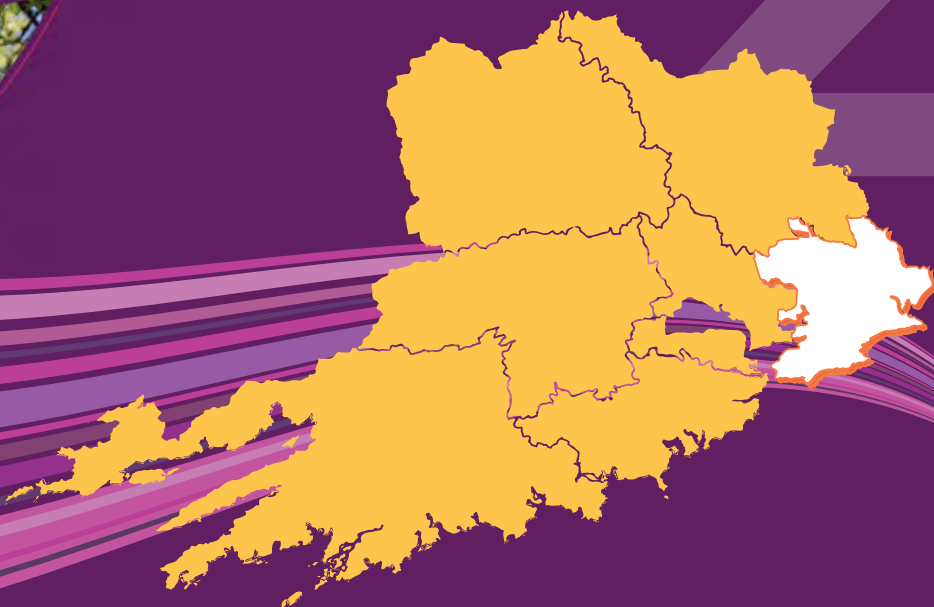




**Cork
County Council**
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

Draft East Cork 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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East Cork Municipal District

1 Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report

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Section 1: Introduction

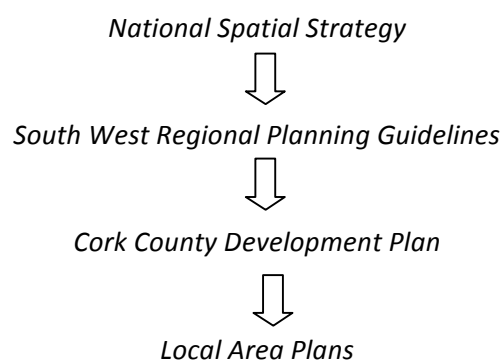
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1 Introduction

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This is the Environmental Report on the Strategic Environment Assessment of the Draft East Cork 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.

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 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: 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 Natura Impact Report which is contained in Section B 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. A copy of the SFRA is included in this volume. 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 commenced however the final results were not available in time for inclusion in the draft plan. Should the mapping be concluded and suggest amendments to the plan these can be considered as part of the next stage of the plan making process. 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 Waterbodies 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 East Cork 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 East Cork 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 Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan was 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 East Cork Municipal District is located east of Cork City and in 2011 the population of the area stood at 42,399. This population is spread across a network of settlements including 2 Main Towns, 30 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 31% of the population of the Municipal District living in the open countryside i.e. not within a settlement.

2.3.2 Midleton is the largest town within the Municipal District with a population of 12,001 in 2011. The other main town in the Municipal District is Youghal which had a population of 7,794 in 2011.

Table 2.1 Distribution of population within the East Cork Municipal District 2011			
	Settlements	Population 2011	%
Towns	Midleton (12,001) and Youghal (7,794)	19, 795	47%
Key villages	Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Killeagh, Whitegate and Aghada	9,566	22%
Villages	Ballycotton Ballymacoda, Churchtown South, Dungourney, Ladysbridge, Mogeely, Saleen, Shanagarry/Garryvoe.		
Village nuclei	Clonmult, Ballincurrig, Ballymackibbot, Ballinrostig, Ballintotis, Gortaroo (Gortroe), Inch, Leamlara, Lisgoold, Mount Uniacke		
Other locations	Barnabrow/Ballymaloe`, Carriganass, Garryvoe Upper, Gyleen Knockadoon, Redbarn Roche's Point, Trabolgan		
Rural areas		13,038	31%
Total Population		42,399	
* Village and Rural Area Populations are estimated figures			



Figure 2.1: East Cork Municipal District Settlements

2.3.3 At present planning policy for the settlements within the East Cork Municipal District is spread across the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and the Youghal Town Development Plan 2009. The intention is that local planning policy for all settlements within the Municipal District will be contained within the new East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017.

2.3.4 It is anticipated that many of the provisions of the current Local Area Plans 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 Growth Strategy

2.4.1 Within the East Cork Municipal District the County Plan provides for growth in population of 11,397 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 7,179 leading to a net requirement for 7,790 new houses within the Municipal District in the period 2011-2022. The County Development Plan indicates that 262ha of land are required to meet this level of housing provision in the main towns, in addition to housing opportunities in the villages and rural areas.

2.4.2 The population growth target will require the provision of 7,790 new housing units, with at least 6,280 units allocated to the 2 Main Towns. Housing growth of 1,121 units is also planned for the villages.

Table 2.2 Housing Requirement and Housing Supply (Draft East Cork MD LAP)

	Housing Requirement					Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	Total New Households	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Estimated Residential area zoned in draft LAP	Estimated Housing Yield draft LAP
Midleton	12,001	21,576	4,667	5,243	210	185	5,255
Youghal	7,794	9,115	999	1,037	52	104	1,983
Main Towns	19,795	30,691	5,665	6,280	262	289	7,238
Villages	9,566	11,067	1,176	1,121	--	--	1,214
Rural	13,038	12,038	339	389	--	--	--
Total Villages & Rural	22,604	23,105	1,514	1,510	--	--	1,214
Total for District	42,399	53,796	7,179	7,790	262	289	8,452

Core Strategy Housing Requirement Source: Cork County Development Plan 2014- Appendix B, Table B 10

2.4.3 Through its County Development Plan 2014, the Council has allocated the majority of this growth to the towns with over 6,280 new houses required, the majority of which are planned for Midleton. Housing growth is also planned within the villages.

2.4.4 Table 2.2 above shows that the current provision of zoned lands within the main towns is sufficient to accommodate 7,238 new dwelling units providing headroom of 958 units or about 15% in excess of the net requirement for the towns of the Municipal District which is 6,280 new units.

2.4.5 Table 2.2 also shows that the greatest number of new dwellings are planned in Midleton with significant new growth also planned in Youghal. In addition the table shows there is significant headroom in Youghal but no headroom in Midleton. However Midleton forms part of the Metropolitan SPA which is considered to be a single market area for housing and jobs and where the overall strategy

is to promote growth in the corridor served by the rail corridors east of Cork where there is a high quality public transport service already in place.

- 2.4.6 The scale of growth for the individual main 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.
- 2.4.7 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 400-500ha 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 MD Draft 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 preferred sites have been selected, they will be brought forward at the amendment stage of the plan.
- 2.4.8 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 1,121 units. This local area plan has retained the scale of growth figures for the villages at the 2011 figures, at the slightly higher level of development at 1,214 units.
- 2.4.9 Within the village network growth has been maintained at the levels 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.
- 2.4.10 The settlement network of this Municipal District includes eight 'Other Locations' Barnabrow/Ballymaloe, Carriganass, Garryvoe Upper, Gyleen, Knockadoon, Redbarn, Roche's Point and Trabolgan. 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 the East Cork 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 influence the preparation of the Draft Plan namely the;

Role of the Cork County Development Plan 2014

Approach to Town Council Development Plans

Settlement Network

Urban Expansion Areas

Water Services

Development Contributions

Regeneration Areas

Town Centres

Flood Risk Assessment and Management

Green Belts around Towns

Strategic Land Reserve

Environmental Assessments

Section 2 Local Area Strategy

2.5.3 This section set out the overall strategy for the East Cork 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

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 Midleton and Youghal in the East Cork Municipal District. Where appropriate Regeneration Areas have also been identified.

Table 2.3 Housing Requirement and Housing Supply (Draft Plan)

	Housing Requirement					Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	Total New Households	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Estimated Residential area zoned in draft LAP	Estimated Housing Yield draft LAP
Midleton	12,001	21,576	4,667	5,243	210	185	5,255
Youghal	7,794	9,115	999	1,037	52	104	1,983
Main Towns	19,795	30,691	5,665	6,280	262	289	7,238
Villages	9,566	11,067	1,176	1,121	--	--	1,214
Rural	13,038	12,038	339	389	--	--	--
Total Villages & Rural	22,604	23,105	1,514	1,510	--	--	1,214
Total for District	42,399	53,796	7,179	7,790	262	289	8,452

Core Strategy Housing Requirement Source: Cork County Development Plan 2014- Appendix B, Table B 10

2.5.5 **Midleton** is the largest settlement within the East Cork Municipal District and the major focus of residential, employment and retail services in East Cork, forming part of the 'Cork Gateway' the engine of population and employment growth for the region. Midleton has grown significantly in recent years as is a popular residential location for commuters working in or near Cork City. The aim of the East Cork Municipal District Plan is to put in place conditions that will allow Midleton to develop as a critical population, service and employment centre, with an appropriate level of community facilities and high quality, integrated public transport connections. In addition, the plan should ensure that Midleton town centre has the capacity to provide for an appropriate range of retail and non retail functions to serve the needs of the community and its wider catchment area.

2.5.6 **Youghal** is an historic seaside town on the eastern periphery of the county, 45km from Cork City. The town enjoys a very attractive coastal location with wide views of the Blackwater Estuary. The proposed Local Area Plan for Youghal supports the continued development of the town as a residential, employment, tourist and service location in a coastal setting with special recreational, heritage and marine tourism functions.

Section 4 Key Villages

2.5.7 There are four key villages in the East Cork Municipal District Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Killeagh, Whitegate and Aghada (which is also a Specialist Employment Centre).

2.5.8 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 2.4: Scale of Development in East Cork Municipal District 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
Castlemartyr	658	345	235	30
Cloyne	702	338	255	30
Killeagh	349	145	135	30
Whitegate / Aghada	893	272	190	40
Total Key Villages	2602	1100	815	--

Section 5 Villages, Village Nuclei and Other Locations

2.5.9 There are 8 villages in the East Cork Municipal District as follows; Ballycotton, Ballymacoda, Churchtown South, Dungourney, Ladysbridge, Mogeely, Saleen, Shanagarry / Garryvoe.

2.5.10 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 inter-urban public transport.

Table 2.5: Scale of Development in East Cork Municipal District Villages

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
Ballycotton	303	44	45	15
Ballymacoda	85	34	25	5
Churchtown South	26	-3	15	5
Dungourney	48	27	10	5
Ladysbridge	232	104	40	20
Mogeely	152	98	80	12
Saleen	157	77	50	10
Shanagarry / Garryvoe	358	183	70	20

2.5.11 There are 10 Village Nuclei in the East Cork Municipal District as follows; Ballincurrig, Ballinrostig, Ballintotis, Ballymackibbot, Clonmult, Gortaroo (Gortroe), Inch, Leamlara, Lisgoold and Mount Uniacke.

2.5.12 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 5.6. Scale of Development in X 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
Ballincurrig	23	10	10	5
Ballinrostig	12	1	5	3
Ballintotis	41	2	5	3
Ballymackibbot	16	9	2	--
Clonmult	10	1	5	3
Gortaroo (Gortroe)	10	1	5	3
Inch	10	7	2	--
Leamlara	38	36	10	5
Lisgoold	53	27	20	4 or 5
Mount Uniacke	9	0	2	--

2.5.13 There are 8 Other Locations in the East Cork Municipal District, Barnabrow / Ballymaloe, Carriganass, Garryvoe Upper, Gyleen, Knockadoon, Redbarn, Roche's Point and Trabolgan.

2.5.14 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 6 Putting the Plan into Practice

2.5.15 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 behavioural 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 (Authorisation) 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 East Cork 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 East Cork MD stood at 42,399. In the period to 2022, the population target allocated by the Cork County Development Plan 2014 provides for the population to grow by 11,397 persons or 27% approximately. The majority of this growth is targeted at the two towns of the District; Midleton and Youghal. Growth is also provided for across the network of smaller settlements within the District.

Table 3.1 Housing Requirement and Housing Supply (Draft Plan)

	Housing Requirement					Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	Total New Households	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Estimated Residential area zoned in draft LAP	Estimated Housing Yield draft LAP
Midleton	12,001	21,576	4,667	5,243	210	185	5,255
Youghal	7,794	9,115	999	1,037	52	104	1,983
Main Towns	19,795	30,691	5,665	6,280	262	289	7,238
Villages	9,566	11,067	1,176	1,121	--	--	1,214
Rural	13,038	12,038	339	389	--	--	--
Total Villages & Rural	22,604	23,105	1,514	1,510	--	--	1,214
Total for District	42,399	53,796	7,179	7,790	262	289	8,452

Core Strategy Housing Requirement Source: Cork County Development Plan 2014- Appendix B, Table B 10

3.2.2 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

- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 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.
- 3.2.5 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.
- 3.2.6 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.
- 3.2.7 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 Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht 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.

3.3.2 In the East Cork MD, there are four SPAs, 3 SAC's and 16 NHA's. In addition, there is one designated Nature reserve (Capel Island and Knockadoon Head), 4 RAMSAR Sites (Ballycotton, Ballynamona and Shangarry, Ballymacoda, Clonpriest and Pilmore, Blackwater Estuary, and Cork Harbour) and two wildfowl Sanctuaries (Ballynamona Shangarry and River Blackwater).

Table 3.2 Designated Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Natural Heritage Area sites in East Cork		
Name	Environmental Designation	Settlement(s) in this MD.
Blackwater River	SAC 2170	Youghal
Great Island Channel Cork Harbour	SAC 1058	Midleton
Ballymacoda, Clonpriest and Pilmore	SAC 77	Youghal; Ballymacoda
Ballycotton Bay	SPA 4022	Shanagarry; Ballycotton
Ballymacoda Bay	SPA 4023	Youghal; Ballymacoda
Blackwater Estuary	SPA 4028	Youghal
Cork Harbour	SPA 4030	Aghada, Whitegate;
Ballycotton Islands	pNHA 1978	Ballycotton
Ballycotton, Ballynamona and Shangarry	pNHA 76	Ballycotton
Ballynaclashy House, north of Midleton	pNHA 99	Midleton;
Ballyquirk Pond	pNHA 1235	Killeagh
Ballyvergan Marsh	pNHA 78	Youghal
Blackwater River and Estuary	pNHA 72	Youghal
Capel Island and Knockadoon Head	pNHA 83	Youghal; Ballymacoda
Carrigacrump Caves	pNHA 1408	Aghada; Whitegate
Carrigshane Hill	pNHA 1042	Midleton
Clasharinka Pond	pNHA 1183	Castlemartyr
Leamlara Wood	pNHA 1064	Midleton;
Loughs Aderry and Ballybutler	pNHA 446	Midleton; Castlemartyr
Rostellan Lough Aghada shore and Poul nabibe Inlet	pNHA 1076	Aghada; Whitegate
Whitegate Bay	pNHA 1084	Whitegate
Ballymacoda, Clonpriest and Pilmore	pNHA 77	Youghal; Ballymacoda
Great Island Channel Cork Harbour	pNHA 1058	Midleton;



Figure 3.1 East Cork Ecological Map

Protected Species

- 3.3.3 The pNHA Ballynaclashy House (99) north of Midleton has an important nursery colony of the whiskered bat (*Myotis Mystacinus*). Approximately 30 bats were recorded in the attic, roosting between the felt and the slates. As the national population of this species is only several hundred, all nursery colonies are of national importance.
- 3.3.4 The SEA will also be informed by the findings of the Habitats Directive Assessment process and will include appropriate mapping highlighting important sites within the area.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Biodiversity

- 3.3.5 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.

Ecological Baseline Study for Main Towns in East Cork Municipal District

- 3.3.6 Habitat Mapping for the East Cork Towns is currently being prepared and it is envisaged that when it is complete it will help to inform the amendment stage of 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 by the new local area plan. The SEA considered the challenges facing soil generally together with issues such as erosion, geology and quarrying as appropriate.

3.4.2 The dominant 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. Productive soils should be retained for vegetation and construction considered on unproductive soils. Soil disturbance should be kept to a minimum and tree planting should be encouraged.

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Soil

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

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
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

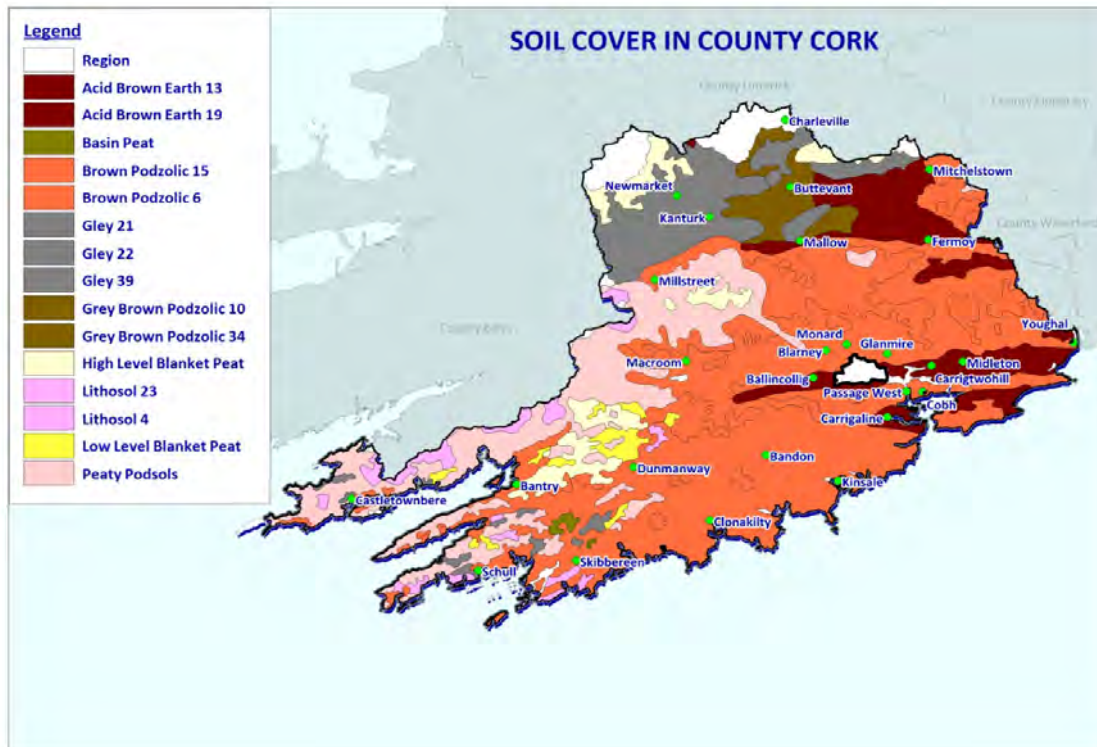


Figure 3.2 Soil Cover in County Cork

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 Irish Water have undertaken a strategic review of all settlements in the Metropolitan Area and provided an investment programme for the implementation of the water services (water and waste water) in line with the priorities identified by Cork County Council's Urban Expansion Areas. The water services investment programme needs to be implemented in tandem with the investment package for roads, storm water and recreation, so that there is a co-ordinated approach to development.
- 3.5.5 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, which is summarised in Table 3.4, 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.

