballynora	C-01 (part)	Justification Test	✓	-
		Existing Zoning	-	-
		Other	✓	This zoning objective makes provision for a new primary

Table 4.2: Specific Land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test & Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				school. A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.
Toon Bridge	T-01	Justification Test	N/a	–
		Existing Zoning	✓	Previously zoned as town centre in the Macroom Local Area Plan. A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping, compliance with the requirements of the Development Plan Justification Test, and detailed site specific assessment, as appropriate, in accordance with Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2 as detailed in Chapter 11, Volume 1 of the Cork County Development Plan, 2014.
		Other	N/a	

Note: Proposals for 'open space or outdoor recreation development have not been included in Table 4.2 because these are normally water compatible forms of development and, therefore, do not need to be subjected to the 'Development Plan' Justification Test. However, an appropriate flood risk assessment will be necessary at the project planning/ planning application stage.

4.6 Approach to Development in Areas at Risk of Flooding

- 4.6.1 Where development is proposed within an area at risk of flooding, either on land that is subject to a specific zoning objective, lands within the “existing built up area” of a town or within a development boundary of a village, intending applicants need to comply with the provisions of Chapter 11 of the Cork County Development Plan 2014 and Objectives WS 6-1 and WS 6-2, as appropriate, and with the provisions of the Ministerial Guidelines – ‘The Planning System and Flood Risk Management’.

4.7 Flood Risk and Development Management

- 4.7.1 The following key requirements for the management of development in areas at risk of flooding shall be adhered to:
- a) Minor proposals for development, for example small extensions to existing houses or changes of use, in areas at moderate to high risk of flooding should be assessed in accordance with Planning Guidelines: The Planning System and Flood Risk Management.
 - b) Where flood risk constitutes a significant environmental effect of a development proposal, a sub-threshold EIS may be triggered. Screening for EIA should be an integral part of all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding.
 - c) Any proposal in an area at risk of flooding that is considered acceptable in principle must demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place and that residual risks can be managed to acceptable levels. Addressing flood risk in the design of new development should consider the following:
 - Locating development away from areas at risk of flooding, where possible.
 - Substituting more vulnerable land uses with less vulnerable ones.
 - Identifying and protecting land required for current and future flood risk management, such as conveyance routes, flood storage areas and flood protection schemes etc.
 - Addressing the need for effective emergency response planning for flood events in areas of new development.
 - d) Site layout, landscape planning and drainage of new development must be closely integrated to play an effective role in flood-reduction. As such, proposals should clearly indicate:
 - The use of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) to manage surface water run-off.
 - Water conveyancing routes free of barriers such as walls or buildings.
 - The signing of floodplain areas to indicate the shared use of the land and to identify safe access routes.
 - e) To ensure that adequate measures are put in place to deal with residual risks, proposals should demonstrate the use of flood-resistant construction measures that are aimed at preventing water from entering a building and that mitigate the damage floodwater causes to buildings. Alternatively,

designs for flood resilient construction may be adopted where it can be demonstrated that entry of floodwater into buildings is preferable to limit damage caused by floodwater and allow relatively quick recovery. Such measures include the design and specification of internal building services and finishes. Further detail on flood resilience and flood resistance are included in the Technical Appendices of the Planning Guidelines, The Planning System and Flood Risk Management.

Section 5 Managing Flood Risk in the Future

5.1 What has the LAP Achieved

5.1.1 The inclusion of Indicative Flood Zone maps for the settlements of the Municipal District is the first step in managing flood risk in the future. The maps are primarily intended to function as a screening tool. They are not a substitute for detailed hydraulic modelling, such as may be required to assess the level of flood risk for a specific development. The flood maps should be used to guide decision making when determining whether a detailed Flood Risk Assessment is required for any given site. The maps are intended for guidance, and cannot provide details for individual properties.

5.2 Monitoring and Review

5.3.1 Information in relation to flood risk will be monitored and reviewed by the Council and the Flood Risk Assessment will be updated as appropriate as new information becomes available. There are a number of key outputs from possible future studies and datasets which could inform any update of the FRA as availability allows. A list of potential sources of information which will inform an FRA review is provided in the table below.

Table 5.1 Potential Sources of Flood Risk Data		
Data	Source	Timeframe
Ongoing CFRAM Studies	OPW	End of 2016 / Early 2017
County Development Plan Updates	Cork County Council	2020
Flood maps of other sources, such as canal breach and drainage networks	Various	Unknown
Significant flood events	Various	Unknown
Changes to Planning and / or Flood Management Policy	DoEHLG /OPW /Cork County Council	Unknown
SFRAs for Local Area Plans	Cork County Council	Upon LAP review
Detailed FRAs	Various	Unknown
Flood Defence Feasibility / Design Reports	OPW primarily	Unknown

Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan

Habitats Directive Assessment, Screening Report

Prepared by Cork County Council
Planning Policy Unit
November 2016

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1 Introduction

1.1 Context

Cork County Council is in the process of preparing the Blarney Macroom Municipal District Electoral Area Local Area Plan. This is a plan which will set development policy for the towns, villages and other settlements within the Blarney Macroom MD until 2023.

In accordance with requirements under the EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC) and EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) as provided for in part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2010, the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (Natura 2000 sites¹), must be assessed as an integral part of the process of drafting of the plan. This is to determine whether or not the implementation of plan policies could have negative consequences for the habitats or plant or animal species for which these sites are designated. This assessment process is called a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) and must be carried out at all stages of the plan making process.

1.2 Legislative Background Habitats Directive Assessment

Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which runs parallel to and informs the plan making process. It involves analysis and review of draft policies as they emerge during each stage of plan making, to ensure that their implementation will not impact on sites designated for nature conservation, nor on the habitats or species for which they are designated. Within this process, regard is had to the potential for policies and zoning proposals set out in the plan to contribute to impacts which on their own may be acceptable, but which could be significant when considered in combination with the impacts arising from the implementation of other plans, programmes, policies or projects.

The process may result in the development of new policy areas and/or the modification or removal of certain policies to be presented in the final plan. The results of this analysis and review are presented in Habitats Directive Reports which are produced for at each stage of the plan making process plan. At the end of the plan making process, an Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement or Screening Conclusion Statement will be produced which will contain a summary of how ecological considerations in relation to Natura 2000 sites have been integrated into the plan. The final Habitats Directive Report and a declaration in relation to the potential for the plan to affect the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within its potential impact zone will also be produced at that time.

¹ Natura 2000 sites include Special Areas of Conservation designated under the Habitats Directive and Special Protection Areas designated under the Birds Directive. Special Areas of Conservation are sites that are protected because they support particular habitats and/or plant and animal species that have been identified to be threatened at EU community level. Special Protection Areas are sites that are protected for the conservation of species of birds that are in danger of extinction, or are rare or vulnerable. Special Protection Areas may also be sites that are particularly important for migratory birds. Such sites include internationally important wetlands.

Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive identifies what is required in terms of assessment of plans of projects.

Habitats Directive Article 6(3)

Any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of the site but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subject to appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. In the light of the conclusions of the assessment of the implications for the site and subject to the provisions of paragraph 4, the competent national authorities shall agree to the plan or project only after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned and, if appropriate, after having obtained the opinion of the general public.

EU and National Guidance sets out two main stages to the assessment process which are as follows:

Stage One: Screening

The process which identifies what might be likely impacts arising from a plan on a Natura 2000 site, either alone or in combination with other projects or plans, and considers whether these impacts are likely to be significant. No further assessment is required if no significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites are identified during the screening stage. The screening assessment is normally contained in a **Habitats Directive Screening Report**.

Stage Two: Appropriate Assessment

Where the possibility of significant impacts has not been discounted by the screening process, a more detailed assessment is required. This is called an Appropriate Assessment and involves the compilation of a **Natura Impact Report** by the Planning Authority which is a report of scientific evidence and data relating to European sites for which significant negative impacts have not been previously screened out. This is used to identify and classify any implications of the plan for these sites in view of their conservation objectives. The Appropriate Assessment must include a determination as to whether or not the plan or its proposed amendments would adversely affect the integrity of any European site or sites. The plan may be adopted if adverse effects on the integrity of European sites can be ruled out during the Appropriate Assessment process. The plan may not be adopted on foot of an Appropriate Assessment, if it is found that it will give rise to adverse impacts on one or more European sites, or if uncertainty remains in relation to potential impacts on one or more European sites.

The directive provides for a derogation procedure which can allow a plan or project to proceed in spite of a finding that the plan or project could / would give rise to adverse effects on the overall integrity of one or more Natura 2000 sites. Derogation procedures can only be progressed in very limited circumstances which are set out in Article 6(4) of the Directive (see below).

