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Cork County Development Plan 2014
**Volume Three: SEA Statement and
Natura Impact Report**

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Section 1:

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

Cork County Development Plan 2014 • December 2014

In accordance with Article 9 of 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 (SEA Directive).

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Chapter 1

Introduction Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

1.1 Context

- 1.1.1 This is the SEA Statement for the Cork County Development Plan 2014 adopted on 08 December, 2014. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the likely environmental effects of implementing a Plan or other strategic action in order to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately addressed in the decision-making process both during the preparation and prior to adoption of a Plan.
- 1.1.2 The European Directive (2001/42/EC) on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive) was transposed into national legislation by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435/2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436/2004). These regulations were subsequently amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations, 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011).
- 1.1.3 The legislation requires that the Plan-making authority must make available an SEA Statement summarising how the SEA and consultations have been taken into account in the making of the Plan. This document comprises the SEA Statement.

1.2 Summary of the SEA process

Table 1-1 Summary of SEA Process

SEA Stage	Cork County Development Plan
1 – Screening	Decision on whether or not an SEA of the Plan is required. SEA is mandatory for County Development Plans under S.I. 436 of 2004.
2 – Scoping	Consultation with defined statutory bodies on the scope and level of detail to be considered in the assessment. Scoping for the Cork County Development Plan SEA was carried out with the statutory bodies as part of the publication of the S11 Consultation Document.
3 – Environmental Assessment and Environmental Report	The next stage of the SEA process comprised an assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the Plan and the preparation of the Environmental Report. The Environmental Report went out on public display with the Draft Development Plan. Submissions received were considered and amendments were recommended by the Chief Executive. The amendments were screened for the requirement for further assessment under the SEA and AA processes. An Addendum to the Environmental Report was later published with the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan, reflecting issues raised in the submissions and the screening of the amendments. Further submissions were received on foot of this third round of consultation and modifications to the amendments were recommended by the Chief Executive. These modifications were again screened for SEA / AA prior to adoption of the final Plan.
4- SEA Statement	The next stage of the SEA process comprised an assessment of the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of the Plan and the preparation of the Environmental Report. The Environmental Report went out on public display with the Draft Development Plan. Submissions received were considered and amendments were recommended by the Chief Executive. The amendments were screened for the requirement for further assessment under the SEA and AA processes. An Addendum to the Environmental Report was later published with the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan, reflecting issues raised in the submissions and the screening of the amendments. Further submissions were received on foot of this third round of consultation and modifications to the amendments were recommended by the Chief Executive. These modifications were again screened for SEA / AA prior to adoption of the final Plan.

1.3 **Content of the SEA Statement**

- 1.3.1 The SEA Statement is described in Article 9 of the SEA Directive as a statutory requirement and should be made available with the adopted plan. This statement is required to be issued to the environmental authorities that were previously consulted, with a view to presenting a record of the key elements of the SEA process and illustrating how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan and the key decisions taken in the plan as a consequence of the SEA.
- 1.3.2 The SEA Statement is required under Article 13I, SI No 436 of 2004 (as amended), to include information on:
- a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
 - b) How the Environmental Report, submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Draft Plan and Environmental Report, and any transboundary consultations (where relevant) have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan;
 - c) The reasons for choosing the Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and
 - d) The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

Chapter 2

How Environmental Considerations were Integrated into the Plan

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 This section deals with how environmental considerations and the findings of the SEA as presented in the Environmental Report were taken into account during the preparation of the Cork County Development Plan.

2.1.2 The protection and conservation of the environment has been a key consideration throughout the preparation of the Plan. Environmental considerations were integrated into the plan in a number of ways through:

- a) Preparation of the Environmental Report including baseline data collection and evaluation of potential impacts.
- b) Consultation
- c) Consideration of alternatives
- d) Mitigation measures
- e) Compliance with the Habitats Directive – Appropriate Assessment.

2.2 Environmental Report and Baseline Data Collection

2.2.1 In order to assess the likely significant impacts of the Plan, baseline data on the current state of the environment was collected and evaluated. This has been done with reference to existing databases held by the Council and other organisations such as the EPA, National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), South West River Basin District (SWRBD), Geological Survey of Ireland (GSI) etc. GIS mapping has been used where possible in the Environmental Report to illustrate the data. In accordance with legislation and guidance, the existing environment was 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. Collection and analysis of this information has allowed the identification of key resources and sensitivities within the Plan area and allowed for the identification of potential threats to the environment, thus allowing for the inclusion of mitigation measures to ensure that the Plan does not exacerbate existing problems.

2.2.2 As the data was compiled and plan policies evolved, the likely significant effects of implementing the plan were identified, described and evaluated. This process formed a core element of the Environmental Report. The potential effects of the plan were then considered using a system of Environmental Protection Objectives, Targets and Indicators which were formulated having regard to the issues emerging from the baseline assessment, consultations with the environmental authorities and internal consultation with other departments within the Council. The assessment of the baseline environment also enabled those preparing the plan to consider how the environment might evolve in the absence of the proposed plan.

2.2.3 Following the assessment, the Environmental Report made a number of recommendations for changes to the Draft Plan. The recommendations are outlined in Table 2-1 below and are set out in detail in Chapter 6 of the Environmental Report.

2.2.4 It was decided to publish the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013 for public consultation, without making any of the changes recommended by the environmental report, and to address the issues arising from the environmental report at the amendment stage of the Plan, via the drafting of material amendments as necessary. This approach allowed time for the completion of some additional assessments in relation to sensitive water catchments and for the consideration of any issues arising from the consultation with the statutory bodies and the public.

2.2.5 224 submissions were received from the public consultation of the Draft Plan and having considered these submissions, and the recommendations of the environmental report, further amendments to the Draft Plan and

the preparation of an Addendum to the Environmental Report were recommended by the Chief Executive in his report to Members in June 2014. An addendum to the Environmental Report was prepared and published with the Proposed Amendments to the Plan in August 2014. The Addendum updated and revised sections of the Environmental Report in response to issues raised in the submissions and also included a screening report of the proposed amendments.

- 2.2.6 A total of 56 submissions were received on the Material Amendments. Details of all the submissions received were detailed in the Chief Executive's Report to Members in October 2014. In response to submissions from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the South West Regional Authority, further Modifications to the Proposed Amendments were recommended in the Chief Executive's Report. The full text of the proposed modifications and the justification for same is set out in Volume I of the Section 12(8) Chief Executives Report. An SEA Screening Report on the proposed further modifications was prepared which found the modifications would have a neutral or positive impact. A copy of this screening report is included in Appendix A of this Statement.
- 2.2.7 The changes recommended in the Environmental Report and the corresponding actions taken in terms of changes made to the Draft Plan are set out in Table 2-1.

Table 2-1 Recommendations of Environmental Report re changes to the Draft Plan and Action Taken

Recommendation		Action Taken
Biodiversity / Environmental Protection		
1	Further research is required in support of the core strategy, to demonstrate that the various receiving waters have the capacity to accommodate the proposed scale of development while restoring water to good status, protecting biodiversity and the conservation interests of Natura 2000 sites.	Additional research was carried out in relation to Great Island Channel. Research is awaited in relation to the Blackwater Catchment and the population target for this catchment is on hold pending further studies. The Draft Plan was altered as per the approach set out in Changes' No. 2.3 (as further modified) , 2.4, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5 and 15.7. The changes retain the principle of growth within the sensitive catchments but indicate that any development which would have an adverse impact will be put on hold. Water services objectives have been strengthened to ensure that development can only take place where appropriate WWT is available which meets the requirements of environmental legislation, the Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive etc.
2	The principles of the plan should be amended to give a more explicit focus to the need to mainstream biodiversity / environmental protection/ heritage issues into our decision making	This was addressed in Change No. 2.2. which affects the section of the plan dealing with 'National and Regional Policy' and ' Key Challenges' and acknowledges that dealing with environmental issues and protecting biodiversity is a requirement of National Policy and one of the main challenges facing the county. This change does not alter existing objectives.
3	Some objectives dealing with the development of sensitive resources (environmental / biodiversity / heritage) need to be qualified by reference to protecting these resources (particularly in the chapters dealing with economic and tourism development and for areas like Cork Harbour).	Changes Nos. 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.7 2.8. 2.9, 4.14 6.5, 6.7, 6.8, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 9.4, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 9.11 and 10.12 address this issue satisfactorily. Changes 6.7 and 6.8 in particular acknowledge the sensitivity of Cork Harbour while changes 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, acknowledge sensitivities in relation to tourism orientated development while 9.7,9.8 and 9.9 and 9.11 address conflicts between Natura Sites and energy development.
4	Objective HE1-1 re implementation of the Biodiversity Action Plan should be amended to omit reference to the availability of funding and other resources.	This was achieved by Change No. 12.1
5	Need a boarder objective in Heritage chapter reflecting the value placed on biodiversity and the natural environment as resources for the county.	No changes were made to Chapter 12 on foot of this Recommendation. However other changes including 6.7, 6.8, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 9.3, 9.4, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8 9.9 and 9.11 have made important changes to protect the environment and heritage.
6	Need a reference in Chapter 14 advising of the need to consult with the specific objectives of other chapters of the plan dealing with heritage, green infrastructure so that plan chapters are better linked.	No changes were made to Chapter 14 on foot of this Recommendation. Changes outlined above in relation to Recommendation 5 have helped in this regard. Change No. 5.4 links development of open space to other objectives of the plan in relation to Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure.
7	Chapter 11 needs to be amended to have regard to the outcome of the research recommended at recommendation 1 above and to acknowledge the complexity of the issues influencing water services provision, compliance issues and cumulative impacts.	See response to Recommendation 1 above and Change No. 2.3, 2.4, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5, 15.7

Table 2-1 Recommendations of Environmental Report re changes to the Draft Plan and Action Taken continued

Recommendation		Action Taken
Biodiversity / Environmental Protection continued		
8	As there are high risks associated with the delivery of all the necessary water services infrastructure, plan should deal with how this will be managed, in the event that key elements are not delivered as envisaged by this plan.	Adopted Changes 2.4 and 11.6 address this issue and indicate that the Council will be working closely with the relevant stakeholders to address infrastructural issues. Changes 15.1 and 15.3 deal with implementation, changes 15.6 and 15.7 deal with priorities and change 15.9 deals with Monitoring. These changes have been integrated into the adopted Plan.
9	Plan should recognise the need for an environmental assessment of the carrying capacity of Cork harbour/ need for separate plan for the harbour area.	This issue was addressed by change 4.14 which indicates that the Council will support the development of an ICZM approach in Cork Harbour.
10	Development will inevitably result in the loss of small areas of habitat, for example hedgerow remove to accommodate rural housing. Plan should include a specific objective requiring habitats lost in the development process to be replaced on site e.g. replacement hedgerows to compensate for those removed.	It was decided that the Draft Plan already dealt adequately with this issue in Chapter 13: Heritage - see Objective HE 2-3.
Core Strategy / Priorities		
11	Priorities of the plan need to be clarified as regards the priority locations for growth and the necessary infrastructural investment required to deliver that, relative to the water services infrastructural priorities dictated by environmental compliance issues. Priorities should seek to optimise development opportunities in the most sustainable locations, particularly those with good public transport services and make best uses of resources available. Public transport improvements should be a short term priority and be proactively pursued.	Priorities have been addressed via Change No. 2.3, 11.7, 15.5, 15.6 and 15.7.
12	Monitoring is needed to allow implementation of the strategy to be checked so corrective action can be taken as required. Chapter 15 needs to be strengthened to include a list of the key issues than need to be monitored in order to ensure the strategy of the plan is delivered and allow environmental issues to be monitored. Monitoring should track the amount of development taking place in each settlement / amount of rural one offs being granted so trends in meeting targets / constraints imposed by the lack of infrastructure can be monitored. Monitoring is essential and necessary in terms of our environmental obligations and references to it being done "as resources allow" should be omitted.	Monitoring issues were dealt with in Change No. 15.9 which includes a list of possible key indicators and recognises the value of regular monitoring. No new objectives were included re monitoring.
13	As there are high risks associated with the delivery of all the necessary water services infrastructure, plan should deal with how this will be managed, in the event that key elements are not delivered as envisaged by this plan.	See item 8 above.
14	The County Development Plan will guide the next review of LAPS and may also inform the review of the Regional Planning Guidelines. The Plan should therefore signal the need to re-evaluate the principle of balanced development across such an extensive settlement network. A more concentrated development approach may deliver greater social, economic and environmental benefits for the county and the gateway and should be considered. As the County Plan must be consistent with the Regional Planning Guidelines, change will first need to be promoted at the regional level.	Adopted change 15.11 deals with local areas plans and makes reference to this issue.