Table 3.4 :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 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 levels of growth at the level established in 2011, with the expectation that the infrastructure will be delivered over time by Irish Water.

Table 3.5 East Cork Municipal District Water Service Status

Name	Existing Number of Houses 2015	Drinking Water Status	Waste Water Treatment Status	Overall Scale of New Development (houses)
Towns				
Midleton	5133			5,255
Youghal	4246			1,983
				7,238
Key Villages				
Castlemartyr	658			235
Cloyne	702			255
Killeagh	349			135
Whitegate & Aghada	893			190
				815
Villages				
Ballycotton	303			45
Ballymacoda	85			25
Dungourney	48			10
Ladysbridge	232			40
Mogeely	152			80
Saleen	0			50
Shanagarry/ Garryvoe	358			70
Churchtown South	26		None	15
				335
Village Nuclei				
Ballincurrig				10
Ballinrostig			None	5
Ballintotis			None	5
Ballymackibbot		None	None	2
Clonmult		Private GWSS	None	5
Gortaroo (Gortroe)		Private GWSS	None	5
Inch			None	0
Leamlara			None	10
Lisgold				20
Mount Uniacke		None	None	2
				64
Total				8,452
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. Unless Irish Water infrastructure is provided, development will be limited to individual houses with their own wastewater treatment plant. In the absence of a public drinking water supply, individual dwellings may be permitted on the basis of private wells subject to normal planning and public health criteria.				

Existing Sensitivities in relation to Water

3.5.7 Development will not be able to take place until the required infrastructure is available. Additional investment in water services infrastructure will be required in some settlements in order to facilitate development in line with Core Strategy provisions of the County Development Plan 2014. Cork County Council is working with other stakeholders in particular, Irish Water and the National Parks and Wildlife Service to address infrastructure deficits throughout the Municipal District.

Flooding

3.5.8 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.

3.5.9 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.

3.5.10 The Councils 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:

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

3.5.11 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.

3.5.12 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'.

3.5.13 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.

Flood Risk in Midleton

3.5.14 The landuse zoning map for Midleton highlights the areas identified as being at risk of tidal or fluvial flooding. The flood risk zones have been updated since the 2011 plan using data from the Lee CFRAM Study (OPW), the 2016 CFRAM data on Areas of Further Assessment (Midleton and Ballinacurra) (OPW) and a county wide flood study prepared for the County Council by JBA Consultants in 2011. These different studies provide information about different parts of the town.

- 3.5.15 The studies have identified a potential risk of flooding in a number of areas within and on the outskirts of the town, from both fluvial and tidal flooding. The areas at risk largely follow the paths of the Owenacurra and Dungourney Rivers and the areas adjoining the estuary at Ballinacurra. A number of the locations affected are either existing or potential open space but others overlap with larger parcels of zoned land (MD R-01, MD R-07, MDR-08 and MD X-01).
- 3.5.16 A Flood Relief Scheme is under way for Midleton and as part of this project new flood risk mapping is being prepared to cover the entirety of the town, and should become available in late 2017. In this context the zonings on a number of specific sites affected by flood risk have been retained in the Draft Plan, pending the availability of the new flood maps with a review to bringing forward an amendment to the Local Area Plan as needed once the flood maps are finalised to address any zoning conflicts.
- 3.5.17 Consideration is being given to the feasibility of carrying out remedial works to address the flood risk on the site labelled MD-X-01. Discussions are ongoing with the relevant parties regarding the progression of this project.
- 3.5.18 In the interim, Government Guidelines require, and it is an objective of this plan, that future development is avoided in areas indicated at being at risk of flooding.

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 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 3.3 indicates the distribution of recorded monuments within the East Cork Municipal District. 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 significant 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 artefacts. Some of the coastal towns may have been subject to reclamation and infrastructure may have been developed to facilitate the maritime landscape. Maritime artefacts such as quays, jetties, anchorages, access routes to the sea etc are all important cultural heritage resources.

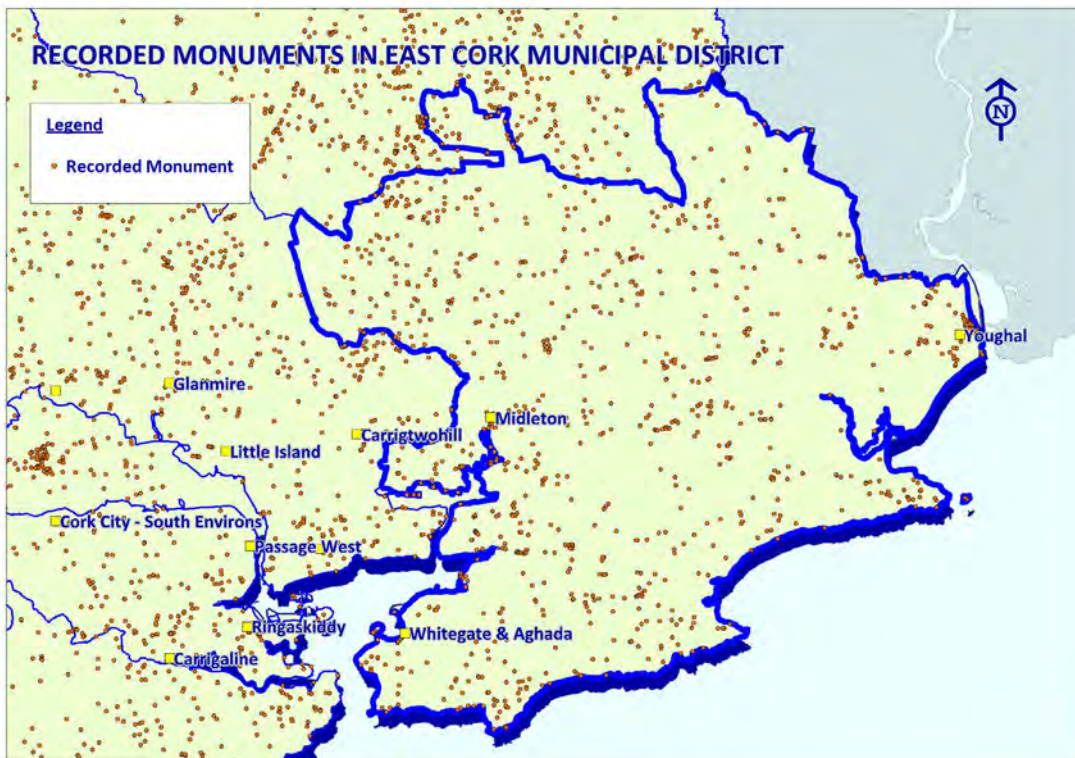


Figure 3.3: Recorded Monuments

- 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 51 structures currently designated in the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and 251 structures designated in the Youghal Town Development Plan 2009. Figure 3.4 illustrates the distribution of protected structures in the East Cork MD while Table 4.5 provides information at main town level.
- 3.8.5 There are 25 Architectural Conservation Areas designated within the County Development Plan 2014, Midleton Town Development Plan, 2013 and Youghal Town Development Plan, 2009. 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 demense or park. Some of these are within settlements designated for growth.

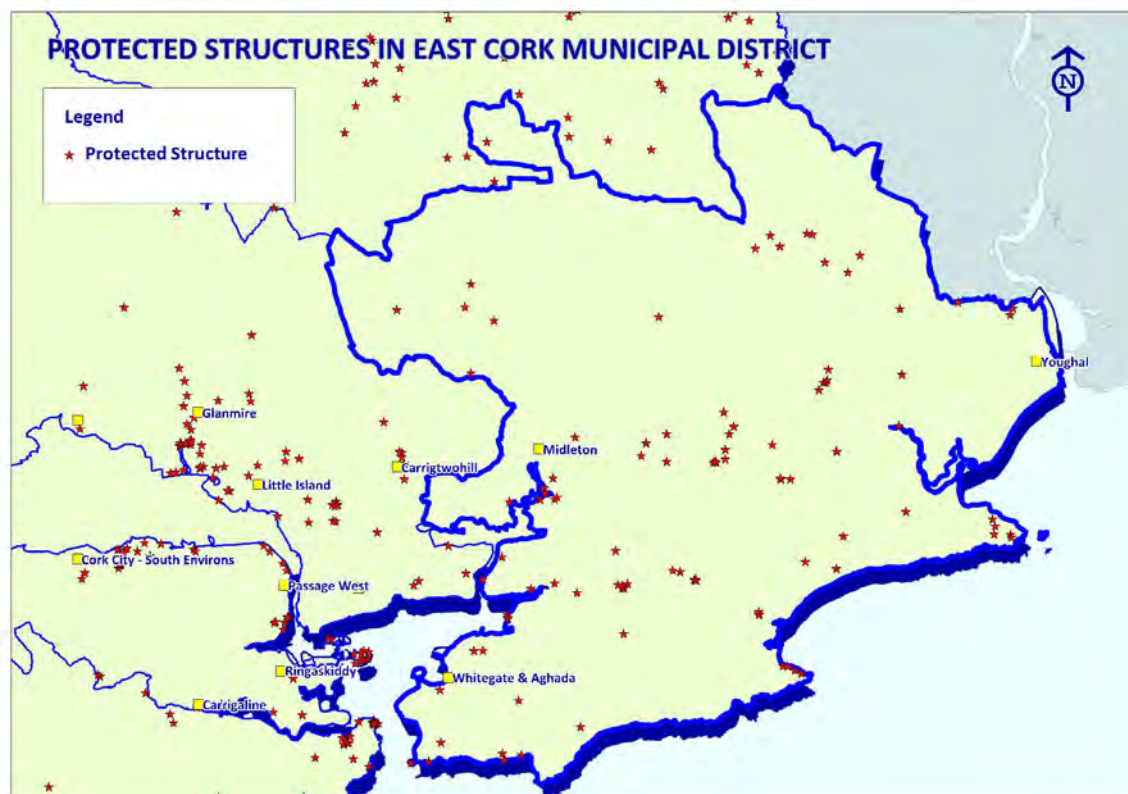


Figure 3.4: Protected Structures

Table 3.6 East Cork Municipal District ACA's, RPs and Archaeology				
Settlement Name	ACA	RPS	NIAH (Buildings & Gardens)	Archaeology (*as per Urban Archaeology Survey)
Midleton	20	51	127 (4 of National Importance)	9 sites* (including historic town)
Youghal	1	251	273 (11 National)	23 sites (* including Walled Town & 1 National Monument)
East Cork MD	4	99	n/a	n/a

3.9 Landscape

3.9.1 The landscape sensitivity of the East Cork MD has been classified in accordance with the policies of the County Development Plan 2014. The SEA explores the landscape issue as it relates to the Local Area Plan process in accordance with the policies set out in the County Development Plan.

Table 3.7 East Cork Municipal District Landscape Value, Sensitivity and Importance				
Landscape Character Types	Main Settlements located within LCT	LCT Value	LCT Sensitivity	LCT Importance
City Harbour and Estuary	Midleton	Very high	Very High	National
Broad Fertile Lowland Valleys 6(b)		Medium	Medium	Local
Broad Bay Coast	Youghal	Very high	Very High	County
Fissured Fertile Middleground 10(b)		Medium	High	County

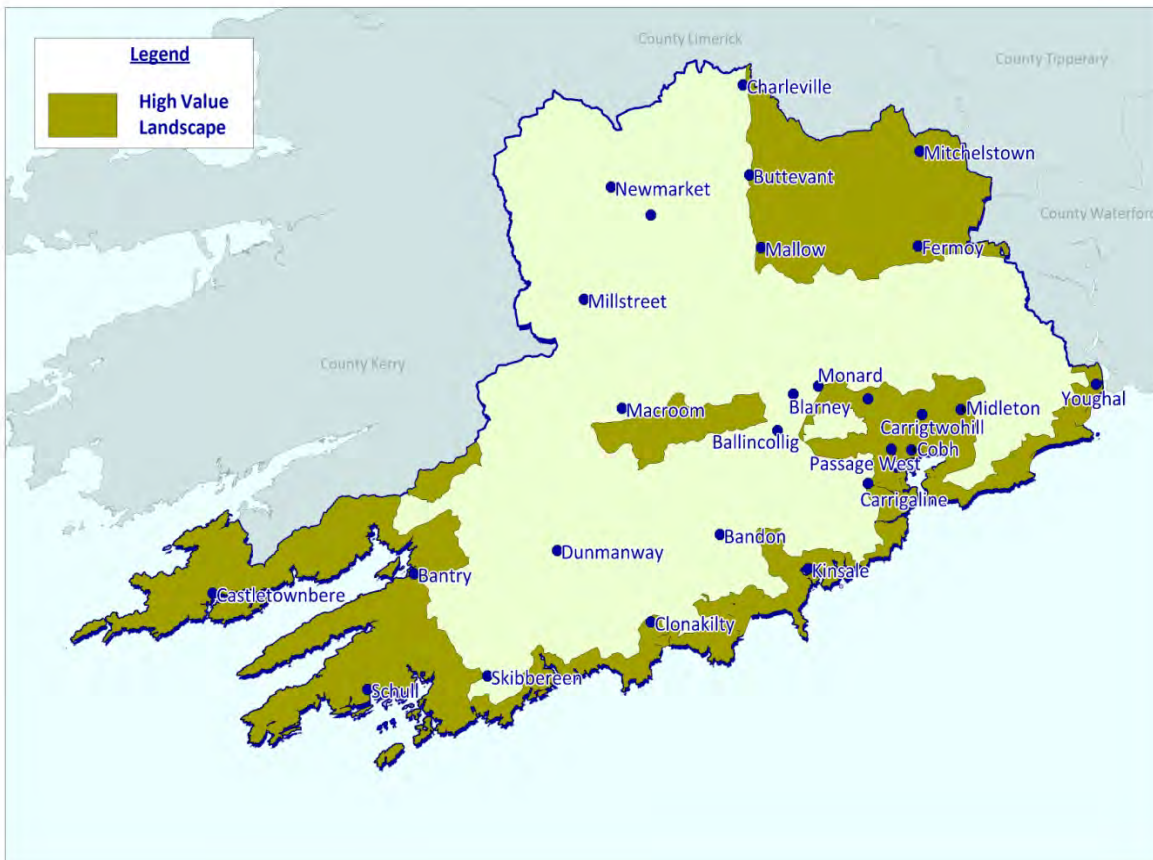


Figure 3.5: Landscape Value

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/creches/ 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 	<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

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

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.	Encourage production and use of renewable energy. Encourage energy efficiency in building design and construction. Provide flood protection measures where appropriate. Avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood risk.	No of wind turbines permitted. 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.	No loss of or adverse impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments (RMP). No loss of or adverse impact on the architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures. No loss of or adverse impact on structures recorded on the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage. Implement the Cork County Heritage Plan	Loss of or adverse impact on monuments on the Record of Monuments (RMP). Loss of or adverse impact on protected structures included on the RPS or structures included on the NIAH.
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.	Develop the road, rail and public transport infrastructure of the county to facilitate sustainable growth and travel patterns. Ensure appropriate water services infrastructure is delivered in areas targeted for population growth. Protect and optimise the use of the existing building stock.	New critical infrastructural projects completed (projects identified by the CDP).

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

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 East Cork MD has an extensive urban structure comprising towns and villages. The Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan provides for the development of 2 main towns and 22 villages, and smaller settlements and a number of specialist locations with specific industrial/ tourism functions e.g. Barnabrow / Ballymaloe, Trabolgan and Redbarn. Table 3.5 shows the network of settlements provided for within the current Draft East Cork 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 Ring Area, equivalent to the former 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 an east/ west public transport corridor between Midleton/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 – Midleton. 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 East Cork Municipal District, this scenario concentrates growth in fewer settlements, with most of the growth directed towards Midleton (rail) and Youghal (bus) 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
East Cork MD				
Midleton	12,001	21,576	21,876	9,875
Youghal	7,794	9,115	9,115	1,321
Total Main Towns	19,795	30,691	30,991	11,196
Villages and Rural	22,604	23,105	22,805	200
Total East	42,399	53,796	53,796	11,396

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 East Cork MD this scenario focuses growth in Midleton with reduced growth targets in Youghal. This takes account of the proposed employment policies of the Plan. This approach reinforces the important regional employment focus allocated to Midleton as part of the Metropolitan Gateway in the CDP and acknowledges the existing role Youghal 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
East Cork MD				
Midleton	12,001	21,576	22,776	10,775
Youghal	7,794	9,115	8,115	321
Total Main Towns	19,795	30,691	30,891	11,096
Villages and Rural	22,604	23,105	22,905	301
Total East	42,399	53,796	53,796	11,396

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 East Cork MD, the majority of the growth is assigned to Midleton with more modest growth in the other main town of Youghal. 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
East Cork MD				
Midleton	12,001	21,576	21,576	9,575
Youghal	7,794	9,115	9,115	1,321
Total Main Towns	19,795	30,691	30,691	10,896
Villages and Rural	22,604	23,105	23,105	501
Total East	42,399	53,796	53,796	11,397

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 County 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 may 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		EPO 3,4,5, 8, 9
Scenario 2	EPO 2, 6, 7, 10	EPO 1,		EPO 3,4, 5,8, 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

Overview

6.2.1 The following section identifies the effects on the environment of implementing the Draft East 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 In the event that a recommendation is rejected or partly accepted, the onus was on the Local Area Plan to provide reasons for this course of action. A 'tick' was entered in the Local Area Plan's action column when the Environmental Report's recommendation was accepted in full and changes made appropriately in the Local Area Plan document. A 'dash' was entered where the Environmental Report's recommendation was partly accepted. A 'cross' was entered where the Environmental Report's recommendation was rejected and not entered into the Local Area Plan document.