Habitats Directive Article 6(4)

If, in spite of a negative assessment of the implications for the site and in the absence of alternative solutions, a plan or project must nevertheless be carried out for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, including those of a social or economic nature, the Member State shall take all compensatory measures necessary to ensure that the overall coherence of Natura 2000 is protected. It shall inform the Commission of the compensatory measures adopted.

EU and National Guidance identifies the procedures which must be followed in circumstances where a derogation from the Habitats Directive is sought to allow a project or a plan to proceed, despite a finding that it will give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of one or more Natura 2000 sites. These procedures can only be invoked where it has been shown that there are no alternative ways to implement the plan/project which avoid adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites, where it has been demonstrated that there are imperative reasons of overriding public interest for which the plan/project must proceed and where measures have been developed and provided to compensate for any losses to be incurred. These further stages are described below.

Stage Three: Assessment of alternative solutions

In circumstances where the potential for a plan to give rise to adverse effects on the integrity of a European site or sites has not been ruled out during the appropriate assessment process, it can only be considered for authorisation where it is demonstrated that there are no alternative solutions and that there Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest (IROPI) which can allow the plan or project to proceed. Stage three of a Habitats Directive Assessment involves the assessment of alternative solutions.

Stage Four: Assessment where no alternative solutions exist and where adverse impacts remain

The fourth stage of the Habitats Directive Assessment process involves demonstrating that Imperative Reasons of Overriding Public Interest exist, and the assessment of the compensatory measures which are proposed to be implemented. In every case in which a local authority envisages approving or proceeding with a plan or project on grounds of IROPI, the Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht must be consulted.

The assessment may stop at any of the above stages if significant impacts on Natura 2000 sites can be ruled out.

This document represents the first phase of the Habitats Directive Assessment process for the **Draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan – Consultation Draft**. It contains the findings of the Habitats Directive screening assessment of this plan.

2 How this Report Was Prepared

2.1 Working Methods

The approach taken in the making of this assessment follows European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites, Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC, 2002, and on Local Government and Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland, Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009.

2.2 Consultation

This report, with the **draft Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan** and the **Environmental Report** has been referred to statutory consultees and is available for public consultation from **Wednesday 16th November 2016 to Friday 06th January 2017**, so that the public or other interested stakeholders and statutory consultees have the opportunity to submit their comments and observations. These matters will then be considered and a decision made as to whether it is necessary to amend the draft plan to reflect the issues raised. The plan and this report are now available from the Council website at www.corkcoco.ie.

2.3 Data Sources, Gaps and Limitations

The information contained in this report is based on a desktop review of information relating to these sites and to the habitats and species that they support. References and data used are cited in the back of this report.

3 Draft Plan Screening

3.1 Screening Methodology

EU Guidelines (2001) set out a process for screening land use plans, which involves four main steps as follows:

- Provide a description of the proposed plan.
- Identify relevant Natura 2000 sites, and compile information on their qualifying interests and conservation objectives.
- Identify the potential effects of the plan on the identified Natura 2000 sites.
- Assess of the significance of any effects on identified Natura 2000 sites, having regard to potential for ‘in combination’ effects.

This process is applied to all proposed plans or projects except those which are directly connected with the necessary management of a Natura 2000 site or sites. This report follows the steps set out above.

3.2 Description of the draft Plan

The **Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan** will be a strategic plan identifying where development is to be directed and how/where supporting infrastructure is to be provided within the plan area from 2017 to 2023. The draft plan proposes population targets for settlements within the district and identifies where that development is proposed to be located through its zoning maps and corresponding policy objectives.

Section 1 Introduction

This section of the plan sets out the review process to date, the overall plan context and the overall approach/key policies that will influence the preparation of the Draft Plan namely the:

- Role of the Cork County Development Plan 2014
- Approach to Town Council Development Plans
- Special Policy Areas Framework Masterplans
- Settlement Network
- Infrastructure
- Water Services
- Development Contributions
- Regeneration Areas
- Flood Risk Assessment and Management
- Green Belts around Towns
- Strategic Land Reserve
- Environmental Assessments including:
 - Strategic Environmental Assessment,
 - Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and
 - Habitats Directive Assessment

Section 2 Local Area Strategy

This section set out the overall strategy for the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. It sets out the housing requirements and zoned housing land supply for each of the main towns, sets out the appropriate scale of growth within the village network and the current infrastructure position for all the main towns and smaller settlement within the settlement network. It assesses the current employment position in the Municipal District and the key Environment and Heritage assets within the area. The key message is that sufficient land has been provided to meet population targets but that infrastructure remains a key constraint to delivering on those targets.

Section 3 Main Towns

The purpose of this section is to set out the policies and objectives including land use zoning maps for the two Main Towns of Blarney and Macroom in the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. Where appropriate, Regeneration Areas have also been identified. This section of the

plan sets out proposals for population growth and other development objectives for the main towns.

Section 4 Key Villages

There are seven key villages in the Bandon Kinsale Municipal District Ballineen/Enniskeane, Ballingearry, Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney, Coachford, Grenagh, Kilmuney/Owens and Tower.

This section of the plan sets out proposed scale of growth and other development objectives for each of these main villages over the lifetime of the plan.

Section 5 Villages, Village Nuclei and Other Locations

There are fifteen villages, twenty six village nuclei and seven other locations in the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. The villages are Aherla, Aghabullogue, Cloghduv, Clondrohid, Courtbrack, Crookstown, Crossbarry, Inchigeelagh, Kilnamatyra, Kilmurry, Model Village (Dripsey), Newcestown, Rylane/Seiscne and Stuake/Donoughmore. The village nuclei and other locations are Ballinacurra/Brinny, Ballinagree, Bealnamorive, Berrings, Canovee, Carrigadrohid/Killinardrish, Carriganimmy, Cloghroe, Coolea, Courtbrack, Farnanes, Farnivane, Firmount, Fornaght, Kilbarry, Knockavilla/ Old Chapel Cross, Lissarda, Lower Dripsey, Matehy, Murragh, New Tipperary, Reananerree, Rusheen, Toon Bridge, Tooms, Upper Dripsey and Upton. The other locations are Bealnablath, Farran/Farran Lower, Gougane Barra, Gurranes, Iniscarra, Srelane Cross and Waterloo. This section of the plan sets out proposed scale of growth and other development objectives for each of settlements over the lifetime of the plan.

Section 6 Putting the Plan into Practice

This section of the plan assigns responsibility for the implementation of the Plan's policies to various agencies including the Local Authority. It also sets out the expected timeframes for the delivery of physical and social infrastructure, including the assignment of Plan priorities and funding streams necessary to secure key development objectives. It also outlines the approach to monitoring and how the Plan will inform other Plans within its functional area.

3.3 Natura 2000 Sites Within the Potential Impact Zone of the Plan

The Blarney Macroom Municipal District is located to the north west of Cork City. The plan encompasses the main towns of Blarney and Macroom along with fifty five smaller settlements. The boundaries of the plan area are shown on **Figure 1** below. The Natura 2000 sites subject to screening are shown in **Figure 2**.