Table 2-1 Recommendations of Environmental Report re changes to the Draft Plan and Action Taken continued

Recommendation		Action Taken
Core Strategy / Priorities continued		
15	In support of the strategy which seeks to direct 89% of the growth to the towns, the Plan should include an objective re the development of a proactive management approach for the towns and a marketing campaign promoting the advantages of living and working in the towns.	This was not directly addressed in the changes other than in relation to prioritising infrastructural provision to enable growth to take place -. Changes 15.5 and 15.7. The objectives and policies in Chapter7: Town Centre Retail of also promote towns.
Other Recommendations		
16	In order to conserve soil resources a new objective should be included requiring the sustainable re use (on or off site) of greenfield soils removed as part of the development process.	It was decided that the objectives and policies in Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure and Environment, specifically 'Section 13.9 Soil' and Objective 9-1 'Protection of Soils' deals with this issue adequately. No further changes were made.
17	Objective TO 7-1 should include an additional policy objective requiring that any new walking/ cycling and greenway routes be selected and designed so as to minimise impacts on sensitive habitats and species.	This was addressed by adopted Change No. 8.3
18	Objective TO 9-1 needs to be reconsidered. Part b should stress that tourism related developments will not normally be considered in environmentally sensitive locations unless it can be demonstrated that that there will be no adverse environmental impacts both in the short and the long term from the proposed development. This section also needs to state that development proposals will not be considered in Natura 2000 sites.	This was addressed by adopted Change No. 8.4
19	Figure 9.2 and the relevant policies needs to be amended so that all Natura 2000 sites are within the area where - wind energy is 'normally discouraged'.	This was addressed by adopted Change No. 9.4, 9.5, 9.7, 9.8
20	Objective ED 3-6 should be amended so as to include Natura 2000 as areas where large scale wind energy developments will normally' be discouraged'.	This was addressed by adopted Change No. 9.4, 9.5
21	Assessment of the transport chapter highlighted potential conflicts between Objective Tm 2-2, Cycling Objectives and the provision of Countywide Cycle networks and EPO 3, Biodiversity. These networks, particularly the route planned for Cork Harbour, have the potential to result in significant impacts on EU Designated sites located in the Harbour. Consideration should be given to amending this objective to say that the selection of new routes will in the first instance seek to avoid EU designated sites. If such sites cannot be avoided, they will be designed so as to minimise impacts on sensitive habitats and species.	This was addressed by adopted Change No. 6.8, 8.1, 8.3 and 10.3
22	Consideration should be given to including an additional section on Riparian Corridors. WS 5-2 does acknowledge the need for River Channel Protection but it limits this protection to developments on zoned land. This section should be amended to include a description of riparian corridors, with stronger policies put in place to ensure their protection from all development, not just development on zoned lands.	See Change No. 11.10

2.3 **Statutory Consultation**

- 2.3.1 In terms of the SEA and the AA, there have been three periods of consultation over the course of the preparation of the Cork County Development Plan. The first public consultation for the pre-draft plan was held in January 2013 and included the statutory scoping phase when the three statutory consultees for SEA in Ireland, EPA, DCENR and DEHLG, were contacted with the Section 11 Consultation Document.
- 2.3.2 The second period of consultation included a public display of the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013 alongside the SEA Environmental Report and associated Appropriate Assessment. This took place between December 2013 and February 2014. A total of 224 submissions were received on this suite of documents, including further submissions from the EPA and DEHLG (see Section 3 for further details on the content of these submissions).
- 2.3.3 A further period of public Consultation on the proposed amendments to the draft plan took place from 21st August 2014 to the 24th October 2014. Public consultation on proposed change 10.17 in relation to 'Cork and Other Ports' took place from 26th September to 24th October. An Addendum to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report was also available for public consultation during this time. A further 56 submissions were received in response to these consultations.
- 2.3.4 At all stages of consultation, the content of the submissions received have been considered by the Plan, SEA and AA teams and the Members, and amendments have been made to the Draft Plan in response to these, where considered appropriate. Further detail on the submissions is provided in Section 3.

2.4 **Alternatives Considered**

- 2.4.1 The SEA Environmental Report has documented the reasonable alternatives considered as part of the Plan-making process having regard to the fact that the Plan must work within an existing context of National and Regional Strategic Plans and an Irish and European legislative framework that has sustainable development at its core.
- 2.4.2 The following alternatives / scenarios for realising the objectives of the Cork County Development Plan were developed to determine an appropriate development strategy for the County;
- Scenario 1 Public Transport Led Growth
 - Scenario 2 Employment Led Growth
 - Scenario 3 Balanced Growth
- 2.4.3 These three alternatives specifically focus on alternate means of achieving the aims of the new Plan. Strengths and weaknesses of the various alternatives were evaluated in the SEA taking into account both planning and environmental impacts.
- 2.4.4 The consideration of alternatives was part of the information presented to Elected Members and at public consultation to help make an informed choice with regards to the evolution of the Plan. Further details on the preferred alternative and reasons for its selection in light of the other alternatives are provided in Chapter 4 of this document.

2.5 **Proposed Mitigation**

- 2.5.1 Avoidance and Mitigation of impacts was addressed where possible at all stages of the formulation of the plan itself as part of the SEA process and the draft plan was drafted to minimise adverse impacts where possible. As part of the preparation of the Environmental Report and assessment of the potential impacts of the Plan against the Environmental Protection Objectives, recommendations for changes to the plan were made to address remaining issues and in order to avoid, reduce and mitigate potential impacts – see Table 2.1 above which sets

out the recommendations of the Environmental Report and the Actions taken in response to these recommendations.

2.6 **Compliance with EU Habitats Directive – Appropriate Assessment**

2.6.1 A further aspect of the assessment of the Plan was the undertaking of an Appropriate Assessment under the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). This parallel process ensured that environmental considerations, specifically focused on Natura 2000 sites, were integrated into the Plan as it was developed.

2.6.2 Under the EU Habitats Directive, any plan or project not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a Natura 2000 site, e.g. Special Area of Conservation (SAC) or Special Protection Area (SPA), but likely to have a significant effect thereon, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall be subjected to an appropriate assessment of its implications for the site in view of the site's conservation objectives. There are a number of Natura 2000 sites within and adjacent to the administrative boundary of County Cork, which could be impacted by the new Development Plan. Therefore, the AA process was applied to the Draft Plan, Proposed Amendments and the Modifications to the Amendments to determine if it would have significant effects on any of these European designated sites.

2.6.3 The Natura Impact Report prepared on the Draft Development Plan conclude that there was still uncertainty in relation to the capacity of sensitive water catchments such as the Blackwater River and Clonakilty Bay to facilitate the levels of growth envisaged by the Draft Plan and recommended further assessment be undertaken and that the plan be amended as necessary based on the outcome of these further assessments. Recommendations for change were also made for several other aspects of the Draft plan as detailed in Table 2.2. The issues were dealt with in the amendments to the plan as detailed in the 'Changes Incorporated' column.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 2: Core Strategy			
Objective CS 3-1 Network of Settlements	<p>The Core Strategy for the draft plan proposes an increase in the population of the settlements in the catchments of the Blackwater River, Cork Harbour and Clonakilty Bay, where there are deficiencies in waste water infrastructure.</p> <p>Further detailed assessments for the Blackwater River and Clonakilty bay are needed to examine the capacity of these catchments to absorb the population increases.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • upgrades to the waste water infrastructure serving all settlements within their receiving catchments must be prioritised and must be operational prior to the commencement of discharges. • Need to prepare a surface water and waste water management plan for the Blackwater River. All development in the catchment will be required to develop surface water management strategies which comply with this plan. • Core Strategy to be amended to acknowledge constraints, priorities for infrastructure provision. It should be clear that development required to achieve the targets set by the plan <u>cannot proceed</u> until such infrastructure is provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed Change No. 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 4.14, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5 and 15.7. respond to this recommendation.
CS 4-1 – Metropolitan Cork SPA	Metropolitan Cork surrounds Cork Harbour, an area which hosts two Natura 2000 sites. A very significant proportion of the growth which is targeted for the county will be located within this area. It is	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protection of the environmental and heritage resources of this area be stated to be a basic principle at the top of the objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change was proposed to CS4-1.
Objective CS 4-1 d)	considered that there is a lack of sufficient acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities associated with the harbour in this objective, which could give rise to pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within or around the harbour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that CS 4-1 d) be amended as follows: In the Cork Harbour area and establish a sustainable balance between competing land-uses to Metropolitan Cork, while protecting the environmental resources of the Harbour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed change 2.5 provides for this recommendation.
CS 4-2 and CS 4-3 Greater Cork Ring SPA and North Cork SPA	Many of the settlements in these SPAS are located along the Blackwater River. It is considered that there is a lack of sufficient acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities associated with the area included in this objective which could give rise to pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within this sensitive catchment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that the protection of the Blackwater River SAC be stated to be a basic principle guiding the top of objectives 4-2 and 4-3. • It was recommended that CS 4-2a be amended to highlight particular sensitivities relating to Mallow. • It is recommended that CS 4-2 d) be amended as follows: Facilitate the sustainable development of the villages etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change proposed to CS4-2 and CS4-3 to provide for this recommendation. • Proposed Change 2.7 provides for this recommendation. • No change proposed to CS 4-2 however it is stated in section 1.2.8 of the plan that any reference to development in the plan should be considered to refer to sustainable development.
Objective CS 4-2 a) Role of Mallow			
Objective CS 4-2 d) Development of villages			