- 6.2.5 The Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 document has been prepared by undertaking a review of the existing statutory plans for the area including the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011 (as amended), the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and the Youghal Town Development Plan 2009 (as varied) and updating the provisions those plans as necessary to take account of any 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 Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and the Youghal Town Development Plan 2009, were 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 few issues arising that need to be assessed *de novo*.
- 6.2.6 In addition, given the current body of planning knowledge 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.
- 6.2.7 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.
- 6.2.8 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.
- 6.2.9 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.
- 6.2.10 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

- 6.2.11 Habitat Mapping for the East Cork 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.

6.2.12

Evaluation of the Objectives of the Draft Local Area Plan

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork 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			EPO 4, 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			EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	
Section 2 Local Area Strategy						
LAS-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	
Section 3 Main Towns						
Midleton & Youghal – General Objectives						
MD-GO-01 YL-GO-01		EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10,		EPO 2, EPO 6, EPO 8, EPO 11	Include the word 'sustainable' before development	Change Proposed arising from SEA ✓
MD-GO -02	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 9,			EPO 3, EPO 6, EPO 8	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 10, EPO 11					
MD-GO -03 YL-GO-02	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	
MD-GO -04 YL-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	
MD-GO-05 YL-GO-05	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	
MD-GO-06 YL-GO-04	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	
MD-GO-07 YL-GO-06	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	Need to balance development with ensuring the town's unique heritage is not lost.	Change to objective to include the 'sustainable' development of new residential uses. ✓
MD-GO-08 YL-GO-07	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 8	Need to emphasize that employment development is sustainable	A 'sustainable' employment centre ✓
MD-GO-09	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3,				No change	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
YL-GO-08	EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11				required	
YL-GO-09	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	
YL-GO-10	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	
MD-GO-10	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,	EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 9,		EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 11	Change wording	Change to objective to include: Provide the planned sustainable local road improvements ✓
MD-GO-11	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 7, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9	Change wording	Change to objective to include: 'in a sustainable manner '. ✓
MD-GO-12	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	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
MD-GO-13 YL-GO-11	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 3, EPO 5, EPO 6,	Change wording	Change to objective to include: 'in a sustainable manner'. ✓
MD-GO-14 YL-GO-12	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	
YL-GO-13	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	
Section 3 Main Towns						
Midleton – Specific Zoning Objectives						
MD-R-01, MD-R-02, MD-R-04- MD-R -25	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	Most of the proposed housing is located in or as close to the town as possible and therefore the overarching environmental assessment is a positive one where certain special site features exist then adequate protective mitigation measures are included in the Draft Plan or in the

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
						County Development Plan 2014.
MD-R-03 (NEW)	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	
MD-E-01- MD-E-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	
MD-B-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	
MD-I-01, MD-I-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	
MD-I-03, MD-I-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	
MD-I-05 (NEW)	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	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
MD-I-06 (NEW)	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	
MD-T-01- MD-T-06 (NEW)	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	Most of the proposed town centre uses are located on brownfield sites in or as close to the town as possible and therefore the overarching environmental assessment is a positive one. Where certain special site features exist then adequate protective mitigation measures are included in the Draft Plan General Objectives (GOs) or in the County Development Plan 2014.
MD-C-01- MD-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	
MD-U-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
MD-U-02- U-04, U-07 and U-08	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	
MD-U-05	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 10,			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
MD-U-06	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	
MD-O-01 – MD-O-15	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 3, EPO 10,			EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Section 3 Main Towns						
Youghal – Specific Zoning Objectives						
YL-R-01 - YL-R-20	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	All of the proposed housing is carried forward from the previous Local Area Plan and Youghal Town Plan 2009 and they are located in or

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
						as close to the town as possible and therefore the overarching environmental assessment is a positive one where certain special site features exist then adequate protective mitigation measures are included in the Draft Plan or in the County Development Plan 2014.
YL-B-01 - YL-B-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	
YL-I-01 - YL-I-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	
YL -T-01- YL -T-04	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	Most of the proposed town centre uses are located on brownfield sites in or as close to the town as possible and recognize the established retail uses on the sites. Therefore, it is considered

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
						that the overarching environmental assessment is a positive one. Where certain special site features exist (including heritage features) then adequate protective mitigation measures are included in the Draft Plan General Objectives (GOs) or in the County Development Plan 2014.
YL -C-01- YL -C-03	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	
YL -U-01 – YL -U-02	EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 10, EPO 11			EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9	No change required	
YL -O-01 – YL -O-14	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	
YL -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 4 Key Villages						
GO-01	EPO 1, EPO 3, EPO 5,			EPO 2, EPO 4, EPO 6,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

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

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

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

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 8, EPO 9, 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	
U-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	
Whitegate / Aghada						
I-01 – I-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	
O-01 – O-17	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 6, EPO 7,			EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, 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	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
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	
Section 5: Villages						
GO-01	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	
Ballycotton						
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 – U-03	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	
X-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	
Ballymacoda						
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	
U-01	EPO 1, EPO			EPO 3, EPO 4,	No change	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	2, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10,			EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 11	required	
Churchtown South						
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	
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	
Dungourney						
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	
Ladysbridge						
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				No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

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

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
	EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 10, EPO 11					
Section 5: Villages, Village Nuclei and Other Locations						
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	
Ballincurrig						
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	
Ballinrostig						
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	
Ballintotis						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 6, EPO 5, EPO 7, EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11	No change required	
Ballymackibbot /Inch / Mount Uniacke						
Ballymackibbot 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	Adequate Protective
Inch 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 East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 11		
Mount Uniacke 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	
Clonmult						
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	
Gortaroo (Gortroe)						
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	
Leamlara						
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	
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	
Lisgoold						
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	
Redbarn (Only 'Other Location' with Specific Zoning Objective)						
DB-01	EPO 1, EPO 2, EPO 10			EPO 3, EPO 4, EPO 5, EPO 6, EPO 7,	No change required	

Table 6.1: Evaluation of Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan Objectives

Objectives	Positive (+)	Negative (-)	Uncertain (?)	Neutral (Ne)	SEA Recommendation	LAP Response
				EPO 8, EPO 9, EPO 11		
X-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	
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	

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 the East Cork 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.
- 6.3.4 One issue that did come to light is identified below along with recommended mitigation measures.

Issue One – The Correlation between Population Targets for the Main Towns and Infrastructure

In the Municipal District the towns in particular have been allocated substantial target growths. However, in many instances water services infrastructure is at over capacity or reaching capacity and there is no provision/indication made for how the infrastructure will be provided to meet with the population targets of the towns. In the case of Middleton new roads infrastructure is also required to enable development to take place.

Mitigation Measures - Recommendations

In order to achieve a better, more environmentally sensitive objective, it was necessary to make a modification to the wording and to include, where required, the word 'sustainable' or that development will occur 'in a sustainable manner' in some of the objectives for the main settlements, particularly some of the General Objectives for Midleton and Youghal.

Where there is uncertainty, most of the objectives note that adequate protective mitigation measures are included in both the draft local area plan, and in addition, in the County Development Plan 2014.

Furthermore prospective developers, whose sites may be affected by the significant infrastructural deficiencies, will be required to enter into agreement with the Council on the timing and provision of the necessary infrastructure.

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 East Cork 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 2017at 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 East Cork 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 East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan.

Section 8: Non Technical Summary

Sub-Section

- 8.1 Introduction
- 8.2 The Draft East Cork 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 & Next Steps

8 Non Technical Summary

8.1 Introduction

- 8.1.1 This is the Environmental Report on the Strategic Environment Assessment of the Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 and it describes the assessment of the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Draft Plan.
- 8.1.2 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. A new Local Area Plan will be prepared for each of the eight Municipal Districts in the County.
- 8.1.3 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. .

Scoping

- 8.1.4 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.
- 8.1.5 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

- 8.1.6 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.

Documenting the SEA process

- 8.1.7 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.

- 8.1.8 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.
- 8.1.9 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.

8.2 The Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan

- 8.2.1 The East Cork Municipal District is located east of Cork City and in 2011 the population of the area stood at 42,399. This population is spread across a network of settlements including 2 Main Towns, 30 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 31% of the population of the Municipal District living in the open countryside i.e. not within a settlement.
- 8.2.2 Midleton is the largest town within the Municipal District with a population of 12,001 in 2011. The other main town in the Municipal District is Youghal which had a population of 7,794 in 2011. Body text,

Population Trends

- 8.2.3 Within the East Cork Municipal District the County Plan provides for growth in population of 11,397 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 7,179 leading to a net requirement for 7,790 new houses within the Municipal District in the period 2011-2022. The County Development Plan indicates that 262ha of land are required to meet this level of housing provision in the main towns, in addition to housing opportunities in the villages and rural areas.
- 8.2.4 The population growth target will require the provision of 7,790 new housing units, with at least 6,280 units allocated to the 2 Main Towns. Housing growth of 1,121 units is also planned for the villages.
- 8.2.5 At present planning policy for the settlements within the East Cork Municipal District is spread across the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and the Youghal Town Development Plan 2009. The intention is that local planning policy for all settlements within the Municipal District will be contained within the new East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2017.
- 8.2.6 It is anticipated that many of the provisions of the current Local Area Plans 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.
- 8.2.7 Through its County Development Plan 2014, the Council has allocated the majority of this growth to the towns with over 6,280 new houses required, the majority of which are planned for Midleton. Housing growth is also planned within the villages.
- 8.2.8 This section also outlines the relationship that this plan has to other Relevant Plans and Programmes at a National and Regional level.

8.3 Environmental Baseline

8.3.1 The environmental baseline of this Municipal District is described in this section. This baseline information outlines the environmental context within which the Draft East Cork 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.

8.3.2 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, and
- Landscape.

8.3.3 This section outlines the different environmental issues concerned above and highlights the most pertinent environmental issues within the East Cork Municipal District.

8.4 Environmental Protection Objectives

8.4.1 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.

8.4.2 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).

8.4.3 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.

8.5 Alternatives

8.5.1 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.

8.5.2 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.

Scenario 1: Public Transport

8.5.3 This scenario seeks to focus development within Metropolitan Cork within the city suburbs in the first instance and then along an east/ west public transport corridor between Midleton/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.

8.5.4 In summary, within the East Cork Municipal District, this scenario concentrates growth in fewer settlements, with most of the growth directed towards Midleton and Youghal 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.

Scenario 2: Employment Towns

8.5.5 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. 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.

8.5.6 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.

8.5.7 In summary, within the East Cork MD this scenario focuses growth in Midleton with reduced growth targets in Youghal. This takes account of the proposed employment policies of the Plan. This approach reinforces the important regional employment focus allocated to Midleton as part of the Metropolitan Gateway in the CDP and acknowledges the existing role Youghal plays as an employment centre serving a wider hinterland area.

Scenario 3: Balanced Growth

8.5.8 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.

- 8.5.9 In summary, within the East Cork MD, the majority of the growth is assigned to Midleton with more modest growth in the other main town of Youghal. Additional growth is also allocated to the villages and rural areas.
- 8.5.10 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.
- 8.5.11 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.

The Preferred Scenario

- 8.5.12 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.
- 8.5.13 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.
- 8.5.14 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.

8.6 Evaluation of the Draft Local Area Plan

- 8.6.1 SEA legislation requires the Environmental Report to include the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan. 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. Section 6 of this report provides details of the Evaluation of the provisions of the Draft East Cork Local Area Plan.

- 8.6.2 The Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 document has been prepared by undertaking a review of the existing statutory plans for the area including the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011 (as amended), the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and the Youghal 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 Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013 and the Youghal 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*.
- 8.6.3 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.
- 8.6.4 The County Development Plan 2014 includes many protective objectives in relation to issues such Development Management and Protection of Amenities, Sustainable Residential Development, Natural, Built and Cultural Heritage, 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.
- 8.6.5 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.
- 8.6.6 The following issue was identified and recommended mitigation measures were proposed and included in the draft plan:

Issue One – The Correlation between Population Targets for the Main Towns and Infrastructure

In the Municipal District the towns in particular have been allocated substantial target growths. However, in many instances wastewater infrastructure is at over capacity or reaching capacity and there is no provision/indication made for how the infrastructure will be provided to meet with the population targets of the towns.

Mitigation Measures - Recommendations

In order to achieve a better, more environmentally sensitive objective, it was necessary to make a modification to the wording and to include, where required, the word 'sustainable' or that development will occur 'in a sustainable manner' in some of the objectives for the main settlements, particularly some of the General Objectives for Midleton and Youghal.

Where there is uncertainty, most of the objectives note that adequate protective mitigation measures are included in both the draft local area plan, and in addition, in the County Development Plan 2014.

8.7 Monitoring & Next Steps

8.7.1 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.

Consulting on the Environmental Report and the Draft Plan

8.7.2 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

8.7.3 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

8.7.4 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.

Preparing the Environmental Report

8.7.5 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 is set out in Section 6.

Appendices

Appendix A: Sample Settlement Enhancement Measures

Settlement Enhancement Measures

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.

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.

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		

East Cork Municipal District Draft Local Area Plan

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

November 2016

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Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Scope

- 1.1.1 This strategic Flood Risk Assessment of the Draft East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan 2016 has been prepared in accordance with the “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management” Guidelines published by the DEHLG and the OPW in 2009, and having specific regard to the areas, within the settlements of this Municipal District, that have been identified as being a 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 East Cork 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 East Cork 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 will examine how the issue of managing flood risk was addressed in the review of the Local Area Plan and outlines the main provisions of the adopted strategy.
- 1.2.4 Section 5 will set out what this assessment has achieved in terms of managing the adverse effects of flooding within the East Cork Municipal District. It will also identify how the flood risk management strategy identified in the local area plan should 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 control 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:

Flood risk = Probability of flooding x 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 change 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' provides three vulnerability categories, based on the type of development, which are 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 East Cork Municipal District

2.1.1 The East Cork Municipal District lies within the Metropolitan Strategic Planning Area and the Greater Cork Ring Strategic Planning Area as defined in the County Development Plan 2014. It is a predominantly rural District that accommodates an extensive network of settlements as follows:

- **Two Main Settlements** comprising Midleton and Youghal.
- **Four Key Villages** comprising Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Killeagh and Whitegate Aghada.
- **Eight Villages** comprising Ballycotton, Ballymacoda, Churchtown South, Dungourney, Ladysbridge, Mogelly, Saleen, SHanagarry / Garryvoe.
- **Ten Village Nuclei** comprising Clonmult, Ballincurragh, Ballymackibbot, Ballinrostig, Ballintotis, Gortaroo (Gortroe), Inch, Leamlara, Lisgoold, Mount Uniacke.
- **Eight Other Locations** comprising Barnabrow / Ballymaloe, Carriganass, Garryvoe Upper, Gyleen, Knockadoon, Redbarn, Roche's Point, Trabolgan.



Figure 1 East Cork Municipal District

2.2 Population and Household Growth

2.2.1 Within the East Cork Municipal District the County Plan provides for growth in population of 11,397 persons. The number of households is expected to grow by 7,179 leading to a net requirement for 7,790 new houses within the Municipal District in the period 2011-2022. The County Development Plan indicates that 262ha of land are 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 7,790 new housing units, with at least 6,280 units allocated to the 2 Main Towns. Housing growth of 1,121 units is also planned for the villages.

Table 2.2 Housing Requirement and Housing Supply as contained in the Draft Plan

	Housing Requirement					Housing Supply	
	Census 2011	Population Target	Total New Households	New Units Required	Net Estimated Requirement (ha)	Estimated Residential area zoned in draft LAP	Estimated Total Housing Yield draft LAP
Midleton	12,001	21,576	4,667	5,243	210	180	5,255
Youghal	7,794	9,115	999	1,037	52	106	1,983
Main Towns	19,795	30,691	5,665	6,280	262	286	7,238
Villages	9,566	11,067	1,176	1,121	--	--	1,214
Rural	13,038	12,038	339	389	--	--	--
Total Villages & Rural	22,604	23,105	1,514	1,510	--	--	1,214
Total for District	42,399	53,796	7,179	7,790	262	286	8,452

2.2.3 Details of the scale of growth planned within the village network is detailed in the following tables:

Table 2. : Scale of Development in East Cork Municipal District Key Villages

Name	Existing Number of Houses Q1 2015 (Geodirectory)	Growth 2005 to 2015 (Geodirectory)	Overall Scale of New Development Proposed (No. of houses)	Normal Recommended Scale of any Individual scheme
Castlemartyr	658	345	235	30
Cloyne	702	338	255	30
Killeagh	349	145	135	30
Whitegate / Aghada	893	272	190	40
Total Key Villages	2602	1100	815	--

Table. Scale of Development in East Cork Municipal District Villages				
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
Ballycotton	303	44	45	15
Ballymacoda	85	34	25	5
Churchtown South	26	-3	15	5
Dungourney	48	27	10	5
Ladysbridge	232	104	40	20
Mogeely	152	98	80	12
Saleen	157	77	50	10
Shanagarry / Garryvoe	358	183	70	20
Village Nuclei				
Ballincurragh	23	10	10	5
Ballinrostig	12	1	5	3
Ballintotis	41	2	5	3
Ballymackibbot	16	9	2	--
Clonmult	10	1	5	3
Gortaroo (Gortroe)	10	1	5	3
Inch	10	7	0	--
Leamlara	38	36	10	5
Lisgoold	53	27	20	4 or 5
Mount Uniacke	9	0	2	--

2.3 Environment and Heritage

- 2.3.1 European and National legislation now protect 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.
- 2.3.2 The designation of these sites at a national level is the responsibility of the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the process of designation of such sites is ongoing, with new sites being added and boundaries of existing sites being adjusted, as better information becomes available. In addition, there are a range of plants and animals that are protected under national and EU legislation.
- 2.3.3 Proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) cover nationally important semi-natural and natural habitats, landforms or geomorphological features, wild plant and animal species or a diversity of these natural attributes. The current list of pNHA's is

contained in the County Development Plan 2009 and are shown on the Heritage and Scenic Amenity Maps in Volume 3 that Plan.