Figure 2 Natura 2000 Sites Subject to Screening

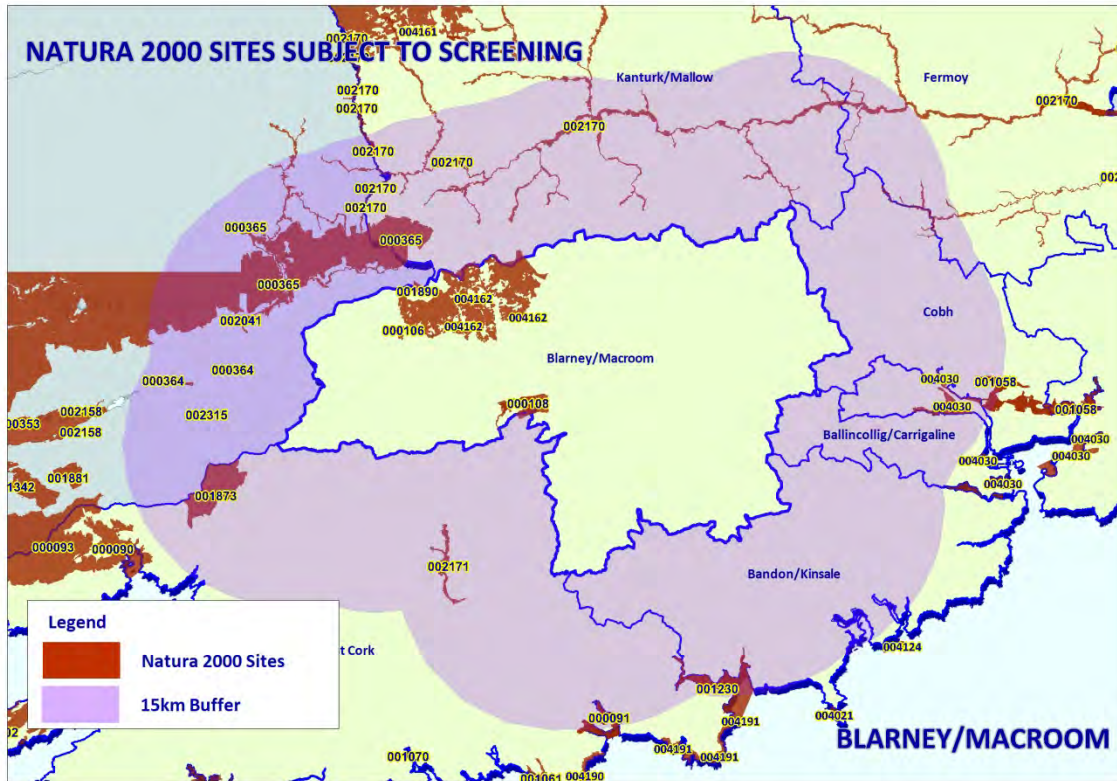


Table 1 sets out the Natura 2000 sites which are subject to screening in this report. It includes all Natura 2000 sites within the plan boundary area and Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan boundary. The habitats and species for which these sites are designated are also listed in Table 1 as are their Conservation Objectives. The potential for Natura 2000 sites that are >15km from the plan boundary area to be affected by policies set out in the draft plan was also considered. This could include sites which are hydrologically connected to watercourses or waterbodies within the plan boundary area. No such sites were identified.

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
0091	Clonakilty Bay SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] • Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats for which the Clonakilty Bay SAC is designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]; • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210]; • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110]; • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120]; • Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea) [2150]; • and to restore the favourable conservation condition of • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] <p>which are defined by attributes and targets set out in NPWS Conservation Objectives for Clonakilty Bay SAC 27 May 2014 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
0106	St. Gobnet's Wood SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0]

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			as set out in Conservation Objectives for St. Gobnet's Wood SAC February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie
0108	The Gearagh SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubric p.p. and Biention p.p. vegetation [3270] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Rivers with muddy banks with Chenopodion rubric p.p. and Biention p.p. vegetation [3270] Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <p>as set out in Conservation Objectives The Gearagh SAC 2016 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
0364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			<p>SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <p>as set out in Conservation Objectives Kilgarvan Ice House SAC February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
0365	Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae [6130] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (Littorelletalia uniflorae) [3110] Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoeto-Nanojuncetea [3130] Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> [4010] European dry heaths [4030] Alpine and Boreal heaths [4060] <i>Juniperus communis</i> formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands [5130] Calaminarian grasslands of the Violetalia calaminariae

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] • <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] • <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] • <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] • <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] • <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] • <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] • <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] • <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] • <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] 	<p>[6130]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Molinia</i> meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils (Molinion caeruleae) [6410] • Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] • Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion [7150] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] • <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] • <i>Geomalacus maculosus</i> (Kerry Slug) [1024] • <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] • <i>Euphydryas aurinia</i> (Marsh Fritillary) [1065] • <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] • <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] • <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] • <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] • <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] • <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] • <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] • <i>Alosa fallax killarnensis</i> (Killarney Shad) [5046]

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] • <i>Najas flexilis</i> (Slender Naiad) [1833] • <i>Alosa fallax killarnensis</i> (Killarney Shad) [5046] 	as set out in Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC Conservation Objectives February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie
1058	Great Island Channel SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats for which the Barley Cove to Ballyrisode SAC is designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] <p>and to restore the favourable conservation condition of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] <p>which are defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives for the Great Island Channel SAC June 6 2014 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
1230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] 	To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats for which the Barley Cove to Ballyrisode SAC is designated:

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetaliaaritime</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Annual vegetation of drift lines [1210] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetaliaaritime</i>) [1410] • Embryonic shifting dunes [2110] • Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes) [2120] • Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes) [2130] <p>and to restore the favourable conservation condition of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] <p>which are defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives for Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC July 9 2014 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
1873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] <p>as set out in the Conservation Objectives for Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
1890	Mullaghanish Bog SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Blanket bogs (* if active bog) [7130] <p>as set out in the Conservation Objectives for Mullaghanish Bog SAC February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
2041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <p>as set out in the Conservation Objectives for Old Domestic</p>

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			Building, Curraglass Wood SAC February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie
2170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] • <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles [91J0] • <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats and species for which the Blackwater River SAC is designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] • <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] • <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] • <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410] • <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<p>Pearl Mussel) [1029]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> (White-clawed Crayfish) [1092] • <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] • <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] • <i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099] • <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] • <i>Salmo salar</i> (Salmon) [1106] • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] • <i>Trichomanes speciosum</i> (Killarney Fern) [1421] 	<p>and to restore the favourable conservation condition of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] • <i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095] • <i>Alosa fallax fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1103] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) [1330] • Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles [91A0] • Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, <i>Alnion incanae</i>, <i>Salicion albae</i>) [91E0] • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <p>which are defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives for Blackwater River SAC July 31 2012 available at www.NPWS.ie</p> <p>*status of <i>Taxus baccata</i> woods of the British Isles as a qualifying feature for this SAC is currently under review.</p>
2171	Bandon River SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] 	To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260] Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] <i>Margaritifera margaritifera</i> (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] <i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096] <p>as set out in the Conservation Objectives for the Bandon River SAC February 13 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
2315	Glanlough Woods SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which this SAC has been selected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> (Lesser Horseshoe Bat) [1303] <p>as set out in the Conservation Objectives Glanlough Woods SAC February 13 2015 which are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
4030	Cork Harbour SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in Cork Harbour SPA:</p>

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<p>[A005]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] • Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Grebe (<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>) [A004] • Great Crested Grebe (<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>) [A005] • Cormorant (<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>) [A017] • Grey Heron (<i>Ardea cinerea</i>) [A028] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Pintail (<i>Anas acuta</i>) [A054] • Shoveler (<i>Anas clypeata</i>) [A056] • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] • Oystercatcher (<i>Haematopus ostralegus</i>) [A130] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193]

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<p>[A183]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>and to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Cork Harbour SPA as a resources for the regularly-occurring migratory birds that utilise it as defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives Cork Harbour SPA Dec 16 2014 which are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
4038	Killarney National Park SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] • Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Merlin (<i>Falco columbarius</i>) [A098] • Greenland White-fronted Goose (<i>Anser albifrons flavirostris</i>) [A395] <p>as set out in the Conservation Objectives for Killarney National Park SPA February 13 2015 are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
4081	Clonakilty Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in Clonakilty Bay SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160]

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			and to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Clonakilty Bay SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory birds that utilise it as defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives Clonakilty Bay SPA Oct 17 2014 which are available at www.NPWS.ie
4109	The Gearagh SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] • Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Mallard (<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>) [A053] • Coot (<i>Fulica atra</i>) [A125] <p>and to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the wetland habitat at the Gearagh as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it as set out in the Conservation Objectives for the Gearagh SPA which are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] 	<p>To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:</p> <p>Hen Harrier (<i>Circus cyaneus</i>) [A082] as set out in the Conservation</p>

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			Objectives for the Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA which are available at www.NPWS.ie
4219	Courtmacsherry Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in Courtmacsherry Bay SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great Northern Diver (<i>Gavia immer</i>) [A003] • Shelduck (<i>Tadorna tadorna</i>) [A048] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Red-breasted Merganser (<i>Mergus serrator</i>) [A069] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Dunlin (<i>Calidris alpina</i>) [A149] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] <p>and to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Courtmacsherry Bay SPA as a resources for the regularly-occurring migratory birds that utilise it as defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives Courtmacsherry Bay SPA Oct 3 2014 which are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>

Table 1 All Natura Sites Within the Blarney-Macroom MD or otherwise identified as requiring to be subject to screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives

3.4 Screening Assessment

Preliminary Screening

The purpose of this screening exercise is to identify whether any of the policies or zoning objectives set out in the draft plan could have the potential to give rise to negative effects on any of the Natura 2000 sites listed above.

As a preliminary assessment, the Natura 2000 sites were assessed to identify whether there was any hydrological or other linkage between them and the plan areas, or whether implementation of the plan would require exploitation of resources (e.g. water) from within any Natura 2000 site (identifying potential pathways for impact). The results of this preliminary screening are set out in **Table 2 below**.