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 2: Core Strategy continued			
CS 4-4 – The West SPA	The West Cork SPA hosts a large number of Natura 2000 sites. A significant proportion of the growth is targeted within this area. There is a lack of sufficient acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities of the area which could give rise to pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within or near Natura 2000 sites located here.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that the protection of the environmental and heritage resources of this area be stated to be a basic principle guiding the future development of Strategic Planning Area at the top of this objective. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change proposed to CS 4-4 to provide for this recommendation.
Objective CS 4-4 a) Role of Clonakilty		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that CS 4-4a) be amended as follows: Recognise the importance of access to educational and cultural facilities, and provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure that this can be achieved while protecting the environmental quality of Clonakilty Bay. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 2.8 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 4: Rural, Coastal and Islands			
Section 4.3.10	The area identified in the plan as a Structurally Weaker Area in the plan is described as being of relatively low environmental sensitivity, despite being located within two sensitive water catchments (catchment of the Blackwater River, and catchment of the Feale River), as well as supporting the largest Special Protection Area in the County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that section 4.3.10 be amended to take account of environmental resources (Blackwater River SAC, Lower River Shannon SAC, Stacks to Mullaghareirks, Mount Eagle Bogs and West Limerick Hills SPA) associated with this area. The requirement to protect these environmental resources should inform the settlement policy for the area, where protection of very high standards of water quality is important. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 4.2 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 4.8 Coastal Areas Cork Harbour Study	There has been a significant level of development to facilitate the marine leisure sector, to defend land, and to develop other marine activities within Cork Harbour. Some of this increases human activity within or close to intertidal habitats, and reduces the area of undeveloped intertidal habitat which is available for species of birds for which the SPA has been designated. There is a concern that any further development which increases the level of access to estuarine habitats, or reduces the area of intertidal habitat available to birds within the SPA, may be unsustainable, having regard to the potential for such development to give rise to impacts on birds.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that an additional paragraph be included in the plan which identifies this issue. It is recommended that it be stated in the plan that assessment of future proposals for development which could cause increases in human activity on shoreline habitats within the Cork Harbour SPA, or which could reduce the area of intertidal habitat available to birds must take account of the overall capacity of the SPA to absorb such development, and that future development of coastal recreation facilities in the harbour should only be permitted where it is found that the development will not affect populations or distributions of birds. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 4.9 provides for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 4: Rural, Coastal and Islands continued			
Chapter 4.9 Islands	Many of the islands are located within Natura 2000 sites and have other biodiversity/heritage values. This section of the plan promotes and encourages economic development on the islands, but does not highlight the potential constraints on same, or the need for any such development to have regard to the environmental sensitivities. This could give rise to pressure for development of initiatives which might not be compatible with nature conservation designations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that this section include a paragraph which describes the environmental/ biodiversity/ heritage resources of the islands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 4.11 provides for this recommendation.
Objective RCI 9-2		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that RCI 9-2 be amended as follows: Support the economic development appropriate to different islands, in a manner that is compatible with environmental and landscape sensitivities as well as nature conservation designations pertaining to the islands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 4.11 provides for this recommendation.
Objective RCI 9-3 a)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that RCI 9-3 a) be amended as follows: Support sustainable development proposals that are compatible with environmental and landscape sensitivities as well as nature conservation designations pertaining to the islands; and that contribute to the long term economic and social development of the islands. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 4.11 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 6: Economy and Employment			
Section 6.4.1 Objective EE 4-1	Most of the Strategic Employment Centre's identified in the plan are located around Cork Harbour, and development within these areas has the potential to give rise to negative impacts on the Cork Harbour SPA and/or on the Great Island Channel SAC.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that EE 4-1 be amended as follows: Promote the development of Strategic and Whitegate where such development is compatible with relevant environment, nature and landscape protection policies as they apply around Cork Harbour. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 6.2 provides for this recommendation.
Objective EE 4-4	This objective promotes the development of industry in 'appropriate' locations within the county. However, the criteria which are included in the objective, are relatively limited and make no reference to the environment. Objective as worded could encourage pressure for development in environmentally sensitive locations including in Natura 2000 sites,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that it be stated in this objective that one of the criteria to be used to identify suitable locations for industrial development in the county would be to locate it in areas of low environmental sensitivity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 6.5 provides for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 6: Economy and Employment continued			
Section 6.6 Obj. EE 6-1 Obj. EE 6-2	This section focuses on the economic role of Cork Harbour. It is considered that there is insufficient acknowledgement of the biodiversity value/nature conservation status of the Harbour and that the section as worded does not sufficiently flag the environmental sensitivities which may constrain intensification of development..	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that an additional paragraph be included in section 6-6 EE 6-1 to emphasise that the protection of the environmental/ heritage resources of Cork Harbour will be a guiding principle in the future development of the economic role of the Harbour, and that that special role of Cork Harbour should include recognition of its environmental/ heritage/ ecological values, as well as its economic/employment values. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to EE 6-1, however changes were proposed section 6.6.9 to ensure that emphasis was given to recognising the environmental resources of the harbour (change 6.8).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that section 6.6.5 be amended as follows: Cork County Council is committed to the relocation of port facilities to Ringaskiddy and Marino Point, where this can be achieved in a manner that is compatible with environmental, landscape and nature conservation designations that pertain to the harbour area, and is in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. It is recommended that it be stated at the top (rather than at the end) of this objective EE 6-2, that it is a key principle guiding future development of Cork Harbour, that the environmental and heritage resources of the harbour would be protected. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 6.7 provides for this recommendation.
Obj. EE 9-1	This objective relates to the promotion of business development in rural areas. It is considered that the objective as currently worded does not provide any safeguards in terms of environmental protection, and could promote pressure for development within areas of high environmental sensitivity, which could give rise to negative impacts on the environment generally, and on Natura 2000 sites in particular.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that an additional bullet point be included with EE 9-1 as follows: The development of appropriate new businesses in rural areas will normally be encouraged in areas of low environmental sensitivity especially where: The proposal will not adversely affect the environment or areas designated for nature conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 6.9 provides for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 8: Tourism			
Section 8.2	It is considered that section 8.2.2 as currently worded could be taken to suggest that all heritage assets have the potential to be developed as tourism resources, and that this could give rise to pressure for development of tourism initiatives within sensitive locations increasing potential for negative impacts on heritage resources, including potential for negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that paragraph 8.2.2 be amended as follows: ‘Some of these areas may have the potential for future tourism ... a negative impact on the overall character of such areas. Development of ‘heritage’ related tourism activity should be directed only to areas that have been identified to have capacity to absorb increased visitor activity, without causing damage or deterioration to the heritage features of the site or area, or to the surrounding landscape. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 8.1 provides for this recommendation.
Section 8.4	This section of the plan promotes the development of marine infrastructure, to facilitate the continued development of the marine leisure tourism industry with particular reference to Cork Harbour. There is a concern that any further development which increases the level of access may be unsustainable, While there are particular concerns relating to Cork Harbour, there are other sites within the county where there is pressure for the development of marine infrastructure within sites designated for nature conservation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that an additional paragraph be included into this section, which establishes protection of the environment generally, and sites designated for nature conservation particularly as a guiding principle which will inform how the marine leisure industry will be developed in the County. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change was made to section 8.4, however Objective TO 4-1 was amended to ensure that account was taken of this recommendation (Proposed change 8.2).
Section 8.7 and TO 7-1	This section of the plan relates to the promotion of Greenways One of these routes is located along the periphery of Cork Harbour. A significant portion of the land around the Cork Harbour SPA has been developed for cycling/walking routes, and access to coastal habitats has been increased for purposes relating to other types of human use. There is a concern that any further may be unsustainable.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that the plan would include text to acknowledge this issue and that it would contain a commitment that no further proposals for development of walking routes or cycleways around Cork Harbour, or for other developments which would increase human activity within the Cork Harbour SPA will be progressed until such time as the overall capacity of the SPA to absorb such development has been assessed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change proposed however proposed change 8.3 Objective TO 7-1 states that the development of walking and cycling routes will be in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other environmental policies.
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that TO 7-1 be amended as follows: Promote the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the County in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other environmental policies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 8.3 provides for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 8: Tourism continued			
Objective TO 9-1b)	This section of the plan relates to the development of tourism facilities. However, the wording of TO 9-1 b) could be taken to imply that the development of tourism facilities is encouraged within environmentally sensitive areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that TO 9-1 b) be amended to avoid directing tourism development into environmentally sensitive areas, as follows 'Consider tourism-related developments outside settlements, in environmentally sensitive locations at an appropriate scale and balance having regard to the pertaining environmental conditions and sensitivities, scenic amenity and availability of services. ' 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 8.4 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 9: Energy and Digital Economy			
Section 9.3.14	This section of the plan sets out the general principles which will apply for the development of large scale commercial wind energy projects. Amendments are suggested to clarify the requirements where such applications are made within sensitive catchments, particularly Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments within this zone.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that sentence 5 paragraph 9.3.14 be amended as follows to highlight the particular sensitivities of freshwater pearl mussel catchments, and to establish the standards which will be required for development in these areas. 'Developers proposing wind energy projects within Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Catchments, or in other sensitive catchments, must be able to demonstrate that they have been designed in a manner which prevents any risk of peat slippage or erosion; and which can ensure the ongoing protection of water quality and levels to standards required to prevent impacts on relevant receptor habitats or species. <p>Higher design standards in terms of environmental protection measures are likely to be required to be included in projects at design stage in sensitive catchments, than might be required in other catchments.'</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 9.4 provides for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 9: Energy and Digital Economy continued			
Figure 9-2 ED 3-5 and section 9.3.14	<p>A number of SACs are shown on Figure 9-2 within areas where large scale wind energy developments are 'Open to Consideration', and part of one has been shown within the Acceptable in Principle Zone. The associated text (9.3.14) states that Natura 2000 sites and NHA's within 'Acceptable In Principle Areas' are not generally considered suitable for wind farm developments, and policy ED 3-5 states that large scale wind energy developments in these areas are open to consideration where they can avoid adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and Natural Heritage Areas.</p> <p>There is a lack of consistency between Figure 9-2 and policy ED 3-5. and the figure as shown could encourage prospective developers to develop proposals for wind energy development within a number of Natura 2000 sites. It is considered that this position is not compatible with the conservation objectives for these sites, and it is recommended, in the interest of clarity, to show all Natura 2000 sites within the 'Normally Discouraged' wind energy category on figure 9-2.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that Figure 9-2 be amended to show all Natura 2000 sites within the 'Normally Discouraged' wind energy category to ensure that the plan maps are compatible with plan policy, and to ensure that the plan does not encourage individuals to seek to develop a large scale wind energy project within any Natura 2000 site. It is recommended that paragraph 9.3.14 be amended to reflect the recommended changes in Figure 9-2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 9.4 provides for this recommendation. Proposed change 9.7 provides for this recommendation.
	<p>Some SPAs are located within close proximity to areas where large scale wind energy developments are 'Open to Consideration'. A number of species for which the coastal/wetland SPAs are designated display evidence of avoidance of habitat around turbines at distances of up to 800m. Having regard to such evidence, it is recommended in chapter 4 of this report that the boundary of the 'Open to Consideration' area be amended to ensure that all parts of these SPAs are >800m from this zone.</p> <p>Two SPAs have been designated for Hen Harrier. There is evidence that this species avoids suitable breeding/foraging habitat within 500m of turbines. Both of the Hen Harrier SPAs are located within 300m of areas where large scale wind energy developments are open to</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that the boundary of the 'Open to Consideration' wind energy zone be amended ensure that all parts of coastal and inland wetland SPAs within the county are a minimum of 800m from 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration' zones, and that all parts of the upland SPAs are a minimum of 500m from these zones (Amendments required around Ballymcoda Bay SPA, Cork Harbour SPA, Clonakilty Bay SPA, the Gearagh SPA (800m) and to the Stack's to Mullaghareirks, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Bog SPA and Mullaghanish to Mushermore SPA (500m)). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed changes 9.7 and 9.8 provide for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 9: Energy and Digital Economy continued			
	consideration. It is considered that the map as shown has the potential to promote development in areas where disturbance to birds could be caused within SPAs.		
Section 9.3.16	This section of the plan encourages proposals for the generation and consumption of electricity in a single premises in all areas of the County, and contains a particular reference to Strategic Employment Centres around Cork Harbour. A number of these SECs are located adjacent to the Cork Harbour SPA, and the development of large scale turbines, even those for the generation and supply of electricity on site, could have the potential to have negative impacts on species of birds for which the SPA is designated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that the fact that most of the SECs are located within close proximity to the Cork Harbour SPA be recorded in this section, and that it be stated in the plan that account will be taken of the potential for any such developments within these areas to affect the SPA as part of the planning assessment. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No change to section 9.3.16, however change proposed to ED 3-7 (proposed change 9.6) covers this issue.
Chapter 10: Transport and Mobility			
Objective TM 3-1	This section of the plan relates to the provision/upgrading of nationally important roads infrastructure for the County, and TM 3-1 sets out Councils intentions to seek the support of the NRA to implement of a number of roads projects seen to be key to ensuring the success of the Core Strategy. Some of these routes run within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites, or will require new river crossings within sensitive catchments (M20), and these could have the potential to give rise to negative impacts on a number of Natura 2000 sites (see Appendix A). None of them have been identified to be likely to give rise to direct loss of habitat within Natura 2000 sites. Adherence to high environmental standards will be required during the planning, design and construction phases of these projects, however, at this point, it is considered that these proposals can be progressed without having or contributing to negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site, subject to compliance with appropriate environmental codes of practise (CIRIA Guidelines) and assuming that no significant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that TM 3-1 include an additional bullet point as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure all upgrades to listed routes are planned, designed and constructed to avoid and prevent significant negative impacts on sites designated for nature conservation, and other environmental or heritage resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No changes proposed to TM3-1.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 10: Transport and Mobility continued			
	proposals for new route development through Natura 2000 sites is proposed. Very high standards of environmental mitigation will be required to be incorporated into road design in the catchment of the Blackwater River, than may be required for similar developments in less sensitive catchments. It is considered that this needs to be emphasised in the plan.		
Objective TM 3-2	<p>This section of the plan relates to the provision/upgrading of regionally important roads infrastructure for the County, and TM 3-2 sets out Councils intentions in terms of the implementation of a number of regional roads projects. Some of these routes run within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites, or will require new channel crossings within sensitive catchments, and these could have the potential to give rise to negative impacts on a number of sites (see Appendix A). It is considered that most of these can be progressed without having or contributing to negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site, subject to sensitive planning, design, construction and management. However, in the case of the R624 Cobh road, no route / channel crossing has been identified to date which avoids the potential to give rise to direct loss of annexed habitats within the Great Island Channel SAC. For that reason, it is recommended that this proposal be omitted from the plan until such time as the scheme has been developed in further detail and has been subjected to Habitats Directive Assessment.</p> <p>Adherence to high environmental standards will be required for the planning, design and construction phases of these projects, and this needs to be emphasised within the text of the plan. Higher standards of environmental mitigation will be required to be incorporated into road design in the catchment of the Blackwater and the Bandon Rivers,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that the upgrade of the R624 be removed from this list until such time as a viable option for the route has been designated, has been identified and subject to Appropriate Assessment if required. • It is recommended that TM 3-1 include an additional bullet point as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure all upgrades to listed routes are planned, designed and constructed to avoid and prevent significant negative impacts on sites designated for nature conservation, other environmental or heritage resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed changes 10.10 and 10.11 provide for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 10: Transport and Mobility continued			
	than may be required for similar developments in less sensitive catchments, and it is recommended that this be reflected in the plan.		
Port of Cork Section Objective TM 5-2	This section of the plan relates to the role of Cork Harbour as a nationally important Port, and sets out Councils position in terms of supporting Port of Cork proposals for the relocation of Port facilities to Marino Point and Ringaskiddy. It is considered that there is a lack of sufficient acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities associated with Cork Harbour included in this objective which could give rise pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within the harbour area.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that an additional paragraph be included in this section, highlighting the environmental/heritage resources of the Port, and emphasising that the protection of these resources is a key principle which will guide future development of these resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proposed changes to TM 5-2 , but a cross link to objective EE 6-2 Cork Harbour was included and a new paragraph was proposed to be included in the final plan (para 10.5.18) (change 10.12).
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that bullet point TM 5-2 c) be amended as follows: Support Ringaskiddy as the preferred location for the relocation of the majority of port related activities. Also recognising the key role that Marino Point can play in providing an alternative relocation option for some of the port related uses that could best be served by rail transport. The Council is committed to engage with the Port of Cork and other relevant stakeholders in achieving this objective in a manner that is compatible with environmental, landscape and nature conservation designations that pertain to the harbour area. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No proposed changes to TM 5-2. However a link to objective EE 6-2 was included in the final plan.
Chapter 11: Water Services and Waste			
Water Services Investment Programme	<p>This section of the plan relates closely to the Core Strategy and sets out Councils policy and priorities relating to the provision of water and waste water services.</p> <p>The objective as currently worded does not prioritise the delivery of wastewater treatment facilities for a number of settlements within the catchments of the Blackwater River, Cork Harbour and Clonakilty Bay, including some that are currently overloaded, are failing to meet license conditions, or have insufficient capacity to meet future needs. It is considered that that a failure to prioritise the provision of adequate waste water services</p>	<p>It is recommended that WS 2-1 a) be amended to ensure that WWTPs causing or contributing to negative impacts on nature conservation sites be included in the priority list for the County. Suggested text for amendment as follows:</p> <p>Prioritise the provision of water services infrastructure in</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all settlements where services are not meeting current needs, are failing to meet existing license conditions, and where these deficiencies are <ul style="list-style-type: none"> interfering with Councils ability to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive; or 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed changes 11.3, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5 and 15.7 deal with this issue.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 11: Water Services and Waste continued			
	within settlements in these catchments would be likely to interfere with the achievement of the conservation objectives that apply to the Natura 2000 sites occurring in them. This position is not compatible with obligations of the Water Framework Directive or the Habitats Directive, and it is recommended that the plan be amended to give priority to the resolution of these issues.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o having negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites; and • the Gateway, Hub and Main Towns to complement the overall strategy for economic and population growth while ensuring appropriate protection of the environment 	
Table 11.1	<p>This table identifies the current status of water and waste water services in the main settlements of the County, and identifies at a broad level what the requirements are to bring infrastructure up to a standard to allow planned development to progress. It is considered that the wording for the red and orange coded settlements does not provide sufficient clarity to ensure the full protection of water resources in sensitive catchments, and amendments to the wording are recommended to provide additional clarity in relation to these issues. The settlements of Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty do not have the capacity to meet current or future needs, and discharges from these settlements are to waterbodies within water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. In addition the towns of Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty are currently failing to meet license conditions for discharges. The orange coding on these sites could suggest that some development can proceed in these towns, however having regard to the fact that the current treatment regime in each of these towns is likely to be causing or contributing to negative impacts within water sensitive Natura catchments, it is recommended that the waste water treatment coding for these towns be changed to red. It is further recommended that the coding of Dunmanway be changed to red, as plant is currently breaching license conditions, and discharge point is to Bandon River within water sensitive SAC.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is recommended that Table 11.1 be amended as follows: Change wording of orange coding to reflect the following: Some new development may proceed where this can take place without overloading existing waste water treatment systems, or cause a breach in discharge license conditions; and where the development will not require increasing levels of abstraction from surface waters within sensitive catchments which would give rise to negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites, or prevent compliance with the Water Framework Directive. <p><i>Change wording of red coding to reflect the following:</i> Strategic Infrastructure Deficit. Planned development will require further infrastructure investment to allow projected development to proceed. In relation to wastewater, this must be provided prior to the commencement of discharges from new development, and to operating specifications which can ensure that license discharge limits set by the EPA to prevent impacts on water quality for settlements within the sensitive catchments including the catchments of Natura 2000 sites. These specifications are likely to be higher in sensitive catchments. New surface water abstractions or increased abstraction levels from existing sources within sensitive catchments should only progress following Environmental Impact and Habitats Directive</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposed change 11.8 deals with this issue.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 11: Water Services and Waste continued			
		<p>Assessment, and where it can be shown that these would not affect water levels in water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. Direct abstraction of surface waters from EU designated rivers or lakes is unlikely to be compatible with the conservation objectives of such sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that coding of Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty be changed to red for waste water, as these towns do not have the capacity to meet current or future needs, and discharges from these settlements are to waterbodies within water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty are currently failing to meet license conditions for discharges. It is recommended that the coding of Dunmanway be changed red, as plant is currently breaching license conditions, and discharge point is to Bandon River within water sensitive SAC. 	
Section 11.5		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that a new objective/text be inserted to prepare a surface water management plan for the catchment of the Blackwater, to ensure that surface water run-off is managed in order to prevent impacts on this SAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 11.6 provides for this recommendation.
Objective WS 5-2 Section 11.5 and Objective WS 5-3	<p>This objective relates to the protection of river banks and channels. However, the objective refers only to development within zoned land, and it is considered that it does not provide sufficient protection to river banks or riparian areas outside zoned areas. It is considered that the policy as worded fails to provide adequate protection to watercourses and has the potential to give rise to negative impacts on water quality. It is recommended that the policy be amended to apply restrictions to development adjacent to watercourses to all land, not just land that is zoned for development. From an AA perspective this should apply to water sensitive Natura</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that objective WS 5-2 be amended to apply restriction in relation to development adjacent to watercourses to all land outside urban areas, not just zoned land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 11.10 provides for this recommendation.