- 2.3.4 Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (cSACs) have been selected because they support habitats and plant and animal species that are rare or threatened in Europe and require particular measures, including the designation of protected sites, to conserve them. The sites are called ‘candidate sites’ because they are currently under consideration by the Commission of the European Union. The current list of cSACs is contained in the County Development Plan 2009 and are shown on the Heritage and Scenic Amenity Maps in Volume 3 that Plan.

Site Code	Name	Natura 2000 site
pNHA-0072	Blackwater River & Estuary	N
pNHA-0076	Ballycotton, Ballynamona & Shanagarry	N
pNHA-0078	Ballyvergan Marsh	N
pNHA-0083	Capel Island & Knockadoon Head	N
pNHA-0446	Loughs Aderry & Ballybutler	N
pNHA-1042	Carrigshane Hill	N
pNHA-1058	Great Island Channel	N
pNHA-1064	Leamlara Wood	N
pNHA-1076	Rostellan Lough, Aghada Shore & Poul nabibe Inlet	N
pNHA-1084	Whitegate Bay	N
pNHA-1183	Clasharinka Pond	N
pNHA-1408	Carrigacrump Caves	N
pNHA-1978	Ballycotton Islands	N
pNHA-1987	Cuskinny Marsh	N
cSAC-0077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest & Pillmore)	Y
cSAC-1058	Great Island Channel	Y
cSAC-2170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford)	Y
SPA-4022	Ballycotton Bay	Y
SPA-4023	Ballymacoda Bay	Y
SPA-4028	Blackwater Estuary	Y
SPA-4030	Cork Harbour	Y

- 2.3.5 Special Protection Areas (SPAs) have been selected because they support populations of birds of particular species that are rare or threatened in Europe and require particular measures, including the designation of protected areas to conserve them. Together with the cSACs they form part of the ‘Natura 2000’ network of sites throughout Europe. The list of SPAs is contained in the County Development Plan 2009 and are shown on the Heritage and Scenic Amenity Maps in Volume 3 that Plan.

- 2.3.6 East Cork MD contains a number of Natural Heritage Sites including proposed Natural Heritage Areas, candidate Special Areas of Conservation and proposed Special Protection Areas and it is an objective of the CDP 2009 that these areas be protected. All proposals in the Draft Plan will need to be assessed in this context. In particular, some key development sites, such as Marino Point are in close proximity to some of these natural heritage sites and the planning of those development sites will need careful consideration if unacceptable risks, particularly to protected habitats, are to be avoided.
- 2.3.7 Water Quality is identified as 'moderate' for the receiving waters of Midleton and the Blackwater Estuary in Youghal. The new Water Treatment Plant in Youghal is expected to be completed in 2017. The capacity of existing wastewater treatment facilities is inadequate and if unresolved will constrain the ability to achieve the levels of growth for population and employment set out above.
- 2.3.8 In terms of built heritage, the Municipal District contains a wealth of buildings and structures. Each settlement chapter of this plan refers to protected structures and architectural conservation areas and other unique aspects of a settlements built and natural heritage where relevant.
- 2.3.9 Achieving the population targets and supporting development proposed in this plan will require the development and implementation of a range of sustainable measures to ensure the integrity of the biodiversity of the area is protected.
- 2.3.10 There are a number of settlements in the Municipal District area that contain Architectural Conservation Area's (ACA's); namely, Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Killeagh and Ladysbridge. ACA's are areas that collectively contribute to the built heritage and character of the settlement, although they may not be individually suitable for inclusion on the Record of Protected Structures.
- 2.3.11 To date, sites of geological interest have not been comprehensively covered by the existing nature conservation designations. This is currently being addressed by the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government and the Geological Survey of Ireland who are drawing up a list of sites of geological interest that will be proposed as Natural Heritage Areas.
- 2.3.12 In the meantime, Cork County Council recognises the importance of geological heritage and to this end has listed in the County Development Plan 2009 the important geological features within the County with the intention of maintaining their possible conservation value. The list has been produced in consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland and the Geology Department of the National University of Ireland, Cork.

2.4 Infrastructure

- 2.4.1 In order to deliver the population and housing targets identified in this plan, significant expenditure is required in water services infrastructure. Investment in the main towns must be the overall priority, where future demand for housing is likely to be high. Investment should also be prioritised in the key villages as they offer a rural housing choice to a wider catchment and they have schools and other services to support significant communities. If resources allow, the villages and village nuclei should receive investment to facilitate local choice.

Section 3 Flood Risk in the East Cork Municipal District

3.1 Sources of Flooding

- 3.1.1 This SFRA has primarily reviewed flood risk from fluvial 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 risks must be individually assessed at the project stage.
- 3.1.2 This approach has been adopted for two main reasons. Firstly, the review of flooding in the East Cork Municipal District shows rivers to be the most common source of damage and it is this source of flooding that has been taken account of 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. In addition, the SFRA should be based on readily derivable information, and records and indicators for fluvial flood risk are generally more abundant than for other sources of flooding.

3.2 Fluvial Flooding

- 3.2.1 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. Generally there are two main types of catchments; large and relatively flat or small and steep, the two giving two very different responses during large rainfall events.
- 3.2.2 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.
- 3.2.3 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.
- 3.2.4 Rivers are the primary cause of flooding in the East Cork Municipal District with flood events attributed to fluvial sources ranging from the Blackwater River in particular to smaller tributaries and drains.

Rivers in the East Cork Municipal District

- 3.2.5 The Lower River Lee system runs west-east from its source in the west to the Cork Harbour and parts of the western part of the Municipal District are under the influence of the Lee River catchment. On the eastern part of the Municipal District, Youghal and environs are affected by the Blackwater estuary. The central part of the Municipal District has a number of smaller rivers running through the towns and

villages, namely the Owenacurra, Dungourney and Ballinacurra Rivers in Midleton, Womanagh through Castlemartyr, the Dissour through Killeagh and the Shannagarry River in Cloyne,

River Catchment	Main Settlements
Owenacurra River	Midleton,
Dungourney River	Midleton,
Ballinacurra River	Midleton,
Womanagh River	Castlemartyr
Dissour River	Killeagh
Shannagarry River	Cloyne
Blackwater Estuary	Youghal

3.2.6 The Lower Lee system runs between the City boundary before entering Lough Mahon where extensive areas of mudflat define the shallows of the inner harbour between Fota Island and Cobh. The Ballinacurra Estuary that drains into the Cork harbour south of Midleton has two tributaries that feed into the harbour from Dungourney and Owenacurra Rivers.

3.2.7 Part of the larger River Blackwater catchments form the eastern boundary of the Municipal District.

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 specifically addressed in the Flood Risk Assessment undertaken for the East Cork 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 significant sections of Cork City.

3.4 Coastal Flooding

3.4.1 Coastal flooding, which is caused by higher sea level than normal, largely as a result of storm surge, resulting in the sea overflowing onto the land. Coastal flooding is influenced by the following three factors;

- High tide level,
- Storm surges caused by high winds,
- Wave action, which is dependent upon wind speed and direction, local topography and exposure.

3.4.2 In the Municipal District, the towns of Midleton and Youghal and the Specialist Employment Area of Whitegate / Aghada are susceptible to tidal flooding due to their coastal location.

Section 4 Addressing Flood Risk in the East Cork Local Area Plan

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section details the approach to Flood Risk Management adopted in the East Cork 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 In addition to this, a Flood Relief Scheme is under way for Midleton and as part of this project new flood risk mapping is being prepared to cover the entirety of the town. It is anticipated that this scheme will become available in late 2017. In this

context the zonings on a number of specific sites affected by flood risk have been retained in the Draft Plan, pending the availability of the new flood maps with a review to bringing forward an amendment to the Local Area Plan as needed once the flood maps are finalised to address any zoning conflicts.

4.2.6 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. I

4.2.7 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.

4.2.8 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.

4.2.9 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.

4.2.10 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 East Cork 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 East Cork Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
Main Settlements		
Midleton	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.
Youghal	Yes	
Key Villages		
Castlemartyr	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.
Cloyne	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Killeagh	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.
Whitegate / Aghada	Yes	
Villages		
Ballycotton	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the East Cork Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
		4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Ballymacoda	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.
Churchtown	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Dungourney	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.
Ladysbridge	Yes	
Mogeely	Yes	
Saleen	Yes	
Shanagarry - Garryvoe	Yes	
Village Nuclei		
Ballincurrig	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.
Ballinrostig	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Ballintotis	No	
Ballymackibbot	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.
Clonmult	Yes	

Table 4.1: Flood Risk by Settlement in the East Cork Municipal District		
Settlement	Indicative Fluvial/ Coastal Flood Risk within Development Boundary	Comment
Gortaroo (Gortroe)	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Inch	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.
Leamlara	Yes	
Lisgoold	Yes	
Mount Uniacke	No	Indicative Flood Zone Mapping does not indicate a fluvial /coastal risk. See Paragraph 4.2.7. regarding the need for further assessment.
Other Locations		
Redbarn	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 East Cork 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
 - o Essential to facilitate the regeneration and/or expansion of the centre of the urban settlement;
 - o Comprises significant previously developed and/or under-utilised lands;
 - o Is within or adjoining the core of an established or designated urban settlement;
 - o Will be essential to achieving compact and sustainable urban growth; and
 - o 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 East Cork 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 below lists the specific zoned sites within the East Cork 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 and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
Midleton	MD-R-01	Justification Test	Not applied	
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</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> <p>Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps.</p>
Midleton	MD-R-08, MD-R-09,	Justification Test	Not applied	
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				<p>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> <p>Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps</p>
Midleton	MD-I-03 and MD-I-04	Justification Test	Not applied	
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</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>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps.
Midleton	MD-I-05	Justification Test	Partially applied	<p>Part three of the test was not applied.</p> <p>This is a new zoning. Only a small part of the site is identified as being at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</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> <p>Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps.</p>
		Historic Zoning	n/a	This is a new zoning.
Midleton	MD-X-01	Justification Test	✓	Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				<p>development should be avoided in that area.</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> <p>Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps</p>
		Historic Zoning	n/a	
Midleton	MD-T-01	Justification Test	Partially Applied	Part 3 of the test was not applied.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This is the existing town centre and was previously zoned as town centre in the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding.</p> <p>Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				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.
Midleton	MD-T-02	Justification Test	Partially Applied	Part 3 of the test was not applied.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This area is already development for retail use and was previously zoned as town centre in the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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>
Midleton	MD-T-03	Justification Test	Partially Applied	Part 3 of the test was not applied.
		Historic Zoning	✓	This area is already largely developed and was previously zoned as town centre in the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013. Part of the zone is at risk of

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				<p>flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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>
Midleton	MD-T-04	Justification Test	Partially Applied	Part 3 of the test was not applied.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This area is already developed and was previously zoned as town centre in the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				Development Plan, 2014.
Midleton	MD-T-05	Justification Test	Partially Applied	Part 3 of the test was not applied.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This area is already developed and was previously zoned as town centre in the Midleton Town Development Plan 2013. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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>
Midleton	MD-B-01	Justification Test	Not applied.	
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This land was previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping,</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				<p>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> <p>Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps.</p>
Midleton	MD-U-	Justification Test	Not applied	Existing treatment plant.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This land was previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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> <p>Updated Flood Zone mapping with emerge from the</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				Midleton Flood Relief Scheme and LAP will be amended if necessary to reflect new flood zone maps.
Youghal	YL-I-02	Justification Test	Not applied	Existing Civic Amenity Site
		Historic Zoning	n/a	Existing Civic Amenity Site 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.
Youghal	YL- X-01	Justification Test	Not applied	
		Historic Zoning	✓	Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area. 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,

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				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.
Youghal	YL-T-01	Justification Test	Partially applied	Part 3 of the test was not completed.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This is the existing town centre area. Previously zoned as town centre in the Youghal Town Development Plan 2009. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding. Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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>
Youghal	YL-T-04	Justification Test	Partially applied	Part 3 of the test was not completed.
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This area is already developed. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding . Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</p> <p>A site specific flood risk assessment will be required i.e. verification of Indicative Flood Zone Mapping,</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				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.
Youghal	YL -0-14	Justification Test	Not applied	Existing dog track
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>This area is already developed as a dog track. Part of the zone is at risk of flooding . Inappropriate development should be avoided in areas at risk of flooding.</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>
Whitegate/ Aghada	I-05	Justification Test	Not applied	
		Historic Zoning	✓	Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				<p>development should be avoided in that area. The lands are not defended.</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>
Castlemartyr	T-01	Justification Test	n/a	n/a
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</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>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
Cloyne	T-01	Justification Test	n/a	n/a
		Historic Zoning	n/a	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</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>
Killeagh	T-01	Justification Test	n/a	n/a
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area.</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</p>

Table 4.2: Specific land Use Zonings located within Flood Zone A or B				
Settlement	Zoning Objective	Development Plan Justification Test and Other Assessment Criteria	Reason for inclusion in the LAP	Comment
				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.
Killeagh	B-01	Justification Test	n/a	n/a
		Historic Zoning	✓	<p>Previously zoned for the same use in the Midleton Electoral Area Local Area Plan 2011, as amended. Only part of the zone is at risk of flooding and inappropriate development should be avoided in that area. The lands are not defended.</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>

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 Extent 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

5.1.2 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.

Data	Source	Timeframe
Ongoing CFRAM Studies	OPW	End of 2016 / Early 2017
Flood Relief Scheme for Midleton	OPW / Cork County Council	End 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 East Cork 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 East Cork 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 East Cork Municipal District 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. At the end of this 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 East Cork 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 East Cork 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 is 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 landuse 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 **East Cork 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
- Settlement Network
- Urban Expansion Areas
- 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 East Cork 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 Midleton and Youghal in the East Cork 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 four key villages in the East Cork Municipal District Castlemartyr, Cloyne, Killeagh, Whitegate and Aghada (which is also a Specialist Employment Centre).

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 eight villages and a number of other village nuclei and smaller settlements in the East Cork Municipal District as follows; Ballycotton, Ballymacoda, Churchtown South, Dungourney, Ladysbridge, Mogeely, Saleen, Shanagarry / Garryvoe, Ballincurrig, Ballinrostig, Ballintotis, Ballymackibbot, Clonmult, Gortaroo (Gortroe), Inch, Leamlara, Lisgoold, Mount Uniacke, Barnabrow / Ballymaloe, Carriganass, Garryvoe Upper, Gyleen, Knockadoon, Redbarn, Roche's Point and Trabolgan.

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 East Cork Municipal District is located to the east of Cork City and extends to the county bounds with Waterford. The plan encompasses the main towns of Midleton and Youghal, as well as thirty villages / village nuclei and open countryside. 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 1: Cork Municipal Districts Areas



Figure 2 Boundary of Cobh Municipal District Identifying Special Areas of Conservation and Special Protection Areas within the County and Within 15km of the County

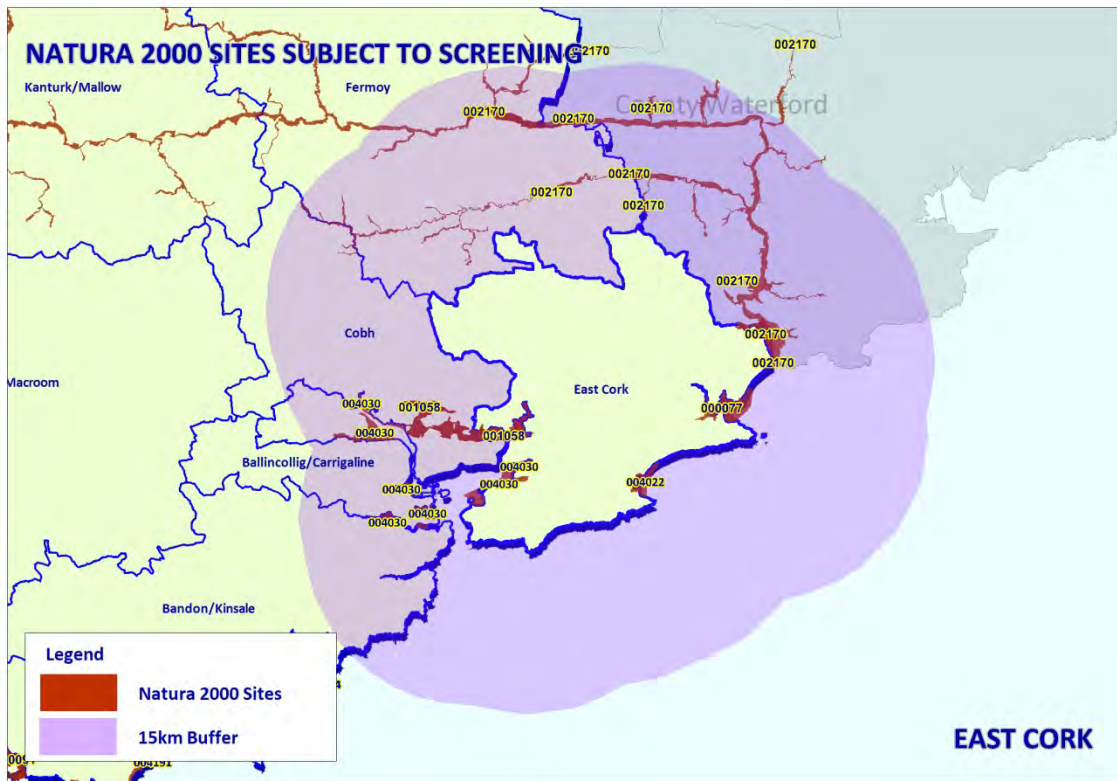


Table 1 sets out the Natura 2000 sites which are subject to screening in this report. It includes all Natura 2000 sites within the plan boundary area and Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan boundary. The habitats and species for which these sites are designated are also listed in Table 1 as are 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 water bodies within the plan boundary area. No such sites were identified.