Table 2: Preliminary Screening Assessment	
Site Name	Preliminary Screening Assessment
Clonakilty Bay SAC 0091	This SAC is located approximately 9km from the boundary of the Blarney-Macroom MD. There is no hydrological or other linkage between the SAC and any settlements with the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impact on this site are identified. No further assessment is considered to be required. No further assessment is required.
St. Gobnet's Wood SAC 0106	This SAC lies within the Blarney Macroom MD and the development boundary of Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney overlaps with the SAC. The plan includes policies relating to walkways in the SAC. Further assessment is required.
The Gearagh SAC 0108	This SAC is within the Blarney Macroom MD. The town of Macroom is located just north of this SAC. Toon Bridge is located adjacent to the western boundary of the site, while the small settlements of Tooms and Kilbarry are located to the south of the site and have a hydrological connection to the SAC. Inchigeelagh and Ballingeary have a hydrological connection with the SAC via the River Lee. Both settlements have wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the River Lee and require further assessment.

	<p>Other settlements within this MD which are located within 5km of the SAC include Kilnamatya, Clondrohid and Kilbarry. However there is no hydrological connection between these sites and the SAC. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impacts arising from policies proposed for these settlements are identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in respect of these settlements.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
<p>Kilgarvan Ice House SAC 0364</p>	<p>This SAC which is designated for the protection of a Lesser Horseshoe bat roost is in Co. Kerry and is over 12km from the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC or will result in use of resources from within the SAC.</p> <p>No further assessment is required.</p>
<p>Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC 0365</p>	<p>The Blarney Macroom MD is located circa 2.5km south of this SAC. The nearest settlement within the MD is Ballyvourney which is located 6km to the south east of the SAC. There is no hydrological linkage between the SAC and Ballyvourney, or any other settlements within the MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impact on this site is identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>
<p>Great Island Channel SAC 1058</p>	<p>The Blarney Macroom MD is located circa 15km west of the Great Island Channel SAC. The Blarney Macroom Municipal District has a hydrological connection to Cork Harbour via the Lee catchment which flows into Cork Harbour via Cork City. The primary freshwater inputs to the Great Island Channel SAC are the Owenacurra and Dungourney Rivers at Middleton and the Tibbotstown River at Carrigtwohill. There is no hydrological linkage between the Owenacurra and Dungourney Rivers and any settlement for which policy is proposed in the Blarney Macroom MD Local Area Plan. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impact on this site is identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>
<p>Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC</p>	<p>The Blarney-Macroom MD is located 8km to the north of this SAC. There is no hydrological linkage between the SAC and any settlements within the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this</p>

1230	<p>SAC. No potential for impact on this site is identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>
<p>Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC 1873</p>	<p>The SAC is approximately 5km south of the Blarney-Macroom MD boundary. There is no hydrological connection between the MD and the SAC. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impact on this site are identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>
<p>Mullaghanish Bog SAC 1890</p>	<p>This small upland SAC is located on the Cork Kerry Border. The Cork portion of the SAC is located within the Blarney Macroom Municipal District. There is no hydrological or other ecological connectivity between this SAC and any settlement for which policy is proposed. No policies in the plan direct activity into the SAC, nor require use of resources from within or near this SAC. No potential for impacts on the SAC is identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>
<p>Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC 2041</p>	<p>This SAC which is designated for the protection of a Lesser Horseshoe bat roost is in Co. Kerry and is over 8 km from the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC nor require use of resources from the SAC.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required in respect of this site.</p>
<p>Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC 2170</p>	<p>A very small portion of the MD lies within the catchment of this SAC. However, there are no settlements within the Blarney Macroom MD that have a hydrological connection to the SAC. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impacts on this site are identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>
<p>Bandon River SAC 2171</p>	<p>The Blarney-Macroom MD is located 9km to the north of this SAC. No part of the MD lies within the Bandon or Caha River catchments and there is no hydrological linkage between the SAC and any settlements within the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impact on this site are identified.</p>

	No further assessment is considered to be required.
Glanlough Woods SAC 2315	This SAC is just south of Kilgarvan, Co. Kerry and is over 9km from the Blarney-Macroom MD. There is no hydrological linkage between the SAC and any settlements with the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SAC. No potential for impact on this site are identified. No further assessment is considered to be required.
Cork Harbour SPA 4030	The Blarney-Macroom MD is located circa 13km west of the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area. The Blarney Macroom Municipal District has a hydrological connection to Cork Harbour via the Lee catchment which flows into Cork harbour via Cork city and the Owenboy River which enters the harbour at Carrigaline. All of the settlements within the MD lie within the Lee Catchment have a direct hydrological connection to the SPA. Further assessment is required.
Killarney National Park SPA 4038	This SPA is located 15km to the west of the Blarney-Macroom MD. No hydrological or other ecological connectivity has been identified between the SPA and any of the settlements within the MD. No policies in the plan have been identified which could have the potential to affect populations of bird species for which this SPA has been designated. No further assessment is required.
Clonakilty Bay SPA 4081	The Blarney-Macroom MD is located 12km to the south of the SPA. The MD is not within the catchment of the SPA and there is no hydrological or other ecological linkage between the SPA and any settlements within the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SPA. No potential for impact on this site is identified. No further assessment is considered to be required.
The Gearagh SPA 4109	This SPA is within the Blarney Macroom MD. The town of Macroom is located just north of this SPA. There is a boundary overlap between the SPA and the settlement of Toons Bridge , while the small settlements of Tooms and Kilbarry are located to the south of the site and have a

	<p>hydrological connection to the SPA.</p> <p>Inchigeelagh and Ballingeary have a hydrological connection with the SPA via the River Lee. Both settlements have wastewater treatment plants that discharge into the River Lee and require further assessment.</p> <p>Other settlements within this MD which are located within 5km of the SPA include Kilnamatryra, Clondrohid and Kilbarry. However there is no hydrological connection between these sites and the SPA. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SPA. No potential for impacts arising from policies proposed for these settlements are identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in respect of these settlements.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
<p>Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA</p> <p>4162</p>	<p>This SPA is in the northwest corner of the Blarney Macroom MD in the Boggeragh Mountains. There is a minor boundary overlap between the settlement boundary of Carriganimmy and the SPA. The plan includes proposals for a walkway (U-01) within the settlement.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
<p>Courtmacsherry Bay SPA</p> <p>4219</p>	<p>The Blarney-Macroom MD is located 13km to the north of this SPA. There is no hydrological linkage between the SPA and any settlements within the Blarney-Macroom MD. No policies in the plan direct activity into this SPA. No potential for impact on this site is identified.</p> <p>No further assessment is considered to be required.</p>

Potential for significant negative effects were screened out as a result of preliminary screening for the following Natura 2000 sites:

Code Site Name

- 0091 Clonakilty Bay Special Area of Conservation
- 0364 Kilgarvan Ice House Special Area of Conservation
- 0365 Killarney National Park, Macgillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC
- 1058 Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation
- 1230 Courtmacsherry Estuary Special Area of Conservation
- 1873 Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog Special Area of Conservation
- 1890 Mullaghanish Bog Special Area of Conservation

2041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood Special Area of Conservation
2070	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) Special Area of Conservation
2071	Bandon River Special Area of Conservation
2315	Glanlough Woods Special Area of Conservation
4038	Killarney National Park Special Protection Area
4081	Clonakilty Bay Special Protection Area
4219	Courtmacsherry Bay Special Protection Area

Detailed Screening

Further screening was then completed for the remaining sites. These are sites which are located in areas where hydrological or other possible ecological linkages have been identified between them and settlements for which policy is proposed at preliminary screening stage. Screening has been completed having regard to plan policies and zoning objectives. Particular attention has been paid in this exercise to policies which could

- direct development into areas within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites;
- give rise to a risk of increased levels of disturbance affecting populations of species in any Natura 2000 site;
- encourage increased recreational or other human activity within or near any Natura 2000 sites;
- give rise to increased pressure on environmental resources (e.g. water) which could affect any Natura 2000 sites;
- increase risk of spread of invasive species within or near Natura 2000 sites; or
- influence how land within or close to Natura 2000 sites is developed and managed in the future.

The focus of detailed screening is on the following sites:

Code Site Name

0106	St. Gobnet's Wood Special Area of Conservation
0108	The Gearagh Special Area of Conservation
4030	Cork Harbour Special Protection Area
4109	The Gearagh Special Protection Area
4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains Special Protection Area

The qualifying interests and conservation objectives which have been set for each of these sites are summarised in **Appendix I**.