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued

	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 11: Water Services and Waste continued			
	catchments, but it may be appropriate to apply to all catchments from SEA perspective.		
Objective WS 6-2	Section 11.6 sets out Councils flood risk policy, and objective 6-2 sets out policy in relation to flood risk areas. Development within flood risk areas not only has the potential to impact on buildings or other infrastructure, or to affect flood storage capacity in river systems, but it also has the potential to give rise to negative impacts on downstream Natura 2000 sites who require the maintenance of high standards of water quality, and/or the protection of stable hydrological regimes to maintain their favourable conservation status. It is recommended that the policy be amended to deal with this issue.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that objective WS 6-2 be amended to include a further caveat to ensure that development within flood plains of Natura 2000 sites designated for species or habitats requiring the protection of high standards of water quality to ensure the protection of their favourable conservation status, shall only be permitted where they have been assessed and found not to have the potential to give rise to significant negative impacts, or adverse impacts on such sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 11.12 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure			
	It is considered that policy relating to the protection of surface waters, coastal waters or transitional waters is less clearly stated in this chapter than policy in relation to the protection of groundwater (GI 1—2 and GI 1-3). It is recommended that Council policy in relation to the protection of all water should be clearly stated in the plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is recommended that new sections / policies be inserted into this chapter relating to the protection of surface waters and transitional waters (as per the section dealing with Groundwater) with particular emphasis on protection of surface waters in sensitive catchments, including Natura 2000 catchments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed change 13.3 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 14: Landuse and Zoning			
Seveso Sites Objective ZU 5-2	This section of the plan relates to the Seveso II Directive. Objective ZU 5-2 sets out the criteria that Council will have regard to when assessing applications for development of new 'Seveso' industries. It is considered that the objective does not put sufficient emphasis on the need to have regard to negative impacts on the environment generally, or on Natura 2000 sites in particular when considering appropriate locations for such industries, which could give rise to pressure for development of inappropriate industries in areas of high environmental sensitivity, particularly if these areas fulfil the other criteria set out in the objective. It is recommended that the objective be amended to include consideration of the environment as	<p>It is recommended that an additional bullet point be included here as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse impacts on the environment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is considered that the overall objectives in the Draft plan in addition to objective ZU 5-2 provide adequate protection. <p>No change proposed.</p>