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
0077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries [1130] • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140] • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand [1310] • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima</i>) [1330] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats for which the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC is designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Estuaries; • Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide • Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia</i>) <p>and to restore the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats for which the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC is designated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand <p>which are defined by attributes and targets set out in NPWS Conservation Objectives for Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) 15 Feb 2015 available at www.NPWS.ie</p>
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 maritima</i>) [1330] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following habitats for which the Barley Cove to Ballyrisode SAC is designated:</p>

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			<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>
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>Glauco-Puccinellietalia 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>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] 	<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]

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 Pearl Mussel) [1029] • <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] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <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>Callitriche-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260] <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>Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima</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, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae) [91E0] • <i>Lutra lutra</i> (Otter) [1355] <p>which are defined by attributes and targets set out in</p>

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			<p>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>
4022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in Ballycotton Bay SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • Bar-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa lapponica</i>) [A157] • Curlew (<i>Numenius arquata</i>) [A160] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] <p>and to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in Ballycotton Bay SPA as a resources for the regularly-occurring migratory birds that utilise it as defined by attributes and targets set out</p>

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			in Conservation Objectives Ballycotton Bay SPA Aug 26 2014 which are available at www.NPWS.ie
4023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • 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] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in Ballymacoda Bay SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>) [A137] • Golden Plover (<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>) [A140] • Grey Plover (<i>Pluvialis squatarola</i>) [A141] • Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>) [A142] • Sanderling (<i>Calidris alba</i>) [A144] • 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] • Turnstone (<i>Arenaria interpres</i>) [A169] • Black-headed Gull (<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>) [A179] • Common Gull (<i>Larus canus</i>) [A182] • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] <p>and to maintain the favourable conservation condition</p>

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
			of the wetland habitat in Ballymacoda 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 Ballymacoda Bay SPA Feb 19 2015 which are available at www.NPWS.ie
4028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • 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] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in the Blackwater Estuary SPA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • 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] • Redshank (<i>Tringa totanus</i>) [A162] <p>1.1.1 and to maintain the favourable conservation condition of the wetland habitat in the Blackwater Estuary SPA as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory birds that utilise it as defined by attributes and targets set out in Conservation Objectives Blackwater Estuary SPA May 17 2012 which are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
4030	Cork Harbour SPA	<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] 	<p>To maintain the favourable conservation condition of the following bird species in Cork Harbour SPA:</p> <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]

Table 1: All Natura 2000 Sites Within the East Cork MD or otherwise identified as requiring screening			
Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Conservation Objectives
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wetland and Waterbirds [A999] 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lesser Black-backed Gull (<i>Larus fuscus</i>) [A183] • Common Tern (<i>Sterna hirundo</i>) [A193] <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>
4094	River Blackwater Callows SPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] • 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"> • Whooper Swan (<i>Cygnus cygnus</i>) [A038] • Wigeon (<i>Anas penelope</i>) [A050] • Teal (<i>Anas crecca</i>) [A052] • Black-tailed Godwit (<i>Limosa limosa</i>) [A156] <p>and to maintain or restore the favourable condition of the wetland habitat at Blackwater Callows as a resource for the regularly-occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it as set out in the Conservation Objectives for the Blackwater Callows SPA which are available at www.NPWS.ie</p>

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	Screening Determination
Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (0077)	<p>This SAC is located within the East Cork MD adjacent to Ballymacoda. The Ballymacoda WWTP discharges to the Ballymacoda River which discharges into Ballymacoda bay.</p> <p>The settlements of Youghal, Gortaroo Redbarn and Knockdown are located within 5km of the SAC; however, there is no hydrological linkage between these settlements and the SAC, and no policies in the plan relating to these settlements direct activity into the SAC. No potential for impact on this site is identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in relation to these settlements.</p> <p>Further screening is required.</p>
Great Island Channel SAC (1058)	<p>The settlement boundary of Midleton overlaps with this SAC and the Midleton WWTP discharges to the Ballynacorra River on the boundary of the SAC. Three settlements within the MD have WWTP's which discharge treated wastewater directly to the Owenacurra River which enter this SAC at Midleton. These are the settlements of Dungourney, Ballincurrig and Lisgoold. Other settlements within the MD that have a hydrological connection to the Great Island Channel are Dungourney, Ballintotis, Clonmult and Leamlara. Further assessment is required in relation to the above.</p> <p>The settlements of Saleen and Cloyne are located in excess of 1km from</p>

Table 2: Preliminary Screening Assessment	
Site Name	Screening Determination
	<p>the SAC. There is no hydrological linkage between these settlements and the SAC and no policies in the plan relating to these settlements direct activity into the SAC. The treatment units for both settlement discharge to Cork Harbour outside the SAC designation. No potential for impacts on this site are identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in relation to these settlements.</p> <p>Proposed walks or other development within SAC: None.</p> <p>Further screening is required.</p>
Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (2170)	<p>The Blackwater River SAC is located within the East Cork Municipal District. The development boundary of Youghal overlaps with this SAC. There is no WWTP in the town and untreated wastewater is discharged into the estuary within the SAC. A large area adjacent to the SAC to the north of the town (YL-X-01) is zoned for development and there are two sites on the waterfront within the town of Youghal which are identified as regeneration areas. These are McDonalds Quay (YL-RA-06) and Youghal Dockyard (YL-RA-11). Two other small settlements within the MD have a hydrological connection to this SAC. These settlements are Ballymackibbot and Inch. Further assessment is required in respect of these settlements and this SAC.</p> <p>There are no direct hydrological linkages between the settlements of Gortaroo, Redbarn, Ballymacoda, Knockadoon, Ballincurrig and Carriganes there are no proposals in the plan relating to these settlements which relate to the use of resources from within this site or which direct activity into the SAC. No potential for impact is identified and no further assessment is required in respect of these settlements.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
Ballycotton Bay SPA (4022)	<p>This SPA is located within East Cork MD. The settlement boundaries of Ballycotton and Shanagarry/Garryvoe overlap with this SPA. Treated wastewater from WWTPs in these settlements discharges within the SPA. Further screening is required in respect of policies proposed for the above listed settlements.</p>

Table 2: Preliminary Screening Assessment	
Site Name	Screening Determination
	<p>There are a number of other settlements located within five 5km of this SPA. These are Churchtown South, Barnabrow/Ballynaloe and Garryvoe Upper. None of these settlements have Waste-water Treatment Plants and no policies in the plan relating to these settlements direct activity into the SPA. No potential for impact on this site is identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in relation to these settlements</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
Ballymacoda Bay SPA (4023)	<p>This SPA is located within the East Cork MD. The Ballymacoda WWTP discharges to the Ballymacoda River which discharges to the bay. Further assessment is required in relation to this settlement. The settlement of Redbarn is located circa 145m from the SPA. Policies relating to this settlement also require assessment.</p> <p>There are a number of other settlements located within 5km of this SPA. These include Youghal, Gortaroo and Knockadoon. There is no hydrological linkage between these settlements and the SPA and no policies in the plan relating to these settlements direct activity into the SPA. No potential for impact on this site is identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in relation to these settlements.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
Blackwater Estuary SPA (4028)	<p>This SPA is located within the East Cork MD. The boundary of Youghal overlaps with the SPA. Untreated wastewater from the town of Youghal discharges directly to the estuary within the SPA. A large parcel of land adjacent to the SPA to the north of the town (YL-X-01) is zoned for development. There are two sites on the waterfront within the town of Youghal which are identified as regeneration areas. These are at McDonalds Quay (YL-RA-06) and Youghal Dockyard (YL-RA-11). Further assessment is required in respect of this settlement with a particular focus on these issues.</p>

Table 2: Preliminary Screening Assessment	
Site Name	Screening Determination
	<p>There are two other settlements which are located within 5km of this SPA. These are Redbarn and Carriganes. No policies in the plan relating to these settlements direct activity into the SPA. No potential for impact on this site is identified. No further assessment is considered to be required in relation to these settlements.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
Cork Harbour SPA (4030)	<p>This SPA is on the western boundary of the East Cork MD. The boundaries of a number of settlements on the eastern side of the harbour overlap with the SPA. These include the settlements boundaries of Midleton, Saleen and Whitegate & Aghada.</p> <p>WWTPs in a number of settlements within the MD discharge treated wastewater directly to the SPA. These include the settlements of Midleton, Whitegate & Aghada and Saleen. Other settlements within the MD area have WWTP's which discharge to rivers within the catchment of the SPA. These include the settlements of Dungourney, Lisgoold, Ballincurrig and Cloyne.</p> <p>Smaller settlements within the MD which have a hydrological connection to the SPA include Clonmult and Leamlara.</p> <p>Existing or proposed coastal walks are identified in the plan which are located adjacent to or within the Cork Harbour SPA at Saleen, Rostellan and Whitegate/Aghada.</p> <p>Further assessment is required.</p>
River Blackwater Callows SPA (4094)	<p>The East Cork MD is located circa 10km from the Callows SPA. The MD is hydrologically connected to the Callow SPA via the Blackwater River; however the MD is downstream of the SPA. 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

4094 River Blackwater Callows 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

0077 Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) Special Area of Conservation

1058 Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation

2170 Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation

4022 Ballycotton Bay Special Protection Area

4023 Ballymacoda Bay Special Protection Area

4028 Blackwater Estuary Special Protection Area

4030 Cork Harbour 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.

Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (2170) - Screening Assessment

SAC Description and Key Concerns

This is an important site designated for the protection of coastal and estuarine habitats and which is also of importance for wintering wetland bird species. This site overlaps with the Ballymacoda Bay Special Protection Area. The habitats for which the SAC is designated are listed in **Appendix I** of this plan, as are the Conservation Objectives which apply to the site. Water quality in Ballymacoda Bay is assessed to be Moderate status only (EPA Envision Maps 2010-2012). The SAC is located adjacent to the village of **Ballymacoda**.

In order to protect the habitats for which the SAC is designated, it will be important to ensure that natural dynamic hydrological processes within the coastal zone are preserved (to protect saltmarsh habitat), that water quality is protected (to protect benthic communities associated with mudflat habitat) and that direct damage to habitats within the SAC is prevented.

In the context of this report, and having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to the site, the key requirements for the plan are to ensure that:

- policies in the plan will not hinder natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes – ie prevent natural retreat of coastal habitats as sea levels rise, interfere with natural circulation of sediments or interfere with natural tidal flooding patterns;
- policies in the plan will not result in increased nutrient loading to the estuary;
- policies in the plan will not encourage or direct development into the SAC; and
- policies in the plan will not put undue recreational or other pressure on coastal habitats.

Assessment

Protection of natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes:

The installation of coastal protection infrastructure or other physical infrastructure in the coastal zone could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes and could thereby interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been set for estuarine habitats within this SAC. Significant increases in surface water run-off to coastal estuaries could also have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes in these areas. There are no policies in the plan which propose the installation of coastal protection infrastructure or which propose development directly within the coastal zone around this SAC and growth targets for Ballymacoda are relatively modest. Furthermore, General Objective (GO-01(d)) for the villages of the East Cork MD including Ballymacoda, requires that developments make adequate provision for stormwater storage while Flood Policy (IN-01) which discourages development within flood risk areas will further minimise risk of impact on natural flooding

patterns. Subject to adherence to these policies, it is considered that development proposed for Ballmacoda does not pose any risk of impact on natural hydrological processes in this SAC.

Waste-water treatment – nutrient inputs:

The provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is a key requirement to ensuring the protection of water quality which will contribute towards the maintenance of healthy populations of invertebrate communities of mudflat habitats – one of the targets for this habitat type. The village of **Ballymacoda** is located adjacent to this SAC and is serviced by a septic tank which discharges to a tributary of the bay which has an EPA certified discharge. There appear to be issues in terms of WWTP capacity and water quality in the estuary is assigned moderate status only.

The plan proposes development of up to 45 additional houses within Ballymacoda during the lifetime of the plan. Development boundary objective (DB-03) clarifies that this development can only progress subject to the provision of appropriate upgrades to wastewater infrastructure. Subject to adherence to this policy, it is considered that development which is proposed for the settlement of Ballymacoda can be accommodated without giving rise to a risk of impact on the SAC.

Development within the SAC/Recreational Pressures:

There are no issues concerning boundary overlaps and no other policies relating to this settlement direct development into the SAC.

Conclusion

Provided that development in Ballymacoda only proceeds in accordance with DB-03 (when adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is provided), it is considered that the development proposed in this plan can be achieved without resulting in negative effects on this SAC.

Great Island Channel SAC (1058) - Screening Assessment

SAC Description and Key Concerns

This site is located in the north channel of Cork Harbour. It is of conservation importance for its estuarine habitats including saltmarsh (Atlantic salt meadows) and mudflat habitat types. The Conservation Objectives which have been established for these habitats are set out in **Appendix I** of this plan. Mudflat habitat supports the benthic community type ‘Mixed sediment to sandy mud with polychaetes and oligochaetes community complex’ to which conservation targets are applied. This community complex is recorded throughout the intertidal and into the shallow subtidal areas of the SAC. The other habitat for which the SAC is designated - Atlantic saltmeadows, has been recorded at Bawnard (Dungourney Estuary), Carrigtohill on the northern

side of Foaty Island, Lough Atalia, Harpers Island, Slatty Bridge, Belvelly, Rossmore and Midleton. Both habitat types for which the SAC is designated are currently assessed to have unfavourable-bad conservation status.

The site overlaps with the Cork Harbour SPA which is a site of international importance for the large numbers and variety of wintering birds which are dependent upon it. Water quality in the north channel is assessed to be Moderate status only (EPA Envision Maps 2010-2012).

The **Midleton** settlement boundary overlaps with the boundary of this SAC and treated effluent from a number of settlements discharges to watercourses within the catchment of the SAC. Very significant growth is proposed for the Midleton area (5,255 houses).

In order to protect the habitats for which the SAC is designated, it will be important to ensure that natural dynamic hydrological processes within the coastal zone are preserved, that water quality is protected and that direct damage to habitats within the SAC is prevented.

In the context of this report, and having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to the site, the key requirements for the plan are to ensure that:

- policies in the plan will not hinder natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes – ie prevent natural retreat of coastal habitats as sea levels rise, interfere with natural circulation of sediments or interfere with natural tidal flooding regimes ;
- policies in the plan will not result in increased nutrient loading to the estuary;
- policies in the plan will not encourage or direct development into the SAC; and
- policies in the plan will not put undue recreational or other pressure on coastal habitats.

Assessment

Protection of natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes:

The installation of coastal protection infrastructure or other physical infrastructure in the coastal zone could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes and could thereby interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been set for estuarine habitats within this SAC. Significant increases in surface water run-off to the harbour could also have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes within the SAC.

There are no policies in the plan which propose the installation of coastal protection infrastructure or which propose development directly within the coastal zone around this SAC. However, significant levels of growth are proposed at Midleton (5,255 additional houses) much of which is to be located to the north of the town at Waterrock adjacent the Owenacurra River. Furthermore, an area of land (220h) between Carrigtohill and Midleton is identified in the plan to be one of a number of areas of land around the city which is under consideration to be zoned for future development (Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve).

The additional growth proposed for Midleton and surrounding areas could have the potential to significantly increase levels of surface water run-off and to alter hydrological patterns in the Owenacurra estuary, including areas where annexed habitat has been recorded. However, General Objective (MD-DB-05) clarifies that all new development in the town must make provision for integration of SuDS and for adequate storm water attenuation while Flood Policy (IN-01) which discourages development within flood risk areas will further minimise risk of impact on natural flooding patterns. There is also an objective in the plan which requires the protection of river corridors in Midleton (MD-DB-13) which should help to protect the Owenacurra River corridor and prevent increases in levels of surface water run-off from areas of new development in the town including in Water Rock. Provided these objectives are adhered to, then it is considered that there will be no significant risk that development provided for in this plan will affect natural hydrological processes within the SAC.

Waste-water treatment – nutrient inputs:

Elevated nutrients in surface water can have the potential to have negative effects on mudflat habitat for which this SAC is designated by affecting the distribution and health of benthic communities which are associated with this habitat type.

The primary sources of nutrients in this catchment are identified to be associated with agricultural activities and with urban wastewater systems. **WWTPs** associated with the settlements of **Midleton, Dungourney and Ballincurrig/ Lisgoold** discharge treated wastewater to this SAC or its catchment, while the Carrigtwohill WWTP (Cobh MD) also discharges to the SAC. The plan provides for significantly increased levels of growth for the settlement of Midleton, and as well for additional levels of growth in the other settlements listed above with discharges to the Owenacurra catchment. In addition, significant new areas of land around the harbour are currently being considered to be zoned for development. Against this background, water quality in the SAC is considered to be eutrophic and has been assigned Moderate water quality status.

The provision of waste-water treatment infrastructure with sufficient capacity and treatment capability will be essential to ensuring that the level of growth provided for in this plan can be achieved in a manner which is compatible with the Conservation Objectives which have been set for the SAC.

Table 2.3 of the plan identifies that the treatment plants in all of the settlements within the catchment of the Owenacurra will need to be upgraded to cater for the proposed growth. Settlement specific objectives clarify that the new growth cannot proceed until appropriate wastewater infrastructure is in place (General Objectives for Midleton (MD-DB-03), Dungourney (DB 0-04) and Ballincurrig (DB-03)). The Midleton plant operated in compliance with its license conditions in 2015 and is stated not to be having an observable negative effect on water quality

– however, it does not have capacity to cater for the additional growth which is proposed in the plan. Settlements which have a certified waste waters discharge to watercourses within the SAC or its catchment are **Dungourney** and **Lisgoold /Ballincurrig**. These plants also have capacity issues which will need to be addressed before development in these settlements can proceed. There is no information readily available to determine whether the discharges from WWTPs in these settlements are affecting water quality. This will need to be assessed as and when development proposals arise in these settlements.