The outcomes of screening assessments completed for each of these sites is set out below.

St. Gobnet's Wood (0106) SAC - Screening Assessment
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SAC Description and Key Concerns

This SAC comprises two areas of woodland (Cascade Wood to the north and St. Gobnet's Wood to the south), the boundaries of which partially overlap with the the village of **Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney**. The site is designated for the protection of Old Oak Woodland habitat type. It also supports a small area of alluvial woodland along the Sullane River. The Qualifying Features and Conservation Objectives for this site are set out in **Appendix I** of this document. In the context of the LAP, and having regard to the Conservation Objective which applies to this site, the key concerns are to ensure that

- zoning policies for SAC lands in Ballyvourney which overlap with the SAC are compatible with the protection of the SAC;
- policies within the plan will not put undue recreational pressure on woodland habitat or its associated species.

Assessment

The plan proposes the development of an additional 45 houses within the settlement of Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney. It proposes the redevelopment of a former secondary school for tourism/community/rural or mixed use development (X-01) special policy which lies adjacent to the SAC, and to protect the special character and historical significant of St. Gobnait's shrine (X-02), also adjacent to the SAC. It is also proposed to maintain existing walks within the SAC (U-02 and U03). General Objective GO-01(p) for villages including Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney states that development in the villages will only be permitted where it is shown to be compatible with the protection of sites proposed to be designated for the protection of natural heritage. This includes St. Gobnet's Wood.

Boundary Issues:

A significant proportion of St. Gobnet's Wood lies within the settlement boundary of **Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney**. Most of this area is zoned as Open Space O-01. The objective for this area is to protect the unique heritage and amenity value of the woodland, and this zoning is compatible with the protection of the SAC. However, small sections of woodland (both St. Gobnet's and Cascade Wood) lie within the area described to be within the existing built up area and these areas could come under pressure for development of housing. It is recommended that all areas of woodland which form part of the SAC which lie within the settlement boundary of Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney would be zoned as Open Space - not suitable for development.

Development within the SAC/Recreational Pressures:

The plan proposes the maintenance of existing walks within St. Gobnet's Wood, but no extensions of these routes or intensification of recreational or other uses of the woodland area is proposed. While the population of Ballyvourney is set to increase, which could give rise to increased use of woodland paths, it is not considered that this use would pose a significant risk

of impact within the SAC, provided recreational access to the woodland is managed. It is not considered that the proposals to maintain existing walking routes within the SAC pose a risk of impact on woodland habitat. No changes are required to the plan.

Conclusion

It is recommended that areas of woodland within the St. Gobnet's Wood SAC which lie within the settlement boundary of Ballymakeery/Ballyvourney are included within an Open Space zoning – not suitable for development in order to reduce pressure for development within these areas. Subject to implementation of this recommendation and adherence to protective policy (GO-01(p)), it is considered that the policies of the draft plan are generally compatible with the protection of this SAC.

The Gearagh SAC (0108) - Screening Assessment

SAC Description and Key Concerns

The Gearagh is an area of partially flooded river valley of the Lee which supports woodland habitat including Alluvial Woodland through which flows braided channels of the Lee and the Toon Rivers, and Old Oak Woodland as well as a large reservoir which has been created by the damming of Lee at Carrigadrohid. The muddy edges of the reservoir support a diverse ephemeral flora which corresponds with an Annex I habitat type 'rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodium rubric p.p* and *Bidention p.p.* vegetation' and the site is also protected for the Annex I habitat type - floating river vegetation as well as for the freshwater mammal species, Otter. The site supports the only extensive alluvial woodland in Ireland or Britain, and it supports rare plants as well as internationally important numbers of a variety of species of wetland birds. The site is also designated as a Special Protection Area and is a Ramsar site. The habitats and species for which this site is designated are listed in **Appendix I** of this document, as are its Conservation Objectives.

The Gearagh SAC lies within the Green Belt of **Macroom Town** which lies on the Sullane River. The Sullane River discharges to the Lee downstream of the Gearagh, and thus has no hydrological connectivity with the SAC. Settlements in the upper catchment of the Gearagh include **Ballingeary, Inchigeelagh, Toon Bridge, Kilbarry** and **Tooms**. In the context of the LAP, and having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to this site, the key concerns are to ensure that policies associated with these settlements:

- will not interfere with the natural hydrological regime or natural flooding patterns of the rivers and streams flowing into the Gearagh;
- will not pose a risk to water quality within the SAC;
- will not direct or encourage development within the SAC;
- will not interfere with Otter commuting routes or prey availability; and

- will not result in undue recreational pressure within the SAC.

Assessment

Impacts on Natural Hydrological Processes/Natural Flooding Patterns:

The plan proposes the development of an additional 468 houses in **Macroom** town. These are all to be provided within the town boundary. As there is no hydrological connectivity between the town and the Gearagh, it is not anticipated that the development of these houses will affect natural hydrological processes within the SAC.

There are five other smaller settlements located within this MD which are upstream of the Gearagh. These are **Ballingeary** and **Inchigeelagh** located on the Lee River west of the Gearagh, **Toon Bridge** which is located on the Toon River immediately adjacent to the SAC, **Kilbarry** which is located on a tributary of the Toon River south of Toon Bridge and **Tooms** which is located to the south of the SAC and which is connected to the SAC via a small unnamed stream.

The plan proposes the development of an additional 60 houses in Ballingeary and 60 houses in Inchigeelagh subject to the upgrading of WWTP's in these settlements. It also proposes the development of a maximum of an additional five houses in Toon Bridge, an additional three houses in Kilbarry and an additional five houses in Tooms all to be serviced by individual waste water treatment systems.

While responsible management of surface water in Ballingeary will important to ensure the protection of water quality and natural hydrological processes in the Lee catchment generally, this settlement is separated from the Gearagh by Lough Allua, and activities associated with this settlement are unlikely to affect flooding patterns in the Gearagh.

Control and management of surface water from the settlements of the catchment downstream of Lough Allua (Inchigeelagh, Toons Bridge, Toom and Kilbarry) will be important to protecting natural hydrological processes within the SAC. Some of the land within the settlements of Inchigeelagh, Toon Bridge and Tooms lie in flood risk areas. Development in these areas could have the potential to affect flooding patterns and hydrological patterns within the SAC. Developments in any of these settlements discharging unattenuated surface water to adjacent watercourses could also have the potential to contribute to pressures on natural hydrological patterns which are important in the Gearagh. It will be important that new development in the settlements of Inchigeelagh, Toon Bridge and Tooms is not located within flood risk zones and that development in all of these settlements makes adequate provision of attenuation of surface water in order to ensure that it does not pose a risk of impact on the SAC.

Flood Risk Objective IN-01 discourages development in flood risk areas and should reduce pressure for such development within the settlement of Inchigeelagh, Toon's Bridge and Tooms. In addition General Objectives for the Key Villages, Villages and Village Nuclei and Other

Locations encourage new development in these settlements to be designed to ensure the protection of water and biodiversity resources and clarifies that development in these areas will only be permitted where it is shown that it is compatible with the protection of sites designated for nature conservation. These objectives will help to reduce pressure for development in flood risk areas and will help to ensure the protection of natural flooding patterns in the Lee catchment. While GO-01(e) Key Villages, GO-01(d) Villages and GO-01(d) Village Nuclei clarify that new developments in villages and other smaller settlements must make adequate provision for storm water storage and disposal, these objectives do not specify that provision should be made to ensure surface water run off should be attenuated to Greenfield rates. It is recommended that provision would be given to strengthening these objectives to encourage the use of SuDS and ensure that adequate provision is made to minimise risk of impact on natural hydrological processes within the catchment of the Gearagh.

Water Quality Issues: The settlements of Ballingeary and Inchigeelagh are served by public waste water treatment systems which discharge to the Lee River. The coding system included in Table 2.3 of the plan identifies that there are capacity issues associated with the waste water treatment systems which require to be addressed to facilitate future development. A review of EPA reports for the systems identifies that there are significant capacity issues associated with treatment systems serving both settlements, and there are license compliance issues associated with the Ballingeary discharge, while waste water is being discharged untreated from the Inchigeelagh settlement. Both plants are observed to be having negative effects on water quality.

The plan specifies that future development in these settlements will be limited to a small number of individual houses unless provision is made for public wastewater infrastructure (GO-01(c) and GO-01(d) key villages and GO-01(d) villages). This is considered to be an acceptable approach. However, issues with these plants extend beyond issues relating to capacity only, and it is recommended that this would also be highlighted in the plan.