Table 2-2 Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process for the Draft Plan continued			
	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendation	Changes incorporated into the Proposed Amendments (August 2014)
Chapter 14: Landuse and Zoning continued			
	one of the key criteria in identifying appropriate locations for 'Seveso' developments.		
Chapter 15: Putting this Plan Into Practise			
Table 15.2	As per recommendations set out in this table, it is recommended that amendments be made to the critical infrastructure list to include waste water treatments plants in sensitive settlements, to exclude the R624 and to ensure that the relocation of the discharge point for the Dunmanway WWTP to a site downstream from the Bandon River SAC, in the interest of ensuring the protection of a number of Natura 2000 sites, where potential for impacts have been identified through the screening process.	<p>It is recommended that table 15.2 be amended as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remove R624 upgrade until viable route and river crossing has been designed; Include all WWTPs that are currently failing to meet license requirements, or have insufficient capacity to meet current needs and where that failure has the potential to have adverse impacts on EU designated sites, on the critical infrastructure short term priority list (add Clonakilty); Prioritise the relocation of the discharge point for Dunmanway to downstream from the SAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proposed changes 10.10, 10.11,11.6, 11.7, 15.5 and 15.7 provide for this recommendation.

Chapter 3

Submissions and Observations

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 This section deals with how submissions and observations from environmental authorities and members of the public, received throughout the process of preparing the development plan and relevant to the SEA process, were taken into account in the preparation of the final document. There have been three periods of consultation:
- a) Consultation on the Section 11 Document at the pre-draft plan stage (January 2013).
 - b) Consultation on the Draft Plan, Environmental Report, Natural Impact Report (December 2013).
 - c) Consultation on the Amendments to the Draft Plan, SEA / AA Screening Report (August – October 2014)
- 3.1.2 At all stages of consultation, the content of the submissions received have been considered by the Plan, SEA and AA teams.

3.2 Pre Draft Consultation

- 3.2.1 The first stage in the preparation of the Cork County Development Plan started in January 2013 with the publication of the Section 11 Consultation Document. As part of the preparation of the consultation document, an initial assessment of the environmental impacts of the various strategy scenarios was carried out to assess and identify the preferred scenario on which the principles set out in the plan, particularly the proposed Core Strategy in Section 3, would be based. A number of alternative growth scenarios were postulated. They were then assessed against specific Environmental Objectives in order to determine the most sustainable growth patterns for the county. The preferred alternative, “High Urban Medium Rural Growth” emerged as the scenario that balanced environmental protection and resources conservation with economic and social development and most resembles a sustainable option for the future development of the whole County.
- 3.2.2 The Consultation Document, including the findings of the first stage of the environmental assessment process went on public display on the 7th of January until the 4th of March 2013. All statutory Environmental Authorities were consulted as part of the process. While 103 submissions were received in response to this consultation, none of the submissions referred to the SEA process.

3.3 Draft Plan and Environmental Report Consultation

- 3.3.1 The Environmental Report prepared to document the assessment of the environmental effects of implementing the aims and objectives of the Draft Plan made a number of recommendations for changes to the plan as detailed in Section 2.2. of this report. The full assessment and background to the recommendations is discussed in Chapter 6 of the Environmental Report.
- 3.3.2 It was decided to publish the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013 for public consultation, without making any of the changes recommended by the environmental report, and to address the issues arising from the environmental report at the amendment stage of the Plan, via the drafting of material amendments as necessary. This approach allowed time for the completion of some additional assessments in relation to sensitive water catchments and for the consideration of any issues arising from the consultation with the statutory bodies and the public.
- 3.3.3 Following the publication of the Draft Plan, a total of 224 submissions were received from the public and statutory agencies. All the submissions received were summarised and responded to in the Chief Executive’s Report to Members in June 2014. The Chief Executive’s Report highlighted the key issues arising from the submissions received as follows:
- 1) Issues in relation to the Core Strategy of the Plan – the supply of housing land, the zoning policy framework for the Local Area Plans, the supply of critical infrastructure and the population growth targets for Sensitive Water Catchments;
 - 2) Issues in relation to the strategy for Rural and Coastal areas and the Islands particularly in relation to the categories

of applicants eligible for permission in rural areas in term of rural generated housing needs and the areas in which rural housing controls apply (rural housing area types).

- 3) Economy and employment: the need for an economic development strategy, the supply of employment land and how best to attract investment
- 4) On Shore Wind Energy: the suitability of the areas mapped on the Wind Energy Strategy Map and issues around the development of wind energy close to Natura Sites.
- 5) Transport and Mobility: car parking standards

3.3.4 Three of the 224 submissions received made reference to the Environmental Report – those from the South West Regional Authority (SWRA), the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Irish Wildlife Trust and the extracts from these submission that relate to the SEA are outlined below in Table 3.1. The submissions from the SWRA and the Irish Wildlife Trust where addressed in the Chief Executive’s Report and no further action was considered necessary in response to these submissions.

3.3.5 With respect to issues raised in the submission from the EPA, some were resolved in the Chief Executive’s Report and for others the Report recommended they be addressed by way of an Addendum to the SEA Environmental Report (ER). A total of 6 changes were made to the Environmental Report on foot of the submission from the EPA. Details of the submissions are included in Table 3.1 below, together with the response in terms changes to the Plan.

Table 3-1 Details of submissions on the Draft Plan which referenced SEA

Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to SEA	Response /Outcome
South West Regional Authority	Recommendation 16 :- It is recommended that the Local Authority considers the potential for cross-boundary consultation in order to assess any cumulative impacts and to ensure compliance with the SEA Directive. Consideration should be given to environmental and water quality issues emerging from all relevant River Basin Management Plans within, and adjoining the County. The Draft Plan should ensure that all new development is directed towards those areas which have the environmental capacity to absorb it.	<i>No change to Draft Plan</i> The Council already engages in cross boundary consultation on a number of issues such as the housing and retail strategy and on transportation proposals. It is considered that the policies in Chapter 13 and Objective GI 10-1 are sufficient to ensure compliance with the relevant River Basin Management Plans.
Environmental Protection Agency	This submission makes the following points in relation to the Environmental Report: 1. In Chapter 2, the ‘other plans and programmes’ section, should include references to the National Strategic Aquaculture Plan & National Seafood Operational Programme, the Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan (DCENR, 2014) and the Lee and South West CFRAMs. The ‘legislative context’ section should include a reference to the Water Framework Directive, Drinking Water Regulations, Building Energy Regulations, and the Floods Directive. 2. In Chapter 3 Baseline Environment, clarification is needed on how extant planning permissions are monitored in each settlement, particularly where they provide for a scale of development greater	An Addendum to the Environmental report was prepared to address issues in relation to items 1,2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 11. See Addendum for details . With regard to items 7 the SEMPRES model relies on using Census data. As Monard does not yet exist as a town, no direct census data is available for it; therefore it was not included in the model. Monard was approved as a Strategic Development Zone by the Minister in 2010 and while the initial planning Scheme was refused by ABP, the Council is working on revised proposals. The Monard SDZ Planning Scheme had its own Strategic Environmental Assessment and

Table 3-1 Details of submissions on the Draft Plan which referenced SEA continued

Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to SEA	Response /Outcome
	<p>that the target adopted for that settlement. Clarification is also needed on whether such permissions have been taken into account in the preparation of the new core strategy.</p> <p>3. In Chapter 3 Baseline Environment, consideration should be given to including additional suitably scaled maps showing biodiversity features etc.</p> <p>4. In Chapter 3 Baseline Environment the key climate change issues for the county should be identified – flooding sustainable transport etc. and existing adaption measures / SUDS features should be described. References should be made to the Lee and South West CFRAMS.</p> <p>5. In Chapter 3 Baseline Environment clarification should be provided on whether noise mapping has been carried out , the inter linkages between environmental topics should be described in further detail and consideration should be given to including relevant overlay mapping or environmental sensitivity mapping to highlight the most sensitive areas in the county.</p> <p>6. In Chapter 4 EPO’s consideration should be given to reviewing the EPO’s, targets and indicators to ensure that they are linked where relevant and to rewording Target 2 of EPO1.</p> <p>7. In Chapter 5 Alternative Scenarios, it should be clarified how SEMPRES has been used to inform the policies of the plan – have specific problems for specific areas been identified and how will the results of the SEMPRES model be used to inform the policies of the lower level plans? Monard has not been included in the SEMPRES model but it is targeted for development in all alternative scenarios. Modelling analysis of Monard should be included in Table 5.2 and additional information should be provided in relation to the potential environmental effects associated within developing Monard.</p> <p>8. In Chapter 5 Alternative Scenarios it should be clarified how the baseline information described in Chapter 3 has informed the selection and assessment of alternatives. In Section 5.7 clarification is required on the meaning of ‘negative’ i.e. are they negatives which can be adequately mitigated or are they ‘unlikely to be adequately mitigated’? Adverse effects should be avoided where possible and robust mitigation measures should be put in places where adverse effects cannot be avoided.</p> <p>9. In Chapter 6 Evaluation of the Plan, it is noted that SEA recommendations are to be incorporated</p>	<p>Appropriate Assessment and it is not a matter for the County Development Plan to review these.</p> <p>With regard to items 3 and 5 (Part of) the mapping already prepared is the best the Planning Authority is able to provide at this time. Item 9, 12 and 13 are noted.</p> <p>Monitoring is addressed in the final text of the plan.</p>

Table 3-1 Details of submissions on the Draft Plan which referenced SEA continued

Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to SEA	Response /Outcome
	<p>into the Plan at amendment stage. The need for these recommendations to be included in the SEA related screening as part of the proposed amendment process should be considered.</p> <p>10. In Chapter 6 Evaluation of the Plan, clarification should be provided on how the secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects have been assessed and documented, particularly the potential for cumulative effects in combination with other plans / programmes.</p> <p>11. In Chapter 6 Evaluation of the Plan, consideration should be given to reviewing figures in Section 6.2.1 (70,820 people / 58,003 units required with supply for 73,462 units) in context of the RPGs.</p> <p>12. In Chapter 6 Evaluation of the Plan, recommendations from the AA should be reflected in the SEA and the Plan, and the AA process should be complete before Plan is adopted.</p> <p>13. In Chapter 7 Monitoring, it is noted that final monitoring programme is to be set out in the SEA Statement. A list of the measures envisaged concerning monitoring should also be included in the Environmental Report. Consideration should be given to including a commitment to environmental monitoring in the plan and to linking the environmental / SEA related monitoring with the plan implementation review / reporting procedure.</p>	
<p>Irish Wildlife Trust Cork Branch</p>	<p>It congratulates the Council on the preparation of the SEA, Natural Impact Report and the mapped data.</p> <p>It requests that all of the recommendations contained in section 6.17 Vol 3 SEA and Table 3 of the Natura Impact report are implemented. It requests that where higher level plans have placed constraints on the Council meeting objectives on environmental quality that it be addressed and reported.</p> <p>That the assessments of the assimilative capacity of the Blackwater River, Clonakilty Bay and the Cork Harbour Sites should be undertaken in consultation with the Dept of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p>	<p>The Draft Plan has been amended to address the issues arising from the Environmental Report. See Table 3-2 below.</p> <p>These issues were address in amendments to the Plan – see Table 3-2 below.</p>

3.3.6 Following the consideration by Members of the Chief Executive’s report further meetings of Council were held July to discuss the proposed amendments to the Plan, which were then published for consultation in August 2014.