A study on the Great Island Channel SAC was completed as part of the assessment process during the completion of the Cork County Development Plan 2014 (BEC, 2014). That study recommended that as a priority waste water infrastructure in the harbour area would be upgraded in order that it can meet the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Directive Regulations; and that the Great Island North Channel Pollution Reduction Programme should be implemented. The study concluded that conservation condition of Mudflat habitat within the SAC would be likely to recover provided that appropriate upgrades (both capacity and treatment standards) to waste water infrastructure are put in place. The study stated that it may be necessary to provide for review outfall locations for a number of treatment plants and/or to improve treatment plant treatment standards, in particular those in or near the north channel (Midleton and Carrigtwohill) where problems with eutrophication are most acute, to ensure that the growth which is proposed in the plan can be achieved while ensuring compliance with the requirements of both the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. With the implementation of these measures, the study concludes that the conservation status of this habitat would not be compromised by the population targets proposed for the harbour area.

Cork County Council has committed to engaging with stakeholders to prepare and implement a Wastewater Management Strategy for Cork Harbour which will include addressing issues relating to the discharge of effluent within or near the Great Island Channel SAC (Section 11 of County Development Plan 2014) in the short to medium term. It is recommended that this position would be clarified in this plan.

Subject to adherence to policies Midleton (MD-DB-03), Dungourney (DB 0-04) and Ballincurrig (DB-03)) which will only allow development in the settlements of the Owenacurra catchment to proceed when adequate waste water infrastructure is in place, and having regard to CCC's commitment to engage with stakeholders to prepare and implement a wastewater management strategy for the harbour, it is considered that potential for the plan to give rise to negative effects associated with nutrient discharges, on this SAC can be screened out.

Boundary Issues:

The settlement boundary of Midleton overlaps with this SAC. Most of the land within the SAC which is within the boundary of Midleton, comprises estuarine habitat which supports both of the annexed habitat types for which this SAC is designated. Some of the land supports terrestrial

habitat which could come under pressure for development. Some of the terrestrial habitat within the SAC zoned as Open Space (MD-O-13), however a small area is unzoned. This area is identified to be vulnerable to flood risk and therefore less likely to come under pressure to be developed. It is recommended that consideration would be given to including the area within an Open Space zoning in order to further protect it against any such pressure.

Conclusion

Nutrients Issues:

Subject to adherence to DB and GO objectives which clarify the position in relation to the requirement to provide adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure around Cork Harbour to accommodate proposed development, it is considered that the growth which is proposed in this plan can be accommodated without giving rise to significant negative effects on the Great Island Channel SAC.

Hydrological Issues:

Subject to adherence to plan objectives MD-DB-05, MD-DB-13 and IN-01, then it is considered that there will be no significant risk that development provided for in this plan will affect natural hydrological processes within the SAC.

Boundary Issues:

It is recommended that consideration would be given to including SAC land within the Midleton settlement boundary as Open Space – not suitable for development, in order to protect it against development pressure.

Overall Conclusion:

Some changes to the draft plan are required to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. It is recommended that these changes would be made at the amendments stage. Subject to the implementation of these changes and adherence to protective policies set out in the LAP, it is considered that potential for development supported by this plan to give rise to significant negative effects on the Great Island Channel SAC can be ruled out.

Blackwater River SAC (2170)-Screening Assessment

SAC Description and Key Concerns

The Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation is a very large site extending from its headwaters on the Cork Kerry border to its estuary at Youghal on the Cork Waterford border. It incorporates the main channels of the Blackwater, Bride, Allow and Awbeg as well as their many tributaries and to the Licky River (Co. Waterford) which meets the sea upstream of **Youghal**. The site designated for the protection of a number of freshwater and estuarine habitat types, woodland habitat types, freshwater mammalian, fish and invertebrate species as well as the

protected plant species the Killarney Fern. The estuarine section of this SAC is located within the East Cork Municipal District adjacent to the town of Youghal.

Coastal and estuarine habitats for which the SAC is designated include: estuaries, mudflats and sandflats, perennial vegetation of stony banks and three saltmarsh habitat types. There are a number of benthic marine communities (5) of conservation importance identified to occur in the SAC. These occur throughout the estuary. Saltmarsh habitat is found in scattered locations throughout the estuary, but most of this habitat is located within the Tourig Estuary and in the estuary of the Glendine River.

The targets which are required to be met to protect coastal and estuarine habitats and species which occur in the part of the SAC are set out in **Appendix I** of this report. In order to protect these habitats, it will be important to ensure that natural dynamic hydrological processes within the coastal zone are preserved, that water quality is protected and that direct damage to habitats within the SAC is prevented.

The site overlaps with the Blackwater Estuary SPA which is a site of international importance for the large numbers and variety of wintering birds which are dependent upon it. Water quality in the estuary is assessed to be Moderate status only (EPA Envision Maps 2010-2012).

In the context of this report, and having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to the site, the key requirements for the plan are to ensure that:

- policies in the plan will not hinder natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes – ie prevent natural retreat of coastal habitats as sea levels rise, interfere with natural circulation of sediments or interfere with natural tidal flooding regimes ;
- policies in the plan will not result in increased nutrient loading to the estuary;
- policies in the plan will not encourage or direct development into the SAC; and
- policies in the plan will not put undue recreational or other pressure on coastal habitats.

Assessment

Potential for Impacts on Natural Hydrological Processes:

The installation of coastal protection infrastructure or other physical infrastructure in the coastal zone could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes in the coastal zone and could thereby interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been set for estuarine habitats within this SAC. Significant increases in surface water run-off to coastal estuaries could also have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes in these areas.

There are no policies in the plan which propose the installation of coastal protection infrastructure around **Youghal**, however, significant development is proposed in a large greenfield area adjacent to the SAC to the north of the town (YL-X-01). The site is adjacent to the Tourig River which flows in an easterly direction to meet the Blackwater Estuary just north of Youghal and supports substantial areas of both mudflat and saltmarsh habitat. Other areas of undeveloped land occur adjacent to the SAC within the settlement boundary at Youghal Mudlands. Development in these areas could have the potential to increase surface water run-off into adjacent estuarine habitats and could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes within sensitive estuarine habitats.

General Objective (YL-GO-05) clarifies that all new development in the town must make provision for integration of SuDS and for adequate storm water attenuation while Flood Policy (IN-01) which discourages development within flood risk areas will further minimise risk of impact on natural flooding patterns. There is also an objective in the plan which requires the protection of river corridors (YL-GO-12) within the town which should help to prevent increases in levels of surface water run-off. The YL-X-01 objective emphasises that development of this zone will require the protection of ecological features of value within the area and may require the maintenance of an undeveloped buffer between the development site and the estuary. Subject to adherence to these policies, then it is considered that there will be no significant risk that development provided for in this plan will affect natural hydrological processes within the SAC.

Water Quality Issues – Waste-water Treatment:

Wastewater in Youghal is currently discharged untreated to the estuary. YL-GO-02 clarifies that appropriate and sustainable wastewater infrastructure must be provided and be will operational in advance of development which is supported by this plan. To that end a new WWTP is currently under construction in Youghal and is due to be completed by the winter of 2017. The new plant will be sufficiently sized to cater for the new growth provided for in the plan over the short to medium term and it is expected that the capacity would be increased as required to meet long term growth targets. It is predicted that the new plant will contribute to improvements to water quality in the estuary which is assessed to be eutrophic and meeting Moderate status only (EPA, 2012). Development which is provided for in the town of Youghal will not negatively affect this SAC provided policy YL-GO-02 is adhered to.

Boundary Issues:

The development boundary of **Youghal** overlaps with this SAC at the mudlands and along the edges of the bays at the towns quays. SAC land at the mudlands is zoned as open space YL-O-06 and is also within an identified flood risk zone and is considered to be unlikely to come under pressure for development. No changes are required.

There are small overlaps of SAC lands along the quays (Allins Quay, Nealons Quay etc) where

quay walls and small areas of intertidal habitat are included with the settlement boundary. These areas are unlikely to come under significant development pressure. No changes are required. The coastal zone to the east of Lighthouse Road also forms part of the SAC and lies within the settlement boundary. It is recommended that consideration be given to zoning this land as open space to reduce pressure for development within the SAC.

Development is supported at two regeneration sites in the town (YL-RA-06 (McDonalds Quay and YL-RA-11 Youghal Dockyard) which are proximal to the SAC. It is recommended that it would be clarified in the objectives for these two sites that proposals for these areas should be designed having regard to their proximity to the SAC to ensure that potential for impacts on this site is avoided.

Conclusion

Nutrients Issues:

Subject to adherence to policy YL-GO-02 which prevents further development within the town until such time as the new WWTP is in place, it is considered that the potential for new development which is supported by the plan, to give rise to increased nutrient inputs to the Blackwater River SAC, can be ruled out.

Hydrological Issues:

Subject to adherence to Y-GO-05, it is considered that the potential for new development which is supported by this plan to affect natural hydrological processes within the estuarine portion of this site, can be ruled out.

Boundary Issues:

In order to reduce pressure for any of this development to be located within the SAC, it is recommended that consideration be given to zoning SAC land identified to be within the built up area as Open Space-not suitable for development.

Overall Conclusion:

Some changes to the draft plan are required to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. It is recommended that these changes would be made at the amendments stage. Subject to the implementation of these changes and adherence to protective policies set out in the LAP, it is considered that potential for development supported by this plan to give rise to significant negative effects on the Blackwater River SAC can be ruled out.

Ballymacoda Bay SPA (4023)-Screening Assessment

SPA Description and Key Concerns

This site comprises the estuary of the Womanagh River. It supports mudflats and saltmarsh habitats as well as wet fields, all of which are of importance for a range of wintering bird species that use this site. The site regularly supports >20,000 wintering waterfowl. It has internationally important numbers of Bar-tailed Godwit, supports large flocks of Golden Plover. It has nationally and regionally important numbers of a range of other species including Brent Goose. This site overlaps with Ballymacoda (Clonpriest) Pillmore SAC. The qualifying features for which this site is designated are listed in **Appendix I** of this report.

Water quality in the bay is recorded to be moderate (EPA Envision Maps 2010-2012). In the context of this report and having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to this site, the key concerns will be to ensure that:

- policies in the plan will not affect the extent or quality of available feeding and roosting habitat in the estuary ;
- policies in the plan do not support recreational / amenity uses or other activities within or near the SPA which would have a high risk of causing disturbance to species for which the SPA is designated.

Assessment

Protection of natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes: The installation of coastal protection infrastructure or other physical infrastructure in the coastal zone could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes and could thereby interfere with the protection of wetland habitats upon which birds for which this SPA is designated are dependant.

Significant increases in surface water run-off to coastal estuaries could also have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes in these areas.

There are no policies in the plan which propose the installation of coastal protection infrastructure or which propose development directly within the coastal zone around this SPA and growth targets for the settlement are relatively modest. Furthermore, General Objective (GO-1 d) for the villages including Ballymacoda and the small settlement of Redbarn, require that developments make adequate provision for stormwater storage while Flood Policy (IN-01) which discourages development within flood risk areas will further minimise risk of impact on natural flooding patterns. No policies in the plan are identified which could have the potential to interfere with natural hydrological processes within the SPA.

Water Quality Issues – Waste-water Treatment:

Elevated levels of nutrients are a less critical issue for estuarine birds than they are for estuarine habitats, as increased nutrients in mudflat systems can result in increased food availability for

birds, notwithstanding the fact that the conservation condition of the habitat is reduced. Elevated levels of nutrients can in some circumstances result in a decrease in food availability for birds by causing an increase in the spread of algal mats over these areas.

The provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is a key requirement to ensuring the protection of mudflat habitats for which the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC is designated and will also contribute towards the maintenance of healthy populations of invertebrate communities of mudflat habitats upon which birds for which this SPA is designated, feed.

The village of **Ballymacoda** is located adjacent to this SPA and is serviced by a septic tank which discharges to a tributary of the bay which has an EPA certified discharge. There appear to be issues in terms of WWTP capacity and water quality in the estuary is assigned moderate status only.

The plan proposes development of up to 45 additional houses within Ballymacoda during the lifetime of the plan. Development boundary objective (DB-03) clarifies that this development will only progress subject to the provision of appropriate upgrades to wastewater infrastructure. Adherence to this policy will be important to ensuring the protection of this SPA.

Boundary Issues: There are two settlements located proximal to this SPA. These are the village of **Ballymacoda** which is located to the west of Ballymacoda Bay and **Redbarn** which is located just north of the SPA. However, there are no boundary overlaps with the SPA and no policies associated with either of these settlements propose any kind of development within the SPA.

Developments Within the SPA: Redbarn is a small tourism resort which has holiday home units, a hotel, caravan site and playground. The plan proposes a boundary extension to facilitate further development of holiday homes and mobile homes within the resort. There is a risk that increasing levels of tourism activity in this area could have the potential to result in increased visitor usage of coastal areas within the SPA, which could in increased disturbance related pressures on birds within the estuary. However, it is anticipated that it would be most likely that any increase in visitor activity in the area would occur during the summer months, the period of the year which is of least importance for birds using this estuary. Future development in Redbarn will be subject to assessment of potential for impacts on the SPA and will only be progressed where it concluded that the development will not give rise to negative effects on the SPA. This is referenced in the General Objectives for other locations (GO-03(a)). No changes are required.

Conclusion

Provided that development in Ballymacoda only proceeds in accordance with DB-03 (when adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is provided), it is considered that the

development proposed in this plan can be achieved without resulting in negative effects on this SAC.

Blackwater Estuary SPA (4028)-Screening Assessment

SPA Description and Key Concerns

This is a sheltered south-facing estuary, located on the eastern boundary of Co. Cork. The principle habitat types are mudflats and sandflats, with saltmarsh fringing the estuarine channels. The site is of high ornithological importance for its variety and numbers of wintering waterfowl, in particular its internationally important population of Black-tailed Godwit, as well as a range of other species. This site overlaps with the estuarine portion of the Blackwater River SAC and the settlement of **Youghal**. The qualifying interests of the SPA and their Conservation Objectives are set out in **Appendix 1** of this report.

Water quality in the estuary was assessed to be reaching Moderate status (EPA Envision Maps, 2010-2012).

The key concerns for this assessment, having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to this SPA are to ensure that:

- policies in the plan will not affect the extent or quality of available feeding and roosting habitat in the estuary;
- policies in the plan do not support recreational / amenity uses or other activities within or near the SPA which would have a high risk of causing disturbance to species for which the SPA is designated.

Potential for Impacts on Natural Hydrological Processes:

The installation of coastal protection infrastructure or other physical infrastructure in the coastal zone could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes and could thereby interfere with the protection of wetland habitats upon which birds for which this SPA is designated are dependant.

There are no policies in the plan which propose the installation of coastal protection infrastructure around the coastal zone at **Youghal**, however, significant development is proposed in a large greenfield area adjacent to the SPA to the north of the town (YL-X-01). The site is adjacent to the Tourig River which flows in an easterly direction to meet the Blackwater Estuary just north of Youghal and supports substantial areas of both mudflat and saltmarsh habitat. Other areas of undeveloped land occur adjacent to the SPA within the settlement boundary at Youghal Mudlands. Development in these areas could have the potential to increase surface water run-off into adjacent estuarine habitats and could have the potential to

affect natural hydrological processes within estuarine habitats upon which wintering birds are dependant.

General Objective (YL-GO-05) clarifies that all new development in the town must make provision for integration of SuDS and for adequate storm water attenuation while Flood Policy (IN-01) which discourages development within flood risk areas will further minimise risk of impact on natural flooding patterns. There is also an objective in the plan which requires the protection of river corridors (YL-GO-12) within the town, which should help to prevent increases in levels of surface water run-off, and the YL-X-01 objective emphasises that development of this zone will require the protection of ecological features of value within the area and may require the maintenance of an undeveloped buffer between the development site and the estuary. Subject to adherence to this policy, then it is considered that there will be no significant risk that development provided for in this plan will affect natural hydrological processes within the SPA.

Water Quality Issues – Waste-water Treatment:

Elevated levels of nutrients are a less critical issue for estuarine birds than they are for estuarine habitats, as increased nutrients in mudflat systems can result in increased food availability for birds, notwithstanding the fact that the conservation condition of the habitat is reduced. Elevated levels of nutrients can in some circumstances result in a decrease in food availability for birds by causing an increase in the spread of algal mats over these areas.

The provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is a key requirement to ensuring the protection of mudflat habitats for which the Blackwater River SAC is designated and will also contribute towards the maintenance of healthy populations of invertebrate communities of mudflat habitats upon which birds for which this SPA is designated, feed.

Wastewater in Youghal is currently discharged untreated to the estuary and water quality in the estuary is of Moderate water quality only. YL-GO-02 clarifies that appropriate and sustainable wastewater infrastructure must be provided and be will operational in advance of development which is supported by this plan. To that end a new WWTP is currently under construction in Youghal and is due to be completed by the winter of 2017. The new plant will be sufficiently sized to cater for the new growth provided for in the plan and will provide for nutrient removal.

It is predicted that the new plant will contribute to improvements to water quality in the estuary which is assessed to be eutrophic and meeting Moderate status only (EPA, 2012). Development which is provided for in the town of Youghal will not negatively affect this SPA provided that it does not commence until the new plant is operational.

Boundary Issues:

The development boundary of **Youghal** overlaps with this SPA along its edge at the town's quays. These areas are unlikely to come under significant development pressure. No changes

are required.

Undeveloped land adjacent to the SPA at the YL-X-01 site and at Youghal mudlands could be important for species of bird for which the SPA is designated at high tide periods when intertidal mudflats are covered by seawater. Potential for impacts on any such species using the SPA or adjacent green field lands in these areas will need to be assessed in the event that development is proposed in these areas and will only be permitted where it is shown that the development is compatible with the requirements of the Habitats Directive. This is covered in the General Objectives for Youghal (YL-GO-03).

Conclusion

Nutrients Issues:

Subject to adherence to policy YL-GO-02 which prevents further development within the town until such time as the new WWTP is in place, it is considered that the potential for new development which is supported by the plan, to give rise to increased nutrient inputs to the Blackwater River SPA, can be ruled out.