The smaller settlements of Toon Bridge, Kilbarry and Tooms propose very limited development of housing and only with the provision of individual wastewater treatment systems. Subject to any such systems being compliant with the EPA standard, it is considered that the proposed development in these settlements will not pose a significant risk of impact on water quality in the SAC.

Boundary Issues: Much of this SAC is located within the Green Belt of Macroom. Greenbelt policy GB 1-1 strongly discourages development of new individual houses within this zone. This policy is compatible with the protection of the SAC.

Impacts on Otter: No policies in the plan have been identified which could have the potential to interfere with connectivity of commuting routes or otherwise pose a risk of disturbance to Otter

within this SAC.

Recreational Pressures: The plan does not propose or promote walks or other recreational uses within the SAC.

Conclusion

Some changes to the plan are recommended to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. It is recommended that these changes would be made at the amendments stage. These relate to providing clarity on issues relating to surface water and waste water management in Gearagh catchment.

Cork Harbour SPA (4030) - Screening Assessment

SPA Description and Key Concerns

SPA Description and Key Concerns

This is a large site which is made up of a number of discrete sheltered river estuarine systems discharging to Cork Harbour. The primary habitats of the SPA are intertidal mudflats which are of very high importance for the high numbers and variety of wintering waterfowl species which occur here. The SPA also has a nationally important breeding colony of Common Tern. The qualifying interests of the SPA and their Conservation Objectives are set out in **Appendix 1** of this report. The north channel of Cork Harbour including the Owenacurra Estuary, the estuary at Rostellan, the Owenboy Estuary and Lough Mahon which form part of the SPA are assessed to have moderate water quality status. Water quality in other portions of the SPA at Lough Beg and Whitegate/Aghada are assessed to be reaching good water quality status (EPA Envision Maps, 2010-2012).

Most of the settlements within the MD lie within the Lee Catchment and therefore have a direct hydrological connection to the SPA, and consideration must be given to potential for discharges associated with development provided for by this plan, to contribute to cumulative negative effects on water quality and estuarine habitats within the SPA, and ultimately on the health of populations of birds reliant on those habitats.

The primary potential source of impact on the SPA associated with this plan relates to the growth targets for settlements in the Blarney Macroom MD area which have treatment plants discharging into the rivers within the Lee catchment or to Cork Harbour itself. Unless settlements have appropriate treatment infrastructure to cater for the additional growth, there is a risk that new development would give rise to increased nutrient inputs to the system, affecting water quality in the estuary and potentially affecting estuarine habitats and their dependant bird species.

Significant growth is proposed for this MD including within the settlements of Blarney (2,566

new dwellings) and Macroom (571) in particular. Waste-water from Blarney is directed to the Carrigrennan WWTP which discharges treated waste water into Cork Harbour at Marino Point just south of the SPA, while treated wastewater from the Macroom WWTP discharges to the Lee downstream of Macroom Town.

Assessment

Policies in the plan require the provision of appropriate waste-water treatment infrastructure to be provided in all settlements within the MD, which can cater for the additional growth proposed in the area. The infrastructure must be in place in advance of new development progressing and must be capable of treating effluent to a standard to ensure it can comply with WFD and Habitats Directive requirements.

Conclusion

It is stated in relevant Development Boundary and General Objectives for relevant settlements in the plan that development will not be permitted unless it can be shown that wastewater infrastructure is in place which will secure the objectives of the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive. For some settlements, additional capacity may need to be provided to allow development to proceed in accordance with the plan. For other settlements there may be assimilative capacity, plant design or outfall location issues which will also need to be addressed. In the interest of clarity, it is recommended that consideration be given at the amendments stage to identifying the WWTPs which have issues (other than capacity issues) which may require investment or further improvements at the plants in order to accommodate proposed growth.

Subject to adherence to DB and GO objectives which clarify the constraints on development associated with provision of appropriate wastewater treatment infrastructure, it is considered that the growth which is proposed in this plan can be accommodated without giving rise to significant negative effects on the Cork Harbour SPA.

The Gearagh SPA (4109) - Screening Assessment

SPA Description and Key Concerns

The Gearagh is an area of partially flooded river valley of the Lee which supports woodland, scrub and grassland habitat as well as a large reservoir which has been created by the damming of Lee at Carrigadrohid. The SPA supports internationally important numbers of Wigeon, Teal, Mallard and Coot as well as important numbers of other species including Whooper Swan, Curlew, Golden Plover and Lapwing. The site is also designated as a Special Area of Conservation and is a Statutory Nature Reserve. Qualifying features and Conservation Objectives are listed in **Appendix I** of this report. In the context of the LAP and having regard to these features and the Conservation Objectives which apply, the primary objectives will be

- to maintain the extent and quality of the habitats used by birds within the SPA; and
- to ensure that no policies in the plan have the potential to promote or facilitate activities within or near the SPA which could result in significant disturbance to birds.

Assessment

Boundary Issues: Much of this SPA is located within the Green Belt of Macroom. Greenbelt policy GB 1-1 strongly discourages development of new individual houses within this zone. This policy is compatible with the protection of the SPA.

There is an overlap between the boundary of Toon Bridge and the SPA. However the portion of SPA land within the settlement boundary of Toon Bridge is zoned as Open Space (O-01) and the policy states that this area is no suitable for development. This policy is considered to be compatible with the protection of the SPA.

Impacts on Natural Hydrological Processes/Natural Flooding Patterns:

Protecting natural flooding patterns is particularly important to ensure the protection of habitats for which the Gearagh SAC is designated, but may also be important in ensuring the protection of the extent of wetland habitat available to wintering birds for which the SPA is designated, to that end policies which may affect how surface water is managed in the catchment of the SPA are considered here.

The plan proposes the development of an additional 468 houses in **Macroom** town. These are all to be provided within the town boundary. As there is no hydrological connectivity between the town and the Gearagh, it is not anticipated that the development of these houses will affect natural hydrological processes within the SPA.

There are five other smaller settlements located within this MD which are upstream of the Gearagh. These are **Ballingeary** and **Inchigeelagh** located on the Lee River west of the Gearagh, **Toon Bridge** which is located on the Toon River immediately adjacent to the SPA, **Kilbarry** which is located on a tributary of the Toon River south of Toon Bridge and **Tooms** which is located to the south of the SPA and which is connected to the SPA via a small unnamed stream.

The plan proposes the development of an additional 60 houses in Ballingeary and 60 houses in Inchigeelagh subject to the upgrading of waste water treatment systems in these settlements. It also proposes the development of a maximum of an additional five houses in Toon Bridge, an additional three houses in Kilbarry and an additional five houses in Tooms, all to be serviced by individual waste water treatment systems.

While responsible management of surface water in Ballingeary will important to ensure the protection of water quality and natural hydrological processes in the Lee catchment generally,

this settlement is separated from the Gearagh by Lough Allua, and activities associated with this settlement are unlikely to affect flooding patterns in the Gearagh.

Control and management of surface water from the settlements of the catchment downstream of Lough Allua (Inchigeelagh, Toons Bridge, Toom and Kilbarry) will be important to protecting natural hydrological processes within the SPA. Some of the land within the settlements of Inchigeelagh, Toon Bridge and Tooms lie in flood risk areas. Development in these areas could have the potential to affect flooding patterns and hydrological patterns within the SPA. Developments in any of these settlements discharging unattenuated surface water to adjacent watercourses could also have the potential to contribute to pressures on natural hydrological patterns which are important in the Gearagh. It will be important that new development in the settlements of Inchigeelagh, Toon Bridge and Tooms is not located within flood risk zones and that development in all of these settlements makes adequate provision of attenuation of surface water in order to ensure that it does not pose a risk of impact on the SPA.

Flood Risk Objective IN-01 discourages development in flood risk areas and should reduce pressure for such development within the settlement of Inchigeelagh, Toon's Bridge and Tooms. In addition General Objectives for the Key Villages, Villages and Village Nuclei and Other Locations encourage new development in these settlements to be designed to ensure the protection of water and biodiversity resources and clarifies that development in these areas will only be permitted where it is shown that it is compatible with the protection of sites designated for nature conservation. These objectives will help to reduce pressure for development in flood risk areas and will help to ensure the protection of natural flooding patterns in the Lee catchment. While GO-01(e) Key Villages, GO-01(d) Villages and GO-01(d) Village Nuclei clarify that new developments in villages and other smaller settlements must make adequate provision for storm water storage and disposal, these objectives do not specify that provision should be made to ensure surface water run-off should be attenuated to Greenfield rates. It is recommended that provision would be given to strengthening these objectives to encourage the use of SuDS and ensure that adequate provision is made to minimise risk of impact on natural hydrological processes within the catchment of the Gearagh.