3.4 **Material Amendments to the Draft Plan**

3.4.1 In August 2014 the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan were published, comprising 142 separate amendments. A further single amendment was published in September 2014. These proposed amendments were screened for the need for full SEA in order to determine if significant impacts would arise as a result of their inclusion. The screening process comprised assessing each proposed amendment against the Environmental Protection Objectives to determine if they would have a potentially positive, negative, uncertain or neutral impact. The assessment of each proposed change is detailed in Table 3-5.

Table 3-2 Environmental Protection Objectives	
EPO Ref. number	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 landuse.
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.

3.4.2 Based on the screening exercise, the Planning Authority determined, in accordance with the requirement of Section 12 (7)(aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), that the likely effects on the environment of implementing 139 of the proposed amendments, would be either positive or neutral. It was determined that three of the proposed amendments, Proposed Change 12.25 and 12.26 (relating to the deletion of structures from the Record of Protected Structures) and proposed change 12.27 (relating to the omission of a site from an Architectural Conservation Area), would have significant negative environmental impacts and should be omitted. A summary of the Screening process is set out in Table 3.5.

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments

Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 2 Core Strategy						
2.1	Include reference to the Dublin Airport Authority				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
2.2	Provide further support for the protection of the environment and the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
2.3	Core strategy tables and supporting text providing more background detail and clarification	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
2.4	New text regarding population growth targets for sensitive water catchments and infrastructure priorities					Screened Out
2.5	Amendment to objective CS 4-1(d)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
2.6	Provide support for the extension of the Lee fields to Ballincollig Regional Park	1, 2, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
2.7	Amendment to objective CS 4-2(a)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
2.8	Amendment to objective CS 4-4(a)	1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 10			4, 6, 8, 9	Screened Out
2.9	Provide additional text to recognise the role played by Castletownbere	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
2.10	Additional text to reference the important role of the national road network and Cork Airport				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
2.11	Provide additional information regarding the prioritisation of development in the Metropolitan Cork Gateway				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
Chapter 3 Housing						
3.1	Clarification of Councils responsibilities regarding land supply	1, 10			2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
3.2	Clarification of objective HOU 3-1 (c)	1, 2, 3, 9, 10			4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Screened Out
3.3	Clarification regarding reserved land for social housing				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
3.4	Urban design and traffic calming				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
3.5	Design manual for urban roads				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
3.6	Text on social housing				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued

Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 4 Rural Coastal and Islands						
4.1	Strengthen and sustain vibrant rural communities	1			2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.2	Structurally weaker rural area	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
4.3	Categories of rural generated housing need				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.4	Rural business				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.5	General planning considerations	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
4.6	Ribbon development				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.7	Replacement dwellings and refurbishment of a derelict dwelling	1, 2, 3, 4, 10			5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
4.8	Key issues facing the Coastal Zone of Cork				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.9	Cork Harbour Study				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.10	Coastal Protection	1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9			2, 6, 10	Screened Out
4.11	Islands	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
4.12	Islands in Metropolitan Cork				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.13	Change to Objective RCI 5-7 "Strategic and Exceptional Development."				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
4.14	Change to Objective RCI 5-7 "Strategic and Exceptional Development."				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
Chapter 5 Social and Community						
5.1	Ireland's Age Friendly Cities and Counties Programme	1, 2, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
5.2	Objective SC 6-1: Healthcare facilities	1,2, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued						
Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 5 Social and Community continued						
5.3	Linking of new open spaces with existing spaces to form a green infrastructure network					Screened Out
5.4	Cross reference of objective SC 5-5 with HE 2-3, GI 2-1 and GI 3-1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10			7, 8	Screened Out
5.5	Clarification of provision of ancillary family accommodation (granny flats)				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
5.6	Clarification regarding childcare facilities guidelines				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
Chapter 6 Economy and Employment						
6.1	Chapter 6 Economy and Employment				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
6.2	Objective EE 4-1 Strategic Employment Areas	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9			7, 8, 10	Screened Out
6.3	Bottlehill landfill site				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
6.4	Relocation of industries			1, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9	2, 6, 8, 10	Screened Out
6.5	Objective EE 4-4 industry	1, 2, 3, 4, 9			5, 6, 7, 8, 10	Screened Out
6.6	Paragraph re. Ringaskiddy				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
6.7	Paragraph 6.6.5 on Economic Role of Cork Harbour	1, 2, 3, 4, 9			5, 6, 7, 8, 10	Screened Out
6.8	Paragraph 6.6.9 on Economic Role of Cork Harbour	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9			10	Screened Out
6.9	Objective EE 9-1: business development in rural areas	3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 9			1, 2, 7, 10	Screened Out
6.10	Supplementary text regarding Cork Harbour	1, 2, 9, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Screened Out
Chapter 7 Town Centres & Retail						
7.1	Table 7.1 Retail Network/Hierarchy				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
7.2	Table 7.2 – Retail Floorspace distribution				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued						
Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 7 Town Centres & Retail continued						
7.3	Paragraph regarding comparison retailing distribution	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10			5, 6, 7	Screened Out
7.4	Support occupancy of vacant retail warehousing	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10			5, 6, 7	Screened Out
7.5	Text regarding role of municipal district committees	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
Chapter 8 Tourism						
8.1	Protection of tourist assets	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9, 10			5, 6, 7	Screened Out
8.2	Marine leisure development and the environment	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10			6, 7	Screened Out
8.3	Greenways	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10			6, 7	Screened Out
8.4	Tourist facilities	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 10			6, 7	Screened Out
8.5	Revised paragraph on tourism development and facilities				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
Chapter 9 Energy and Digital Infrastructure						
9.1	Objective ED 3-2 wind energy projects				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
9.2	Revised paragraph on wind energy				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
9.3	Objective ED 3-4 "acceptable in principle"				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
9.4	Objective ED 3-5 "open to consideration" areas	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
9.5	Paragraph and objective ED 3-6 "normally discouraged"				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
9.6	Objective ED 3-7: other wind energy development	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
9.7	Figure 9-3 wind energy strategy map (Volume 4 Detailed Maps)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
9.8	Wind deployment areas buffer zones	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued

Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 9 Energy and Digital Infrastructure continued						
9.9	Objective ED 4-1 hydro-electricity				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
9.10	Electricity network	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
9.11	Transmission Network	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility						
10.1	Modal share in County Cork				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
10.2	Reference to North and West Strategic Plan	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
10.3	Objective tm 2-2(d): cycling	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
10.4	Public transport and service frequency				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
10.5	Objective tm 2-4: bus transport (metropolitan area)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
10.6	Spatial planning and national roads guidelines (2012)				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
10.7	Paragraph re: n40 demand management study				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
10.8	Motorway service areas	1, 2, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
10.9	Objective TM 3-1: National road network	1, 2, 8, 9, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7	Screened Out
10.10	Objective TM 3-2(c) 'Regional roads & local roads'	1, 2, 9, 10		3	4, 5, 6, 7, 8	Screened Out
10.11	Objective TM 3-2 re: traffic noise and regional & local roads	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
10.12	Paragraph on Cork Harbour ecology	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
10.13	Table 1a (car parking)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued						
Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 10 Transport and Mobility continued						
10.14	Table 1a (Appendix c) car parking requirements				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
10.15	Text in objective TM 3-1 (a) National Road Network	1, 2, 10			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
10.16	Quay walls				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
Chapter 11 Water Services and Waste						
11.1	Chapter heading				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.2	Irish Water				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.3	Introduction to Table 11.1				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.4	Irish Water's Water Services Strategic Plan and Capital Investment Programme				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.5	Recognise role of Irish Water				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.6	Sensitive water catchments	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
11.7	Objective WS 2-1 water infrastructure - general	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
11.8	Table 11.1 "Cork County: capacity of current water services infrastructure to accommodate planned population growth 2011-2022"	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
11.9	Wastewater disposal	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
11.10	River Channel Protection	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			6, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.11	Site specific flood risk assessment				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
11.12	Development in flood risk areas	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
11.13 (1)	Bottlehill landfill site				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued

Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 11 Water Services and Waste continued						
11.13 (2)	Bottlehill landfill site	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
Chapter 12 Heritage						
12.1	Objective HE 1-1 County Biodiversity Action Plan	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
12.2	National Monuments	8			1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10	Screened Out
12.3	Inclusion of new Blarney Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)	1, 2, 3, 4, 8, 9			5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.4	Inclusion of new Blarney Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.5	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.6	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.7	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.8	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.9	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.10	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.11	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.12	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.13	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.14	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.15	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued

Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 12 Heritage continued						
12.16	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.17	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.18	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.19	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.20	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.21	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.22	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.23	Alteration to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.24	Alteration to the Record of Protected Structures	1, 2, 8, 9			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Screened Out
12.25	Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures		1, 8, 9		2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Omit proposed change
12.26	Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures		1, 8, 9		2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Omit proposed change
12.27	Amendment to Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area		1, 8, 9		2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 10	Omit proposed change
Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure and Environment						
13.1	Key themes of Green Infrastructure Strategy	1, 3, 4			2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
13.2	Irish Water				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
13.3	Surface water protection	1, 2, 3, 4, 5			6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
13.4	Noise Emissions	1, 2			3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out

Table 3-3 Summary Table of the outcome of the SEA of the Proposed Amendments continued						
Ref. No.	Title of amendment	Impact on EPO's				Screening Conclusion
		+	-	?	Ne (neutral)	
Chapter 14 Zoning and Land Use						
14.1	Ensure that zoning objective ZU 3-4 is compliant with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive	3, 9			1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10	Screened Out
14.2	Objective ZU 3-7 appropriate waste uses in industrial areas	2, 10			1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9	Screened Out
Chapter 15 Putting this Plan into Practice						
15.1	Implementation context	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
15.2	Recognise role of Irish Water				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.3	Implementation mechanisms				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.4	Inclusion of critical projects from objective TM 3-1 in Chapter 15				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.5	Table 15.1 Cork Gateway: major housing & employment projects infrastructure delivery priorities				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.6	Tranches and Table 15.1				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.7	Table 15.2 County Cork planned development summary of critical infrastructure (main towns)	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7			6, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.8	Recognise role of Irish Water				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.9	Monitoring	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10				Screened Out
15.10	The Local Economic and Community Plans (LECPS)				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.11	Local Area Development and Local Area Plans				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out
15.12	The Role of Masterplans				1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10	Screened Out

3.4.3 The amendments were placed on public display for a further period of public consultation with the addendum to the Environmental Report and the supporting environmental assessments from 21st August to 24th October 2014. A total of 56 submissions were received on the Material Amendments. These included submissions from members of the public and statutory consultees. Details of all the submissions received were detailed in the Chief Executive’s Report to Members in October 2014. All submissions were summarised in this report and responded to by the Chief Executive. The Key issues arising from the submission were identified in the Chief Executives Report as being :

- (1) The Core Strategy and issues around the supply of housing land, the availability of a strategic land reserve, the relationship between the Core Strategy and the Municipal District Local Area Plans and the delivery of critical infrastructure
- (2) Population growth targets for Sensitive Water Catchments.
- (3) Architectural Heritage
- (4) Motorway Service Areas.