Hydrological Issues:

Subject to adherence to Y-GO-05, it is considered that the potential for new development which is supported by this plan to affect natural hydrological processes within the estuarine portion of this site, can be ruled out.

Overall Conclusion:

The development proposals for Youghal and the wider plan are generally compatible with the protection of the Blackwater Estuary SPA.

Cork Harbour SPA (4028)-Screening Assessment

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).

A number of settlements in the East Cork MD are located adjacent to or overlapping with the boundary of the SPA and treated waste water from some of these discharges to the harbour or its associated rivers upstream of the SPA. These include the settlements of **Midleton, Saleen** and **Whitegate/Aghada, Dungourney, Ballincurrag/Lisgoold, Leamlara** and **Clonmult**. Significant levels of growth are proposed for the Midleton with a possibility that additional lands may be zoned for development adjacent to this town.

The key concerns for this assessment, having regard to the Conservation Objectives which apply to this SPA are to ensure that:

- policies in the plan will not affect the extent or quality of available feeding and roosting habitats or sites in the estuary;
- policies in the plan will not cause disturbance at Common Tern breeding sites;
- policies in the plan do not support recreational / amenity uses or other activities within or near the SPA which would have a high risk of causing disturbance to species for which the SPA is designated.

Assessment

Protection of natural dynamic coastal hydrological processes:

The installation of coastal protection infrastructure or other physical infrastructure in the coastal zone could have the potential to affect natural hydrological processes and could thereby interfere and could thereby interfere with the protection of wetland habitats upon which birds for which this SPA is designated are dependant.

There are no policies in the plan which propose the installation of coastal protection infrastructure or which propose development directly within the coastal zone around this SPA. However, significant levels of growth are proposed at Midleton (5,255 additional houses) much of which is to be located to the north of the town at Waterrock adjacent the Owenacurra River. Furthermore, an area of land (220ha) between Carrigtwohill and Midleton is identified in the plan to be one of a number of areas of land around the city which is under consideration to be zoned for future development (Metropolitan Cork Strategic Land Reserve).

The additional growth proposed for Midleton and surrounding areas could have the potential to significantly increase levels of surface water run-off and to alter hydrological patterns in the Owenacurra estuary, including areas that are known to be of importance for wintering birds. However, General Objective (MD-DB-05) clarifies that all new development in the town must make provision for integration of SuDS and for adequate storm water attenuation while Flood Policy (IN-01) which discourages development within flood risk areas will further minimise risk of impact on natural flooding patterns. There is also an objective in the plan which requires the protection of river corridors in Midleton (MD-DB-13) which should help to protect the

Owenacurra River corridor and prevent increases in levels of surface water run-off from areas of new development in the town including in Water Rock. Provided these objectives are adhered to, then it is considered that there will be no significant risk that development provided for in this plan will affect natural hydrological processes within the SPA.

Waste-water treatment – nutrient inputs:

Elevated levels of nutrients are a less critical issue for estuarine birds than they are for estuarine habitats, as increased nutrients in mudflat systems can result in increased food availability for birds, notwithstanding the fact that the conservation condition of the habitat is reduced. Elevated levels of nutrients can in some circumstances result in a decrease in food availability for birds by causing an increase in the spread of algal mats over these areas.

The provision of adequate waste water treatment infrastructure is a key requirement to ensuring the protection of mudflat habitats for which the Great Island Channel SAC is designated and will also contribute towards the maintenance of healthy populations of invertebrate communities of mudflat habitats upon which birds for which the Cork Harbour SPA is designated, feed.

The primary sources of nutrients in this catchment are identified to be associated with agricultural activities and with urban wastewater systems. **WWTPs** associated with the settlements of **Midleton, Dungourney and Ballincurrag/ Lisgoold** discharge treated wastewater to this SAC or its catchment, while the Carrigtwohill WWTP (Cobh MD) also discharges to the SAC. The plan provides for significantly increased levels of growth for the settlement of Midleton, and as well for additional levels of growth in the other Municipal Districts around the harbour. In addition, significant growth is also proposed for new areas of land around the harbour are currently being considered to be zoned for development including areas in this MD at Midleton. Against this background, water quality in the SPA is considered to be eutrophic and has been assigned Moderate water quality status.

The provision of waste-water treatment infrastructure with sufficient capacity and treatment capability will be essential to ensuring that the level of growth provided for in this plan can be achieved in a manner which is compatible with the Conservation Objectives which have been set for the SAC and for the Cork Harbour SPA.

Table 2.3 of the plan identifies that the treatment plants in all of the settlements within the catchment of the Owenacurra will need to be upgraded to cater for the proposed growth. Settlement specific objectives clarify that the new growth cannot proceed until appropriate wastewater infrastructure is in place (General Objectives for Midleton (MD-DB-03), Dungourney (DB 0-04) and Ballincurrag (DB-03)). The Midleton plant operated in compliance with its license conditions in 2015 and is stated not to be having an observable negative effect on water quality – however, it does not have capacity to cater for the additional growth which is proposed in the

plan. Settlements which have a certified waste waters discharge to watercourses within the SAC or its catchment are **Dungourney** and **Lisgoold /Ballincurrig**. These plants also have capacity issues which will need to be addressed before development in these settlements can proceed. There is no information readily available to determine whether the discharges from WWTPs in these settlements are affecting water quality. This will need to be assessed as and when development proposals arise in these settlements.

Treated waste-water from the settlements of **Cloyne** and **Saleen** is also discharged into the SPA via the Spittal Stream at Rostellan while wastewater for the agglomeration of **Whitegate, Aghada, Farsid** and **Rostellan** is collected and discharged untreated to the harbour at Long Gate within the SPA. Development boundary objectives for the settlements of Cloyne, Saleen and the Whitegate-Aghada agglomeration also clarify that waste-water treatment infrastructure must be provided to accommodate the growth which is proposed for each of these settlements. It is also stated in section 4.6.11 of the plan that a new WWTP will be required prior to any further development taking place in Whitegate-Aghada.

Subject to adherence to Development Boundary policies Midleton (MD-DB-03), Dungourney (DB 0-04), Ballincurrig (DB-03), Cloyne (DB-02) , Whitegate-Aghada (DB-02) and Saleen (DB-03) which will only allow development in the settlements of the SPA to proceed when adequate waste water infrastructure is in place, and having regard also to CCC's commitment to engage with relevant stakeholders to prepare and implement a Wastewater Management Strategy for the harbour, it is considered that potential for development supported by this plan to give rise to negative effects on the Cork Harbour SPA can be screened out.

Boundary Issues:

The settlement boundary of **Midleton** overlaps with this SPA. Most of the land within the SPA which is within the boundary of Midleton, comprises estuarine habitat, but some of the land supports terrestrial habitat all of which is zoned Open Space (MD-O-13). No changes are required.

There are very minor overlaps between the settlement boundaries of **Saleen** and **Whitegate & Aghada** and the SPA. However areas of SPA which lies within the boundaries of these settlements comprise intertidal mudflat and will not come under pressure for development. No changes are required.

Walks/Cycleways/Paths – Potential for disturbance related issues to arise

Existing or proposed coastal walks are identified in the plan (U-01 Whitegate/Aghada and U-01 and U-03 Saleen objectives) which are located adjacent to or within the Cork Harbour SPA at **Saleen** and **Whitegate/Aghada**. The plan recognises the sensitivity of these routes and clarifies in the relevant objectives that further development of these walks will only proceed where it can be shown that it will not have negative implications for the adjoining SPA. Subject to

adherence to these policies, it is considered that no changes are required.

Conclusion

Nutrients Issues:

Subject to adherence to DB and GO objectives which clarify the position in relation to the requirement to provide adequate wastewater treatment infrastructure around Cork Harbour to accommodate proposed development, 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.

Hydrological Issues:

Subject to adherence to plan objectives MD-DB-05, MD-DB-13 and IN-01, then it is considered that there will be no significant risk that development provided for in this plan will affect natural hydrological processes within the SPA.

Walks/Cycleways/Paths – Potential for disturbance related issues to arise

Walking and cycling routes along the eastern side of Cork Harbour (Whitegate/Aghada and Saleen) can only proceed following ecological assessment and if it can be shown that the proposed walks will not cause significant disturbance related impacts on birds. This is clarified in the relevant objectives which are considered to be compatible with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

Overall Conclusion:

The development proposals for Midleton and the East Cork Municipal District generally are compatible with the protection of the Cork Harbour SPA.

4 Screening Conclusions and Recommendations

East Cork Municipal District Local Area Plan – Consultation Draft Screening Conclusion	
Name and Location of Natura 2000 sites subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 0077 Great Island Channel SAC (1058) Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (2170) Ballycotton Bay SPA (4022) Ballymacoda Bay SPA (4023) Blackwater Estuary SPA(4028) Cork Harbour SPA (4030) River Blackwater Callows SPA (4094)
Description of the Plan	See Section 2 of this report.

<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) • Cork County Development Plan 2015 • Cork City Development Plan 2015-2021 • Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 • Kanturk – Mallow MD Draft Local Area Plan 2016 • Fermoy MD Draft Local Area Plan 2016 • Cobh MD Draft Local Area Plan 2016 • Ballincollig-Carrigaline MD Local Area Plan 2016 • Forests, products and people – Irelands forest policy-a renewed vision 2014 • Harvest 2020-A Vision for Irish Agri-Food and Fisheries • Marine Leisure Infrastructure Strategy for the Southern Division of Cork County 2010-2020 • National Climate (2007-2012) Climate Adaptation Framework (2012) • National Development Plan 2007-2013 • National Renewable Energy Action Plan • National Spatial Strategy • National Tourism Action Plan 2016-2018 • National Waste Management Plan 2004-2009 • North and West Cork Strategic Plan 2002-2020 • Port of Cork Strategic Development Plan 2010 • Smarter Travel. A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 within the coastal zone and in freshwater systems; and • policies which increase human activity within and near areas of high importance for feeding and roosting birds.
<p>Assessment of Significant Effects</p>	
<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 coastal zone and in freshwater systems; and • policies which increase human activity within and near areas of high importance for feeding and roosting birds.
<p>Recommended Changes to the plan</p>	<p>A number of recommendations for modifications to the draft plan are proposed to ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives. These are summarised below.</p> <p>Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC – no changes required.</p> <p>Great Island Channel SAC – Zone undeveloped SAC land identified as existing built up area in Middleton as Open Space - not suitable for development.</p> <p>Blackwater River SAC – Zone undeveloped SAC land identified as existing built up area in Youghal as Open Space - not</p>

	<p>suitable for development; Include precautionary text with objectives YL-RA-06 and YL-RA-11 to highlight proximity of these zones to SAC and to clarify that development proposals in these zones should be designed to ensure compatibility with protection of SAC.</p> <p>Ballymacoda Bay SPA – no changes required.</p> <p>Blackwater Estuary SPA – no changes required.</p> <p>Cork Harbour SPA – no changes required.</p>
List of Agencies Consulted	The draft plan and this report will be referred to all of the relevant Statutory Authorities and will be available for consideration by the general public from November 16 th 2016.
Conclusion	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.
Data Collected to Carry Out the Assessment	
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 **East Cork 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 – Summary Site Data

Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (Site Code 0077) Site Data

Qualifying Interests

- 1130 Estuaries
- 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- 1310 Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadows

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

Estuaries	
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries in the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	
Attribute/Target	
Habitat Area	Community Distribution
Permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes (160ha)	Conserve the following community types in natural conditions: Sandy mud with <i>Hediste diversicolor</i> and <i>Tubificoides benedii</i> ; Sand with polychaetes and bivalves community complex.

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide	
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	
Attribute/Target	
Habitat Area	Community Distribution
Permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes	Conserve the following community types in natural conditions: Sandy mud

(302ha)	with <i>Hediste diversicolor</i> and <i>Tubificoides benedii</i> ; San with polychaetes and bivalves community complex.
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Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand

Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand in the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC

Attribute/Target									
Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical Structure: sediment supply	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Physical structure: flooding regime	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation structure: height	Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Vegetation composition : typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation structure: negative indicator species – <i>Spartina anglica</i>
Stable or increasing 1.57ha	No decline or change in habitat distribution	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Maintain natural tidal regime	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Maintain structural variation in sward	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities listed in SMP	No significant expansion of common cordgrass with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur

Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>)									
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (<i>Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae</i>) in the Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC									
Attribute/Target									
Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical Structure: sediment supply	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Physical structure: flooding regime	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation structure: height	Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation structure: negative indicator species – <i>Spartina anglica</i>
Stable or increasing subject to natural processes including erosion and succession – 28.3ha	No decline or change in habitat distribution subject to natural processes	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Maintain/res tore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Maintain natural tidal regime	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Maintain structural variation in sward	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP	No significant expansion of common cordgrass with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur

NPWS (2015) Conservation Objectives: Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC 0077. Version 2. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Great Island Channel SAC (Site Code 1058) Site Data

Qualifying Interests

- 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadows

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide in Great Island Channel SAC.	
Attribute/Target	
Habitat Area	Community Distribution
The permanent habitat is stable or increasing subject to natural processes (723ha).	Conserve the following community type in a natural condition: Mixed sediment to sandy mud with polychaetes and oligochaetes community complex.

Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae)									
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) in Great Island Channel SAC									
Attribute/Target									
Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical Structure: sediment supply	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Physical structure: flooding regime	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation structure: height	Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation structure: negative indicator species – <i>Spartina anglica</i>
Stable or	No decline	Maintain	Maintain/restore	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	Maintain	No

increasing subject to natural processes including erosion and succession – Bawnard 0.29ha; Carrigtwohill 1.01ha	or change in habitat distribution subject to natural processes	natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	natural tidal regime	the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	structural variation in sward	more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP	significant expansion of common cordgrass with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur
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NPWS (2014) Conservation Objectives: Great Island Channel SAC 1058. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Blackwater River SAC (Site Code 2170)

Qualifying Interests

- 1130 Estuaries
- 1140 Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide
- 1220 Perennial vegetation of stony banks
- 1310 *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand
- 1330 Atlantic salt meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*)
- 1410 Mediterranean salt meadows (*Juncetalia maritimi*)
- 3260 Water courses of plain to montane levels with the *Ranunculion fluitantis* and *Callitriche-Batrachion* vegetation
- 91A0 Old sessile oak woods with *Ilex* and *Blechnum* in the British Isles
- 91E0 *Alluvial forests with *Alnus glutinosa* and *Fraxinus excelsior* (*Alno-Padion*, *Alnion incanae*, *Salicion albae*)
- 91J0 **Taxus baccata* woods of the British Isles
- 1029 Freshwater Pearl Mussel *Margaritifera margaritifera*
- 1092 White-clawed Crayfish *Austropotamobius pallipes*
- 1095 Sea Lamprey *Petromyzon marinus*
- 1096 Brook Lamprey *Lampetra planeri*
- 1099 River Lamprey *Lampetra fluviatilis*
- 1103 Twaite Shad *Alosa fallax*
- 1106 Atlantic Salmon *Salmo salar*
- 1355 Otter *Lutra lutra*
- 1421 Killarney Fern *Trichomanes speciosum*

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

***Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029]**

Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the Blackwater River SAC

Attribute/Target					
Distribution	Population Size	Population Structure: recruitment	Population Structure: adult mortality	Habitat Extent	Water quality: macroinverts and phytobenthos (diatoms)
Maintain at 161km	Restore to 35,000 adult mussels.	Restore to least 20% of population no more than 65mm in length; and at least 5% of population no more than 30mm in length	No more than 5% decline from previous number of live adults counted; dead shells less than 1% of the adult population and scattered in distribution	Restore suitable habitat in more than 35km and any additional stretches necessary for salmonid spawning	Restore water quality macroinvertebrates: EQR greater than 0.90; phytobenthos: EQR greater than 0.93

***Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) [1029] cont'd**

Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Freshwater Pearl Mussel in the Blackwater River SAC

Attribute/Target				
Substratum quality: filamentous algae (macroalgae), macrophytes (rooted higher plants)	Substratum quality: sediment	Substratum quality: oxygen availability	Hydrological regime: flow variability	Host Fish
Restore substratum quality-filamentous algae: absent or trace (<5%); macrophytes: absent or trace (<5%)	Restore substratum quality-stable cobble and gravel substrate with very little fine material; no artificially elevated levels of fine sediment	Restore to no more than 20% decline from water column to 5cm depth in substrate	Restore appropriate hydrological regimes	Maintain sufficient juvenile salmonids to host glochidial larvae

<i>Austropotamobius pallipes</i> White-clawed Crayfish 1092					
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of White-clawed Crayfish in the Blackwater River SAC					
Attribute/Target					
Distribution	Population Structure Recruitment	Negative Indicator Species	Disease	Water Quality	Habitat Quality Heterogeneity
No reduction from baseline	Juveniles and/or females with eggs in at least 50% of positive samples	No alien crayfish species	No instances of disease	At least Q 3-4 at all sites sampled by EPA	No decline in heterogeneity or habitat quality

<i>Petromyzon marinus</i> (Sea Lamprey) [1095]				
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Sea Lamprey in the Blackwater River SAC				
Attribute/Target				
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Population structure of juveniles	Juvenile density in fine sediment	Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	Availability of juvenile habitat
Greater than 75% of main stem length of rivers accessible from estuary	At least three age/size groups present	Juvenile density at least 1/m ²	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds	More than 50% of sample sites positive

<i>Lampetra planeri</i> (Brook Lamprey) [1096]

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Brook Lamprey in the Blackwater River SAC				
Attribute/Target				
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Population structure of juveniles	Juvenile density in fine sediment	Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	Availability of juvenile habitat
Access to all watercourses down to first order streams	At least three age/size groups of brook/river lamprey present	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m ²	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds	More than 50% of sample sites positive

<i>Lampetra fluviatilis</i> (River Lamprey) [1099]				
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of River Lamprey in the Blackwater River SAC				
Attribute/Target				
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Population structure of juveniles	Juvenile density in fine sediment	Extent and distribution of spawning habitat	Availability of juvenile habitat
Access to all watercourses down to first order streams	At least three age/size groups of river/brook lamprey present	Mean catchment juvenile density of brook/river lamprey at least 2/m ²	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning beds	More than 50% of sample sites positive for brook/river lamprey juveniles

<i>Alosa fallax</i> (Twaite Shad) [1099]				
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Twaite Shad in the Blackwater River SAC				
Attribute/Target				
Distribution: extent of	Population structure: age	Extent and distribution of	Water quality and oxygen	Spawning habitat quality:

anadromy	classes	spawning habitat	levels	Filamentous algae; macrophytes; sediment
Greater than 75% of main stem length of rivers accessible from estuary	More than one age class present	No decline in extent and distribution of spawning habitats	No lower than 5mg/l	Maintain stable gravel substrate with very little fine algal (macroalgae growth and macrophyte (rooted higher plant) growth

Salmo salar (Atlantic Salmon) [1106]					
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Salmon in the Blackwater River SAC					
Attribute/Target					
Distribution: extent of anadromy	Adult spawning fish	Salmon fry abundance	Out-migrating smolt abundance	Number and distribution of reeds	Water quality
100% of river channels down to second order accessible from estuary	Conservation Limit (CL) for each system consistently exceeded	Maintain or exceed 0+ fry mean catchment-wide abundance threshold value. Currently set at 17 salmon fry/5min sampling	No significant decline	No decline in number and distribution of spawning reeds due to anthropogenic causes	At least Q4 at all sites sampled by EPA

Estuaries [1130]

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Estuaries in the Blackwater River SAC			
Attribute/Target			
Habitat Area	Community Extent	Community Structure: <i>Mytilus edulis</i> density	Community Distribution
Permanent habitat area is stable or increasing, subject to natural processes (1208ha)	Maintain the extent of the <i>Mytilus edulis</i> – dominated community, subject to natural processes.	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Mytilus edulis</i> – dominated community, subject to natural processes.	Conserve the following community types in natural conditions: Intertidal estuarine sandy mud community complex; Subtidal estuarine fine sand with <i>Bathyporeia</i> spp. community complex; Sand and mixed sediment with polychaetes and crustaceans community complex; Coarse sediment community complex.

Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]				
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide for the Blackwater River SAC				
Attribute/Target				
Habitat Area	Community extent	Community structure: <i>Zostera</i> shoot density	Community structure: <i>Mytilus edulis</i> density	Community Distribution
The permanent habitat is stable or increasing subject to natural processes 284ha.	Maintain the extent of the <i>Zostera</i> and <i>Mytilus edulis</i> dominated communities, subject to natural processes	Conserve the high quality of the <i>Zostera</i> dominated community, subject to natural processes	Conservation the high quality of the <i>Mytilus edulis</i> dominated community, subject to natural processes	The following community types should be conserved in a natural condition: Intertidal estuarine sandy mud community complex and Sand and mixed sediment with polychaetes and crustaceans community

				complex
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Perennial vegetation of stony banks [1220]					
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Perennial vegetation of stony banks for the Blackwater River SAC					
Attribute/Target					
Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical structure: functionality and sediment supply	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation composition: negative indicator species
Area stable or increasing, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	No decline, or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes.	Maintain the natural circulation of sediment and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Maintain the typical vegetated shingle flora including the range of sub-communities within the different zones	Negative indicator species (including non-natives) to represent less than 5% cover

<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand					
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand in Blackwater River SAC					
Attribute/Target					

Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical Structure: sediment supply	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Physical structure: flooding regime	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation structure: height	Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Vegetation composition : typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation structure: negative indicator species – <i>Spartina anglica</i>
Stable or increasing subject to natural processes	No decline or change in habitat distribution, subject to natural processes	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Maintain/restore creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Maintain natural tidal regime	Maintain the range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Maintain structural variation in sward	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Maintain the presence of species-poor communities listed in SMP	No significant expansion of common cordgrass with an annual spread of less than 1% where it is known to occur

Atlantic Salt Meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) 1330

Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Atlantic Salt Meadows (*Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae*) for the Blackwater River SAC

Attribute/Target

Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical Structure: sediment supply	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Physical structure: flooding regime	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation structure: height	Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation structure: negative indicator species – <i>Spartina anglica</i>
Area stable or increasing subject to natural processes including erosion and succession (min 30.90ha)	No decline or change in habitat distribution subject to natural processes	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter, without any physical obstructions	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes, including erosion and succession	Maintain natural tidal regime	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones, subject to natural processes including erosion and succession	Maintain structural variation in sward	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP	No significant expansion of common cordgrass, with an annual spread of less than 1%

Lutra Lutra (Otter)							
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Lutra Lutra (Otter) in the Blackwater River SAC							
Attribute/Target							
Distribution	Extent of terrestrial habitat	Extent of marine habitat	Extent of freshwater	Extent of freshwater	Couching sites and holts	Fish biomass available	Barriers to connectivity

			(river) habitat	(lake) habitat			
No significant decline	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 103ha above HWM; 1165.7ha along river banks/around ponds	No significant decline. Area mapped as 647.2ha	No significant decline. Length mapped and calculated as 599.54km	No significant decline. Area mapped and calculated as 25.06ha	No significant decline	No significant decline	No significant increase

Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) [1410]									
Conservation Objective: To restore the favourable conservation condition of Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>) for Kenmare River SAC									
Attribute/Target									
Habitat Area	Habitat Distribution	Physical Structure: sediment supply	Physical structure: creeks and pans	Physical structure: flooding regime	Vegetation structure: zonation	Vegetation structure: height	Vegetation structure: vegetation cover	Vegetation composition: typical species and sub-communities	Vegetation structure: negative indicator species – <i>Spartina Anglica</i>
Area stable or increasing subject to natural processes including	No decline or change in habitat distribution subject to natural processes	Maintain natural circulation of sediments and organic matter,	Maintain creek and pan structure, subject to natural processes,	Maintain natural tidal regime	Maintain range of coastal habitats including transitional zones,	Maintain structural variation in sward	Maintain more than 90% of area outside creeks vegetated	Maintain range of sub-communities with typical species listed in SMP	No significant expansion of common cordgrass, with an annual spread of less than 1%

erosion and succession		without any physical obstructions	including erosion and succession		subject to natural processes including erosion and succession				
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Killarney Fern (<i>Trichomanes speciosum</i>)							
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Killarney Fern in the Blackwater River SAC							
Attribute/Target							
Distribution	Population size	Habitat Extent	Hydrological conditions: visible water	Hydrological conditions: water	Hydrological conditions: humidity	Light levels: shading	Invasive Species
No decline. Two locations known within the SAC	Maintain size and extent of existing colonies, including sporophyte from counts and number of gametopye patches	No loss of suitable habitat, such as shaded rock crevices, caves or gullies in, or near to, known colonies. No loss of woodland canopy at or near to known	Maintain hydrological conditions at the locations so that all colonies are in dripping or damp seeping habitats, and water is visible at all locations	No increase. Presence of desiccated sporophyte mats indicates conditions are unsuitable	No increase. Presence of desiccated sporophyte fronds or gametophyte mats indicates conditions are unsuitable	No changes due to anthropogenic impacts	Absent or under control

		locations					
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Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation [3260]							
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 Blackwater River SAC							
Attribute/Target							
Habitat area	Habitat area	Hydrological regime: river flow	Hydrological regime: tidal influence	Substratum composition: particle size range	Water quality nutrients	Vegetation composition: typical species	Floodplain connectivity
Area stable or increasing subject to natural processes	No decline, subject to natural processes	Maintain appropriate hydrological regimes	Maintain natural tidal regime	The substratum should be dominated by the particle size ranges, appropriate to the habitat sub-type (typically sands, gravels and cobbles)	The concentration of nutrients in the water column should be sufficiently low to prevent changes in species composition or habitat condition	Typical species of the relevant habitat sub-type should be present and in good condition	The area of active floodplain at and upstream of the habitat should be maintained

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 Blackwater River 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 263.7ha for subsites surveyed	No decline	Area stable or increasing. Where topographically possible, "large" woods at least 25ha in size and "small" woods at least 3ha 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

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 Blackwater River 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, including Sessile Oak and Birch	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 Blackwater River 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 19.2ha 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 Blackwater River 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 in the case of alder)	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 alder, willows, and locally, oak and ash	Negative indicator species, particularly non-native invasive species, absent or under control

NPWS (2012) Conservation Objectives: Blackwater River SAC 2165. Version 1.0. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

Ballycotton Bay SPA (Site Code 4022) - Site Data

Qualifying Interests

- A052 Teal
- A137 Ringed Plover
- A140 Golden Plover
- A141 Grey Plover
- A142 Lapwing
- A156 Black-tailed Godwit
- A157 Bar-tailed Godwit
- A160 Curlew
- A169 Turnstone
- A182 Common Gull
- A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull
- A999 Wetland and Waterbirds

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

[A052] Teal <i>Anas Crecca</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey

		teal, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document
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[A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Ringed Plover in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by ringed plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation

			objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Golden Plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A141] Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Grey Plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A142] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
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Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Lapwing, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A156] Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following

list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Bar-tailed Godwit other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Turnstone in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by turnstone, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A182] Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Gull in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by common gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives

		variation	supporting document
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[A183] Less Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Ballycotton Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lesser black-backed gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A999] Wetlands			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Ballycotton Bay SPA, as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 281 hectares, other than that	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 281ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of

		occurring from natural patterns of variation	the conservation objectives supporting document
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NPWS (2014) Conservation objective for Ballycotton Bay SPA {4022} Version 1 .Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Ballymacoda Bay SPA (Site Code 4023) - Site Data

Qualifying Interests

- A050 Wigeon
- A052 Teal
- A137 Ringed Plover
- A140 Golden Plover
- A141 Grey Plover
- A142 Lapwing
- A144 Sanderling
- A149 Dunlin
- A156 Black-tailed Godwit
- A157 Bar-tailed Godwit
- A160 Curlew
- A162 Redshank
- A169 Turnstone
- A179 Black-headed Gull
- A182 Common Gull
- A183 Lesser Black backed Gull
- A999 Wetland and Waterbirds

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

{A050} Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document
[A052] Teal <i>Anas Crecca</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than that occurring from	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five

		natural patterns of variation	of the conservation objectives supporting document
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[A137] Ringed Plover <i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Ringed Plover in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by ringed plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A140] Golden Plover <i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of	No significant decrease in the range,	Waterbird distribution from the

	areas	timing or intensity of use of areas by Golden Plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document
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[A141] Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Grey Plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A142] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the

			conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Lapwing, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A144] Sanderling *Caalidris alba*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Sanderling in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A149] Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A156] Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the

following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Bar-tailed Godwit other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>			
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Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A169] Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Turnstone in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by turnstone, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A179] Black-headed Gull <i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A182] Common Gull <i>Larus canus</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Gull in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by common gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives

		variation	supporting document
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[A183] Less Black-backed Gull <i>Larus fuscus</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lesser Black-backed Gull in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lesser black-backed gull, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A999] Wetlands			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Ballymacoda Bay SPA, as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 281 hectares, other than that	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 281ha using OSi data and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of

		occurring from natural patterns of variation	the conservation objectives supporting document
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NPWS (2015) Conservation objective for Ballymacoda SPA {4023}. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Blackwater Estuary SPA (Site Code 4028) - Site Data

Qualifying Interest

- A050 Wigeon
- A140 Golden Plover
- A142 Lapwing
- A149 Dunlin
- A156 Black-tailed Godwit
- A157 Bar-tailed Godwit
- A160 Curlew
- A162 Redshank
- A999 Wetland and Waterbirds

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

{A050} Wigeon <i>Anas Penelope</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the

			conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A140] Golden Plover *Pluvialis apricaria*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Golden Plover, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A142] Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Lapwing, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A149] Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A156] Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-tailed Godwit in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A157] Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Bar-tailed Godwit other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A160] Curlew <i>Numenius arquata</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A162] Redshank <i>Tringa totanus</i>			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Blackwater Estuary SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Black-tailed Godwit, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objectives supporting document

[A999] Wetlands			
Conservation Objective: To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitat in Blackwater Estuary SPA, as a resource for the regularly occurring migratory birds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 281 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	As determined by regular low tide and other waterbird surveys. Waterbird distribution from the 2009/2010 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

Cork Harbour SPA (Site Code 4030) - Site Data

Qualifying Interests

- A004 Little Grebe
- A005 Great Crested Grebe
- A017 Cormorant
- A028 Grey Heron
- A048 Shelduck
- A050 Wigeon
- A052 Teal
- A054 Pintail
- A056 Shoveler
- A069 Red-breasted

- A130 Oystercatcher
- A140 Golden Plover
- A141 Grey Plover
- A142 Lapwing
- A149 Dunlin
- A156 Black-tailed Godwit
- A157 Bar-tailed Godwit
- A160 Curlew
- A162 Redshank
- A179 Black-headed Gull
- A183 Common Gull
- A183 Lesser Black-backed Gull
- A193 Common Tern
- A999 Wetland and Waterbirds

Conservation Objectives - Attributes and Targets (summary)

A004 Little Grebe <i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>			
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Little Grebe in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by little grebe, other than occurring from natural patterns of	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

		variation	
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A005 Great Crested Grebe *Podiceps cristatus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Great Crested Grebe in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by great crested grebe, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A017 Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Cormorant in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by cormorant, other than occurring from natural patterns of	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

		variation	
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A028 Grey Heron Ardea cinerea			
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Heron in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Grey Heron, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A048 Shelduck Tadorna tadorna			
To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shelduck in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:			
Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Shelduck, other than occurring from natural	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

		patterns of variation	
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A050 Wigeon *Anas penelope*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Wigeon in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Wigeon, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A004 Teal *Anas crecca*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Teal in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by teal, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A052 Pintail *Anas acuta*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Pintail in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by pintail, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A056 Shoveler *Anas clypeata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Shoveler in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by shoveler, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A069 Red-breasted Merganser *Mergus serrator*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Red-breasted Merganser in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the

		trend stable or increasing	conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by Red-breasted merganser, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A130 Oystercatcher Haematopus ostralegus

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Oystercatcher in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by oystercatcher, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A140 Golden Plover Pluvialis apricaria

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Golden Plover in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
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Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by golden plover, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A141 Grey Plover *Pluvialis squatarola*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Grey Plover in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by grey plover, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A142 Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Lapwing in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
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Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by lapwing, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A004 Dunlin *Calidris alpina alpina*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Dunlin in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by dunlin, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A156 Black-tailed Godwit *Limosa limosa*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black tailed Godwit in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and	No significant decrease	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey

	intensity of use of areas	in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-tailed godwit, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.
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A157 Bar-tailed Godwit *Limosa lapponica*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Bar-tailed Godwit in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by bar-tailed godwit, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A160 Curlew *Numenius arquata*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Curlew in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and	No significant decrease	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey

	intensity of use of areas	in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by curlew, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.
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A162 Redshank *Tringa totanus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Redshank in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by redshank, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

Greenshank *Tringa nebularia*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Greenshank in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

		by greenshank, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	
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A179 Black-headed Gull *Chroicocephalus ridibundus*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Black-headed Gull in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Population trend	Percentage change	Long term population trend stable or increasing	Waterbird population trends are presented in part four of the conservation objectives supporting document
Distribution	Range, timing and intensity of use of areas	No significant decrease in the range, timing or intensity of use of areas by black-headed gull, other than occurring from natural patterns of variation	Waterbird distribution from the 2010/2011 waterbird survey programme is discussed in part five of the conservation objective supporting document.

A193 Common Tern *Sterna hirundo*

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of Common Tern in Cork Harbour SPA, which is defined by the following list of attributes and targets:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Breeding population abundance : apparently occupies nests (AONs)	Number	No significant decline	Measures based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al., 1995). In 2012 the total population of common terns that nested within the wider Cork Harbour was between 85 and 95 pairs, a proportion of which now breeds outside the SPA (RPS, 2014)
Productivity rate:	Mean number	No significant decline	Measure based on standard tern survey methods (see Walsh et al.,

fledged young per breeding pair			1995). The Seabird Monitoring Programme (SMP) (JNCC, 2014) provides population data for this species.
Distribution: breeding colonies	Number, location , area (hectares)	No significant decline	Common tern breeding colonies can be sited in both coastal and inland areas using a wide variety of habitats including sandy, rocky or well –vegetated islands in estuaries, lakes and rivers. This species can also use artificial substrates (Del Hoyo et al., 1996). First recorded nesting in saltmarsh in 1969-1970 (Smiddy,1985) , the colony now largely breeds on artificial structures in at least two locations (see Wilson et al., 2000 and RPS, 2014)
Prey biomass available	Kilogrammes	No significant decline	Key prey items: Small fish, crustaceans, insects and occasionally squid. Key habitats: common tern forage in/over shallow coastal waters, bays inlets ,shoals,tidal-rips,drift lines, beaches, saltmarsh creeks, lakes, ponds or rivers. Foraging range: max. 37km , mean ma.33.81km , mean 8.67km (BirdLife International Seabird Database(Birdlife International,2014)
Barriers to connectivity	Number; location; shape; area(hectares)	No significant increase	Seabirds species can make extensive use of marine waters adjacent to their breeding colonies. Foraging range: maz.37km , mean max.33.81km , mean 8.67km (BirdLife International Seabird Database 2014)
Disturbance at the level of impact breeding site	Level of impact	Human activities should occur at levels that do not adversely affect the breeding common tern population	In the Cork Harbour area, this species largely breeds on artificial structures (see Wilson et al., 2000 and RPS, 2014)

A999 Wetlands

To maintain the favourable conservation condition of wetland habitats in Cork Harbour SPA, as a recourse for the regularly – occurring migratory waterbirds that utilise it. This is defined by the following attribute and target:

Attribute	Measure	Target	Notes
Habitat area	Hectares	The permanent area	The wetland habitat area was estimated as 2,587ha using OSI data

		occupied by the wetland habitat should be stable and not significantly less than the area of 2,587 hectares, other than that occurring from natural patterns of variation	and relevant orthophotographs. For further information see part three of the conservation objectives supporting documents
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NPWS (2014) Conservation objective for Cork Harbour SPA {4030}. Version 1. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