Recreational Pressures: The plan does not propose or promote walks or other recreational uses within the SPA and does not propose any type of development within or near the SPA which is of particular concern from the perspective of causing a significant disturbance risk to birds.

Conclusion

Some changes to the plan are recommended to ensure compliance with the Birds Directive. It is recommended that these changes would be made at the amendments stage. These relate to providing clarity on issues relating to surface water and waste water management in Gearagh catchment.

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Mullaghanish to Musheramore SPA (4162) - Screening Assessment

SPA Description and Key Concerns

This is a large upland site which is located within the Boggeragh / Derrynasaggart Mountains. The site was designated as it was known to support a significant proportion of the national breeding Hen Harrier population. The site also supports a breeding population of Merlin. Designation criteria and other information about this site is included in **Appendix I** of this report. In the context of the LAP, and having regard to the Conservation Objective which applies to this site, the key concerns are to ensure that

- policy in the plan does not encourage or direct development into SPA;
- policy in the plan will not encourage activities within the SPA which could have the potential to give rise to significant disturbance related impacts on Hen Harrier.

Assessment

The village of Carriganimmy is located on the R582 immediately adjacent to this SPA. The plan proposes the development of an additional 5 houses in the settlement up to 2023 and the development of a pedestrian walk along the banks of the Foherish River which is located to the west and south of the village. These policies will not pose any risk of impact (disturbance or habitat loss) on breeding or feeding Hen Harrier. No policies in the plan direct activity into the SPA, or require the use of resources from the SPA. It is considered that policies in the plan are compatible with the protection of this site.

Conclusion

No policies in the plan direct activity into the SPA, or require the use of resources from the SPA. It is considered that policies in the plan are compatible with the protection of this site.

4 Screening Conclusions and Recommendations

Blarney Macroom Municipal District Local Area Plan Consultation Draft - Screening Conclusion	
Natura 2000 sites subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment	Clonakilty Bay SAC 0091 St. Gobnet’s Wood SAC 0106 The Gearagh SAC 0108 Kilgarvan Ice House SAC 0364 Great Island Channel SAC 1058 Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC 1230

	<p>Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC 1873 Mullaghanish Bog SAC 1890 Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC 2041 Blackwater River SAC (2170) Bandon River SAC (2171) Glanlough Woods SAC (2315) Cork Harbour SPA (4030) Killarney National Park SPA (4038) Clonakilty Bay SPA 4081 Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA (4162) Courtmacsherry Bay SPA (4219)</p>
<p>Description of the Plan</p>	<p>See Section 2 of this report.</p>
<p>Is the Plan Directly Connected with Or Necessary to the Management of the Natura 2000 sites identified above</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Are there other projects or plans that together with this plan could give rise to cumulative impacts on any of the above listed sites.</p>	<p>Other plans that set land use policy and promote the intensification of economic, tourism, agriculture and forestry activity in within the catchments of Cork Harbour, South East Cork and the Blackwater River, may include policies whose implementation could result in negative ‘in combination’ effects on habitats and species for which the above listed sites are designated include <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlantic Gateways Initiative 2006 • Common Agricultural Policy (2014-2020) • Cork Area Strategic Plan (2008) • Draft Kanturk Mallow MD LAP 2016 • Draft Kinsale-Bandon MD LAP 2016 • Draft Blarney-Macroom MD LAP 2016 • Draft Cobh MD LAP 2016 • Draft East Cork MD LAP 2016 • Draft Ballincollig-Carrigaline MD LAP 2016 • Forests, products and people – Irelands forest policy-a renewed vision 2014 • Harvest 2020-A Vision for Irish Agri-Food and Fisheries

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kerry County Development Plan 2015-2021 • National Climate (2007-2012) Climate Adaptation Framework (2012) • National Development Plan 2007-2013 • National Renewable Energy Action Plan • National Spatial Strategy • Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018 • National Waste Management Plan 2004-2009 • North and West Cork Strategic Plan 2002-2020 • Smarter Travel. A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020 • South Western Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 <p>The primary issues of concern are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies which could result in increased pressure for development within Natura 2000 sites; • policies resulting in an increased pressure on water quality in sensitive catchments; • policies which may hinder natural hydrological processes in freshwater systems; • policies which could result in significant disturbance to birds within SPAs
Assessment of Significant Effects	
<p>Describe how the plan (alone or in combination is likely to affect Natura 2000 sites)</p>	<p>The key policy areas which were identified at the draft plan screening stage which could have the potential to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 networks were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • policies which could result in increased pressure for development within Natura 2000 sites; • policies resulting in an increased pressure on water quality in sensitive catchments; • policies which may hinder natural hydrological processes within the in freshwater systems; • policies which could direct activity into SPAs which could have the potential to cause disturbance to birds at wintering grounds or breeding sites.
<p>Recommended changes to</p>	<p>A number of recommendations for modifications to the draft plan</p>

<p>the plan</p>	<p>are proposed to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. These are summarised below.</p> <p>St. Gobnet’s Wood SAC– Zone SAC woodland within the Ballymakeery/Ballvourney settlement as Open Space not suitable for development.</p> <p>The Gearagh SAC – Strengthen General Objectives for settlements in catchment of Gearagh to ensure that integration of SuDS into new development is encouraged and to clarify that surface water is to be managed to ensure that Greenfield rates of surface water run off are maintained; Clarify in the document that issues relating to compliance with license conditions, protection of water quality must also be addressed for WWTPs in Gearagh catchment (as well as capacity issues), to ensure that new development does not have a negative effect on water quality and habitats for which this SAC is designated.</p> <p>Cork Harbour SPA - No changes to the plan are required.</p> <p>The Gearagh SPA – Strengthen General Objectives for settlements in catchment of Gearagh to ensure that integration of SuDS into new development is encouraged and to clarify that surface water is to be managed to ensure that Greenfield rates of surface water run off are maintained.</p> <p>Mullaghanish to Musheramore SPA – No changes to the plan are required.</p>
<p>List of Agencies Consulted</p>	<p>The draft plan and this report will be referred to all of the relevant Statutory Authorities and will available for consideration by the general public from November 16th 2016.</p>
<p>Conclusion</p>	<p>Subject to adherence to protective policies in the plan relating to provision of appropriate waste water infrastructure and management of surface water, and to adoption of recommended changes as set out above, it is considered that potential for this plan to give rise to significant negative effects on the Natura 2000 network can be screened out.</p>
<p>Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment</p>	

Who carried out the assessment	Planning Policy Unit Cork County Council
Sources of Data	See references
Level of Assessment Completed	Screening for Appropriate Assessment
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed	Habitats Directive Assessment will continue through the process of making this plan. All documents associated with the process will be available at www.corkcoco.ie

5 Next Steps

5.1 Post Consultation

Submissions or observations regarding the **Blarney Macroom Municipal District Draft Local Area Plan** document and to the Environmental Report and Habitats Directive Screening Report are now welcome up to 4pm on Friday 06th January 2017.

All such submissions lodged within the above period and prior to the close of business at 4.00pm on Friday 06th January 2017, will be taken into consideration in the finalisation of the Local Area Plan, and proposed amendments will be published during a second round of public consultation which will commence in the spring of 2017. Proposed amendments will be subject to Habitats Directive Screening Assessment and the findings of that assessment will be published alongside the proposed amendments.

6 Sources of Information

6.1 National Parks and Wildlife Service Data

Information relating to individual Natura 2000 sites including Article 17 Conservation Assessment Reports for Habitats and Species In Ireland (2013), individual site synopses, Natura 2000 data forms, and information relating to the qualifying features and conservation objectives of individual sites was sourced from the NPWS database (www.NPWS.ie)

6.2 Guidance

Guidance used in the preparation of this report included the following:

European Communities, Managing Natura 2000 sites. The provisions of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Communities, 2000.

European Communities, Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites. Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Communities, 2001.

Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. Guidance for Planning Authorities. 2009.