3.4.4 Some of the submissions raised issues of particular significance to the SEA and these are detailed in Table 3.6.

3.4.5 In response to submissions from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the South West Regional Authority, further Modifications to the Proposed Amendments were recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report. The full text of the proposed modifications and the justification for same is set out in Volume I of the Section 12(8) Chief Executives Report. The proposed modifications are outlined below.

Table 3-4 Details of submissions on the Proposed Amendments Draft Plan which referenced SEA

Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to SEA	Response /Outcome
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	The submission raises a number of issues in relation to the Core Strategy and, in particular requested that the strategy be amended to disaggregate the data for villages and rural areas so that separate figures are given for the population growth target, household growth, amount of new houses required, net zoned land requirement etc for villages and rural areas and that the information be presented on a Municipal District Basis to inform the new Local Area Plans. Clarification was also sought in relation to the methodology for calculating land requirements and whether it included the 50% headroom required by the Guidelines and how the headroom was reflected in the land surpluses / Strategic reserves identified. Clarification was also sought on the Councils Strategy to deal with land surpluses, how vacancy, unfinished estates and extant permission were dealt with and how the figure for new households was calculated.	In response to this submission further detailed modifications were recommended and adopted as detailed below in order to provide the extra data requested by the submission
Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht,	This submission welcomes proposed changes 2.3 and 11.8 in relation to the approach to development within the sensitive water catchments but notes that if the amendments are not adopted then an adverse effect of the Draft plan on the sensitive catchments - River Blackwater SAC , Bandon River SAC, Great Island Channel SAC cannot be ruled out. Similarly with proposed change 10.10 affecting the Great island Channel SAC.	Amendments Adopted without further modification

Table 3-4 Details of submissions on the Proposed Amendments Draft Plan which referenced SEA continued

Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to SEA	Response /Outcome
South West Regional Authority	The submission raises similar issues in relation to the Core Strategy, headroom, land supply, strategic land reserve, surplus zoned land, figures for villages and rural areas etc as those raised by the Department above and reiterates issues raised in their previous submission on the Draft Plan and seeks further changes.	Further modifications to the proposed amendments were recommended and adopted as detailed below in order to provide the extra data requested by the submission.
Irish Water	With respect to issues raised in relation to the outfall from the Dunmanyway WWTP, the submission states that the plant was commissioned in July 2012 and provides tertiary treatment and there are no plans for further improvements to the plant. The plant is licensed and the conditions and emissions limit values specified in the Discharge Licence will ensure no deterioration on the quality of the receiving waters as a result of the discharge.	No changes made.

Modifications to amendments as recommended by the Chief Executive

(1) Core Strategy

3.4.6 On foot of submissions received from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the South and East Regional Assembly, the Chief Executive recommended that a modification be made to Proposed Change 2.3 Core Strategy providing for the inclusion of additional tables into Proposed Change 2.3 Appendix B for each Municipal District which will show:

- the amount of the County's population growth target allocated to each Municipal District on a Main Town, Villages and Rural Area basis;
- the amount of the County's 'Total New Households 2011 to 2022' allocated to each Municipal District on a Main Town, Villages and Rural basis;
- the amount of 'gross new units required 2011-2022' and vacant units for the main towns and villages;
- the amount of 'new housing units required 2011-2022' allocated to each Municipal District on a Main Town and Villages basis;
- The 'estimated net residential area zoned in LAP's/TCP's' required to meet the new housing units required target at Main Towns level;
- the 'estimated housing yield' for the main towns and for the villages based on the figures for villages in the 10 Electoral Area Local Area Plans;
- the 'current estimated strategic land reserve (LAPs and TCPs) calculated at a Municipal District Level.

SEA Assessment of the Proposed Modification:

3.4.7 Tables B.6- B13 of this Modification now include for the first time details of the number of new housing units required in the villages and rural area for the period to 2022 and the net estimated amount of land in hectares required to deliver the new housing units required in the villages together with the available land supply for the villages in terms of unit yield. The modification indicates that the level of housing growth allocated to the villages will be greater than currently provided for in the Local Area Plans.

3.4.8 The existing Local Area Plans adopted in 2011 do not provide for the scale of development envisaged in this modification. The next review of the current LAPs, set to commence in 2015, will need to address this issue comprehensively to ensure that the population growth and housing unit targets for the villages are appropriate. The Review, which will be subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes, and consultations with Irish Water in terms of the availability of sustainable water services infrastructure, will determine what the appropriate level of growth in the villages should be. This proposal to increase the amount of housing in the villages is at odds with the reality on the ground, as acknowledged in the existing local area plans and the Environmental Report, in that many of the villages have infrastructural constraints and cannot accommodate development. An oversupply of zoned land has been retained in the towns in order

compensate for the fact that development may not be able to take place in the villages.

- 3.4.9 The modification does not alter other aspects of the plan such as the fact that the population target for the Blackwater Catchment is on hold pending further studies (Change 2.3 and 2.4) or Objectives in relation to the provision of appropriate water services infrastructure (WS2-1 or WS 3-1 etc.), which will in effect ensure that development does not take place unless the necessary infrastructure is in place to provide for it, thus avoiding significant adverse effects. This modification will therefore have a neutral impact and the LAPs would need to be reviewed to give effect to it.

(2) Population Growth targets in Sensitive Catchments

- 3.4.10 In response to a submission received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands which emphasises the need to adopt proposed amendments 2.3 and 11.8 to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive, the Chief Executive recommended the adoption of these changes without modification.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

- 3.4.11 These changes relate to development within sensitive Natura 2000 catchments the adoption of these changes without modification is positive for the environment.

(3) Architectural Heritage

- 3.4.12 With respect to Architectural Heritage the Chief Executive’s report deals with a number of issues in relation to structures to be added to, or deleted from, the Record of Protected Structures and changes to existing and proposed Architectural Conservation Areas. These issues are summarised below:

Table 3-5 Amendments to Heritage Areas

Ref. No	Title of Amendment	Screening Conclusion	Chief Executives Recommendation	Final Decision of Members
12.3	New Blarney Architectural Conservation Area	Screened Out	Adopt change without modification	Agreed with Recommendation of Chief Executive.
12. 20	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures (Fermoy Aerodrome/Fitzgerald’s Barracks)	Screened Out	No to adopt proposed change – do not include on RPS	Agreed with Recommendation of Chief Executive.
12.21	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures (Victorian Dwelling at Cooldubh, Lissarda)	Screened Out	No to adopt proposed change – do not include on RPS	Agreed with Recommendation of Chief Executive.
12.25	Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures (CBS Building, Charleville)	Omit proposed change	No to adopt proposed change – do not include on RPS	Remove Structure from the Record of Protected Structures.
12.26	Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures (Vickery’s Buildings, Bantry)	Omit proposed change	No to adopt proposed change – do not include on RPS	Remove Structure from the Record of Protected Structures.
12.27	Amendment to Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)	Omit proposed change	No to adopt proposed change – do not include on RPS	Remove site from the Architectural Conservation Area.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

- 3.4.13 Recommendation of Chief Executive in relation to Changes 12.3, 12.20 and 12.21 was that, having regard to the background and condition of these structures, it would not be appropriate to include these structures on the RPS and this was agreed by the Elected Members. It is considered that the non inclusion of these structures will not have any significant adverse environmental impact. In relation to the structures covered by changes 12.25 and 12.26 Members decided at the Council meeting on 08 December 2014, to delete these structures from the Record of Protected Structures, against the recommendation of the Chief Executive. In addition, Members decided to remove a site from the Architectural Conservation Area in Mitchelstown. The removal of the protection offered by the inclusion on the record of Protected Structures / within the area designated as an ACA is unfortunate and has the potential to have adverse impacts. At a site level, the overall impact on the architectural heritage may still be capable of being mitigated through the development management process.

(4) Motorway Service Areas

- 3.4.14 A modification to the text in relation to motorway service areas as detailed in Proposed changes 10.8 and 10.9 is proposed to delete some text and update reference to reference the NRA Service Area Policy guidance published in 2014. This text was further modified by Members at the Council Meeting on 8th December 2014 but the modifications have no material environmental impact.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

- 3.4.15 Neutral environmental impacts.

(5) Other modifications

- 3.4.16 Other minor modifications were proposed by the Chief Executive as follows:
- a) Change 10.5 is to be amended to include reference to bus service improvements in response to employment growth;
 - b) Change 15.7 is to be modified to include reference to local road improvements and public transport upgrades in Douglas;
 - c) Change 15.9 in relation to Monitoring is to be modified to alter text in relation to 'trip patterns', 'modal shift' and 'pattern capacity'.
 - d) Change 7.2 is being modified to reconfigure Table 7.2 on retail distribution.
- 3.4.17 Modifications a, b and C are positive and modification d has a neutral impact.
- 3.4.18 Other minor modifications were proposed by the Elected Members at the meeting of the 08 December 2014 to the text of proposed change no 9.11 in relation to Transmission Networks; proposed change 10.8 and 10.9 in relation to Motorway Service Areas; proposed change 10.17 in relation to Cork and other Ports, and proposed change 14.2 in relation to industrial areas. These changes are considered to have a neutral environmental impact.

Chapter 4

Reasons for choosing the Plan as Adopted

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 This section of the Environmental Statement describes the different development scenarios that were assessed by Cork County Council as part of the preparation of the Development Plan and the SEA process and the reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of the reasonable alternatives dealt with in accordance with Article 9 of the Directive.

4.2 Context for considering Alternatives

4.2.1 Cork is a large county and, owing to its scale and diversity, has always been administered on the basis of sub areas or divisions dealing with North, West and South Cork. For the purposes of forward planning these have evolved into four Strategic Planning Areas (SPAs) as follows -

- Metropolitan Cork which encompasses the suburbs of the city within the county's functional area and the surrounding towns of Ballincollig, Blarney, Carrigaline, Carrigwohill, Cobh, Glanmire, Midleton and Passage West.
- Greater Cork Ring: this is the area outside the Metropolitan area which was covered by the Cork Area Strategic Plan (approximately that area within a 40 minute commute time of the city) and includes the hub town of Mallow and the Ring Towns of Bandon, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom and Youghal.
- North Cork encompasses the northern section of the county and includes the towns of Buttevant, Charleville, Kanturk, Millstreet, Mitchelstown and Newmarket.
- West Cork encompasses the western section of the county including the towns of Bantry, Castletownbere, Clonakilty, Dunmanway, Schull and Skibbereen.

4.2.2 Cork County has an extensive urban structure comprising towns and villages. The Electoral Area Local Plans adopted in 2011 provide for the development of 28 main towns (26 towns and the north and south environs of the city) and 275 villages and smaller settlements and an number of specialist locations with specific industrial/ tourism functions e.g Marino Point, Ringaskiddy, Whitegate, Fota, Spike Island, Trabolgan, Haulbowline, Redbarn and Dromolour etc.

4.2.3 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 current plan support the continuation of this approach, seeking sustainable patterns of growth in urban and rural areas.