Appendix I Site Data

St.Gobnet's Wood SAC (Site Code) 0106

Qualifying Interests

91A0 Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles

Conservation Objectives

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the Annex I habitat(s) and/or the Annex II species for which the SAC has been selected:

Code	Description
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91A0	Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles
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NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for St. Gobnet's Wood [0106]. Generic Version 5.0. Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

The Gearagh SAC (Site Code 0108)

Qualifying Interests

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]

Rivers with muddy banks with *Chenopodion rubric p.p.* and *Bidention p.p.* vegetation [3270]

Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles [91A0]

Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*) [91E0]

Lutra lutra (Otter) [1355]

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation [3260]

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitricho-Batrachion* vegetation in the Gearagh SAC which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute/Target						
Habitat area	Habitat distribution	Hydrological regime: river flow	Hydrological regime: groundwater discharge	Substratum: variety and extent	Water quality: nutrients	Water quality: biological indicators
Area stable or increasing subject to natural processes	No decline, subject to natural processes	Maintain appropriate hydrological regime necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	Maintain the appropriate groundwater contribution to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	Maintain the variety and extent of substratum necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	Maintain the concentration of nutrients in the water column necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	Maintain good or high biological status necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat

Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] cont'd			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation in the Gearagh SAC which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute/Target			
Vegetation composition: typical species	Vegetation composition: vegetation communities	Fringing Habitats	Floodplain Connectivity
Maintain typical species in good condition, including appropriate distribution and abundance	Maintain vegetation communities/zonation/mosaic characteristic of the site	Maintain marginal fringing habitats that support the typical species that support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	Maintain floodplain connectivity necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat

Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubric p.p.</i> and <i>Bidention p.p</i> vegetation 3270							
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubric p.p.</i> and <i>Bidention p.p</i> vegetation in the Gearagh SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets.							
Attribute/Target							
Habitat area	Habitat distribution	Hydrological regime: groundwater contribution; flood duration, flood frequency, flood area and depth	Soil/substratum type: variety and extent	Soil/substratum nutrient status: nitrogen and phosphorus	Physical structure: Bare ground	Water quality: nutrients; phytoplankton biomass	Typical species
Area stable or increasing	No decline, subject to	Maintain appropriate	Maintain variety and extent of	Maintain nutrient status necessary to	Maintain sufficient wet	Maintain water quality necessary	Maintain typical species

subject to natural fluctuations	natural processes.	hydrological regime necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	substratum necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	bare ground to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	in good condition, including appropriate distribution and abundance
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Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubric p.p.</i> and <i>Bidention p.p.</i> vegetation 3270 cont'd		
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Rivers with muddy banks with <i>Chenopodium rubric p.p.</i> and <i>Bidention p.p.</i> vegetation in the Gearagh SAC, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets.		
Attribute/Target		
Vegetation Composition: vegetation zonation	Fringing Habitats	Floodplain Connectivity
Maintain vegetation zonation/mosaic characteristic of the site	Maintain marginal fringing habitats that support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat	Maintain floodplain connectivity necessary to support the typical species and vegetation composition of the habitat

Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles					
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Old Sessile Oak Woods in The Gearagh SAC					
Attribute/Target					
Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Woodland Size	Woodland Structure: cover and height	Woodland Structure; community diversity and extent	Woodland Structure: natural regeneration
Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	No decline	Area stable or increasing. Where topographically possible, "large" woods at	Diverse structure with a relatively closed canopy containing	Maintain diversity and extent of community types	Seedlings, saplings and pole age-classes occur in adequate

(Toon Bridge Wood 10.4ha)		least 25ha in size and "small" woods at least 3ha in size	mature trees; sub-canopy layer with semi-mature trees and shrubs; and well-developed herb layer		proportions to ensure survival of woodland canopy
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Old sessile oak woods with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> in the British Isles cont'd					
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Old Sessile Oak Woods in the Gearagh SAC					
Attribute/Target					
Woodland Structure: dead wood	Woodland Structure: veteran trees	Woodland Structure: indicators of local distinctiveness	Vegetation composition: native tree cover	Vegetation composition: typical species	Vegetation composition: negative indicator species
At least 30m ³ /ha of fallen timber greater than 10cm diameter; 30 snags/ha; both categories should include stems greater than 40cm diameter	No decline	No decline	No decline. Native tree cover not less than 95%	A variety of typical native species present, depending on woodland type, oak (<i>Quercus petraea</i>) and birch (<i>Betula pubescens</i>)	Negative indicator species, particularly non-native invasive species, absent or under control

Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0]					
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) in The Gearagh SAC					
Attribute/Target					

Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Woodland size	Woodland structure: cover and height	Woodland structure: community diversity and extent	Woodland Structure: natural regeneration
Area stable or increasing subject to natural processes, at least 101.2ha for sites surveyed	No decline	Area stable or increasing. Where topographically possible 'large' woods at least 25ha in size and 'small woods' at least 3 ha in size	Diverse structure with a relatively closed canopy containing mature trees; sub-canopy layer with semi-mature trees and shrubs; and well developed herb layer	Maintain diversity and extent of community types	Seedlings, saplings and pole age-classes occur in adequate proportions to ensure survival of woodland canopy

Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] cont'd						
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Alluvial forests with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) in The Gearagh SAC						
Attribute/Target						
Hydrological regime: Flooding depth/height of water table	Woodland structure: dead wood	Woodland structure: veteran trees	Woodland structure: indicators of local distinctiveness	Vegetation composition: native tree cover	Vegetation composition: typical species	Vegetation composition: negative indicator species
Appropriate hydrological regime necessary for maintenance of alluvial vegetation	At least 30m ³ /ha of fallen timber; 30 snags/ha; both categories should include stems greater than 40cm diameter (greater than 20cm diameter	No decline	No decline.	No decline. Native tree cover not less than 95%	A variety of typical native species present, depending on woodland type, including oak, ash, birch, alder and willows.	Negative indicator species, particularly non-native invasive species, absent or under control

	in the case of alder)					
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Lutra Lutra (Otter)						
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Lutra Lutra (Otter) in The Gearagh SAC						
Attribute/Target						
Distribution	Extent of terrestrial habitat	Extent of freshwater (river) habitat	Extent of freshwater (lake) habitat	Couching sites and holts	Fish biomass available	Barriers to connectivity
No significant decline	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 103ha above HWM; 1165.7ha along river banks/around ponds	No significant decline. Length mapped and calculated as 10.6km	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 129.5ha	No significant decline	No significant decline	No significant increase

NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for the Gearagh SAC [0108], Version1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Cork Harbour SPA 004030

Qualifying Interests

A004	Little Grebe	A056	Shoveler	A160	Curlew
A005	Great Crested Grebe	A069	Red-breasted	A162	Redshank
A017	Cormorant	A130	Oystercatcher	A179	Black-headed Gull
A028	Grey Heron	A140	Golden Plover	A183	Common Gull
A048	Shelduck	A141	Grey Plover	A183	Lesser Black-backed Gull
A050	Wigeon	A142	Lapwing	A193	Common Tern
A052	Teal	A149	Dunlin	A999	Wetland and Waterbirds
A054	Pintail	A156	Black-tailed Godwit		
		A157	Bar-tailed Godwit		

Conservation Objectives

1. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following species in the Cork Harbour SPA:

Little Grebe; Great Crested Grebe; Cormorant; Grey Heron; Shelduck; Wigeon; Teal; Pintail; Shoveler; Red-breasted Merganser; Oystercatcher; Golden Plover; Grey Plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Black-tailed Godwit; Bar-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Redshank; Black-headed Gull; Common Gull and Lesser Black-backed Gull.

The primary targets for each of these species are to

- ensure that the long term population trend is stable or increasing; and
- to ensure that there is no significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by each of these species, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation. Population trends and distribution for each species are available [here](#)

2. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Tern in Cork Harbour SPA.

The primary targets for this species are to ensure that there is no significant decline in

- breeding population;

- productivity rates;
- distribution of breeding colonies; or
- prey biomass availability;

and that there is no significant increase in barriers to connectivity or disturbance at breeding sites.

3. To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Cork harbour SPA as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

The primary target for this habitat is that the permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,587 ha, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation.

NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives for Cork Harbour SPA {4030}. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Gearagh SPA 004109

Qualifying Interests

A050	Wigeon
A052	Teal
A053	Mallard
A125	Coot
A999	Wetland and Waterbirds

Conservation Objectives

- 1 To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA

Code	Common Name	Scientific Name
A050	Wigeon	Anas penelope
A052	Teal	Anas crecca
A053	Mallard	Anas platyrhynchos
A125	Coot	Fulica atra

- 2 To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat at the Gearagh SPA as a resources for the regularly occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it.

NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for The Gearagh SPA {4109}. Generic Version 5. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA 004162

Qualifying Interests

A082 Hen Harrier

Conservation Objectives

To maintain or restore the favourable conservation condition of the bird species listed as Special Conservation Interests for this SPA:

Code	Common Name	Scientific Name
A082	Hen Harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>

NPWS (2016) Conservation Objectives for Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA {4162}. Version 5. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.