4.2.4 The Regional Planning Guidelines support this balanced approach to development in order to maintain vibrant rural communities with an equal level of urban and rural growth. The population targets set out in Regional Planning Guidelines distribute the population growth target for the SW Region to the Cork Gateway (including Metropolitan Cork), the Greater Cork Area, equivalent to the CASP Ring, the Northern Area which includes North Cork and parts of North and East Kerry, and the Western Area which includes West Cork and South and West Kerry. Targets for the North and West Areas have been allocated between Cork and Kerry in their respective County Development Plan strategies.

4.2.5 The Alternatives considered in preparing this Draft Plan have therefore been prepared in this context. The overall level of growth allocated to each Strategic Planning Area is the same for each scenario, in line with targets of the Regional Planning Guidelines and North and West allocations agreed between the Regional Authority, Cork and Kerry County Councils. The scenarios look at options for development within each SPA. Scenarios which would be inconsistent with this approach, by focusing more growth on the metropolitan area for example, have not been considered.

4.3 **Description of Alternatives**

4.3.1 Three alternative scenarios were considered during the preparation of the Cork County Development Plan 2014. The scenarios were framed having regard to the policies set out in the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South West region. The overall level of growth allocated to each Strategic Planning Area is the same for each scenario. The scenarios look at options for development within each SPA.

Scenario 1 Public Transport

4.3.2 This scenario sought 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 Ring, North and West Strategic Planning Areas the scenario focused 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 was focused on a smaller number of locations.

4.3.3 Within Metropolitan Cork this scenario directed higher levels of growth to the environs of the City and the towns along the Midleton- Cork City – Ballincollig transport corridor. In the short term significant levels of growth were focused on the North and South Environs where it could be underpinned by existing public transport / public services and provide a platform for further investment in these services. The second phase of growth concentrates 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.

4.3.4 Very little growth was allocated to the rural area under this scenario. In the Greater Cork Ring, North and West Areas, this scenario concentrated growth in fewer settlements. In the Ring SPA, Mallow is the principle growth centre and 77% of all growth was directed to the town. Again very little growth, 2.5%, was directed to the villages and rural areas. This pattern of growth reflects not only Mallow’s “Hub” status, as set out in the NSS, but also the need to regulate growth in the rural areas of the Ring in order to avoid the replication of previous trends.

4.3.5 In the North and West SPA’s, most of the growth was directed towards Charleville, Mitchelstown, Clonakilty and Skibbereen with the aim of delivering a sufficient critical mass of population in these towns so as to justify further investments in primarily bus based public transport around the county and growth in rural areas is curtailed.

Environmental impacts of Scenario 1

4.3.6 Scenario One allocated 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 the settlements have inadequate drinking water supply and/or waste water treatment infrastructure. This dispersed pattern of growth would generally give rise to some cumulative impacts on ground and surface water quality, heritage, landscape and biodiversity and lead to increased levels of environmental effects associated with additional commuting such as increased energy consumption, emissions to air, road traffic noise etc.

4.3.7 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. However 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.

Scenario 2 Employment Led Growth

- 4.3.8 This Scenario looked at employment-led growth which focused development in key locations where employment growth was more likely to be delivered and differed from previous Plan strategies which spread growth more evenly across all the Main Settlements. This strategy continued to focus the greatest proportion of population growth to the Metropolitan Area which is the employment focus for the Cork City Gateway.
- 4.3.9 Within the Cork Ring the growth strategy was 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 was offset by lower levels of growth in the remaining Ring Towns. Mallow was allocated the highest level of growth because of its designation as a “hub” town. It also enjoys access to planned M20, has a regional employment role and an existing hospital.
- 4.3.10 Within the North SPA this scenario allocated 91% of the growth to the towns and 9% to the Villages and Rural while seeking to concentrate development in the towns of Kanturk, Charleville and Mitchelstown. Within the West Cork SPA this scenario focuses growth in Clonakilty & Bantry with reduced growth targets in Castletownbere and Dunmanway.

Environmental impacts of Scenario 2

- 4.3.11 Scenario Two allocated 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. As with Scenario 1, this dispersed pattern of growth would generally give rise to some cumulative impacts on ground and surface water quality, heritage, landscape and biodiversity and lead to increased levels of environmental effects associated with additional commuting such as increased energy consumption, emissions to air, road traffic noise etc.
- 4.3.12 This scenario concentrated economic growth and employment growth in a smaller number of settlements, making them more self sufficient but could 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.

Scenario 3 Balanced Growth

- 4.3.13 In this scenario, significant growth was 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.
- 4.3.14 Within the Metropolitan area significant levels of growth were targeted at Midleton and Carrigtwohill which are along the suburban railway corridor and at Blarney, Ballincollig and Carrigaline and the North Environs of the city. Within the Ring Area, Mallow as the hub town is allocated the greatest proportion of growth. In the North, Mitchelstown, Charleville and Buttevant were assigned the highest levels of growth. In West Cork, the majority of the growth was assigned to Clonakilty.

Environmental impacts of Scenario 3

- 4.3.15 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. Focusing population growth

across the settlement network will necessitate significant investment in water services infrastructure.

4.3.16 While allowing for growth in rural areas, this scenario would 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.

4.4 Assessment of Alternatives against Environmental Protection Objectives

4.4.1 The evaluation of the three proposed alternative scenarios for their respective impacts on the environment was undertaken utilising the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs), which are detailed below:

Table 4-1 Environmental Protection Objective		
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
<p>Population</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase population growth in the main settlements of the county and particularly within Metropolitan Cork. • Reduce the number of new residential properties in the areas where it is difficult to provide services. • Ensure new development is located where it can access a choice of transport modes to connect to the main centres of employment. • Decrease journey time and distance travelled to work during the lifetime of the plan. • All large scale housing development to be accompanied by a Design Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase in the population of the main towns. • Distance and mode of transport to work/ school. • No. of new houses in rural areas. • No of new houses/ employment development built within 1km of the Cork Suburban rail line or within 400m of a bus route. • Increased high frequency bus service provision as measured by the amount (route kilometers) of bus services with a 15 minute frequency.
<p>Human Health</p> <p>EPO 2: To protect and enhance human health and manage hazards or nuisances arising from traffic & incompatible land uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid incompatible development nears SEVESO sites or IPPC licensed sites • Ensure new development is well served with community facilities and facilitates including walking and cycling routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of planning permissions granted within the consultation distance of Seveso sites/IPPC facilities. • No of new primary health care/schools/crèches/ community facilities provided. • Amount of (Km) new cycleways provided.
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</p> <p>EPO 3: Throughout the county, conserve and restore ecosystems, habitats and species in their natural surroundings, and ensure their sustainable management, including the ecological corridors between them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain the favourable conservation status of all habitats and species, especially those protected under national and international legislation. • Implement the actions of the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan. • Establishment of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County • Protect habitats from invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of developments receiving planning permission within designated sites or within the consultation distance of designated sites where the HDA process identified potential for impacts. • Reduction in the quantum of greenfield land in the county as measured by the increase in the amount of brownfield land associated with each settlement and the no. of one off houses being built in the countryside. • Number of actions achieved in

Table 4-1 Environmental Protection Objective continued

Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
		Biodiversity Action Plan • Progress on Green Infrastructure strategy
Soil EPO 4: Protect the function and quality of the soil resource in County Cork	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (AQ/C) EPO 6: Protect and improve air quality. EPO 7: Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure air quality monitoring results are maintained within appropriate emission limits. • Increase modal shift in favour of public transport, walking and cycling. • Encourage production and use of renewal energy. • Encourage energy efficiency in building design and construction. • Provide flood protection measures where appropriate. • Avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in Air Quality monitoring data. • Percentage of population travelling to work by public transport, walking or cycling. • 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.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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.

Table 4-1 Environmental Protection Objective continued		
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators
<p>Landscape (L)</p> <p>EPO 9: Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in County Cork.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No large scale development permitted in areas of high landscape value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of large scale developments permitted in areas of high landscape value.
<p>Material Assets (MA)</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Develop the road, rail and public transport infrastructure of the county to facilitate sustainable growth and travel patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure appropriate water services infrastructure is delivered in areas targeted for population growth. Protect and optimise the use of the existing building stock. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New critical infrastructural projects completed (projects identified by the CDP).

4.4.2 The findings of the analysis of the alternatives against the EPO's are set out in the Table below.

Table 4-2 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	EPO 1 3, 5		EPO 4, 8, 9
Scenario 2	EPO 2, 6, 7, 10	EPO 1 3, 5		EPO 4, 8, 9
Scenario 3	EPO 2, 6, 7, 10	EPO 1 3, 5		EPO 4, 8, 9

4.5 Preferred Scenario

- 4.5.1 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.
- 4.5.2 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 and public transport investment along the rail corridor and within the metropolitan area while continuing to support the development of villages and rural areas and was 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.
- 4.5.3 The identification of Scenario 3 as the preferred scenario was further supported when the population targets for each scenario were analysed using the SEMPre methodology. The results show that the third scenario allocated the largest share of the population increase to the most sustainable settlements as identified by SEMPre, followed by the Employment and Transport Scenarios.
- 4.5.4 Assessment of the detailed provisions of the Draft Plan against the EPO's was undertaken in the Environmental Report, illustrating the environmental effects of implementing the Draft Plan. This assessment found that while the plan overall was very positive for population, human health and material assets, some aspects of the plan has the potential for negative impact on biodiversity and water quality, heritage resources, environment etc. . In response to this the Environmental report recommended a number of changes and these, and the subsequent changes made to the Draft Plan are documented in Section 2.2 of this report.
- 4.5.5 The potential for the plan to have an adverse environmental impact on the River Blackwater Catchment has yet to be resolved and in order to address this uncertainty, the population target for the catchment has been put on hold pending further studies.

Chapter 5

Monitoring

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans are monitored. This SEA Statement identifies the proposals for monitoring the County Development Plan (CDP).
- 5.1.2 The primary purpose of monitoring is to cross check significant environmental effects which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the Plan Preparation Stage. Monitoring enables, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action. In addition to this, monitoring can also play an important role in assessing whether the CDP is achieving its environmental objectives and targets - measures which the CDP can help work towards - whether these need to be re-examined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.
- 5.1.3 The CDP recognises that, notwithstanding the statutory requirement to prepare a progress report within 2 years after the making of the Plan, the preparation of a regular monitoring and evaluation report would be of value to the Council to facilitate the identification of any issues concerning implementation of the Development Plan, for example, in the interpretation of development plan objectives in the development management process. The County Development Plan includes a possible list of key indicators for monitoring the implementation of the Plan and indicates that some or all of these indicators will be used subject to adequate resources being available. The indicators used relate primarily to issues within the remit of the Planning Department.
- 5.1.4 Table 5.1. identifies details the environmental protection objectives, targets and indicators included in the Environmental Report, and the list of indicators to be monitored included in the Adopted Plan. Although the Plan list does not include some of the issues identified in the Environmental Report, some of the indicators not included in the plan will be monitored by other Council departments e.g. water quality issues are monitored by the environmental department. In other cases the information can be extracted from the Odyssey Planning Application Management System or the Planning Register e.g. development in areas of flood risk or high landscape value.
- 5.1.5 Sources of data from other organisations (NRA, NTA, IW, ESRI, Forfas, NESC and CSO etc) which is readily available will also be used where appropriate to assess progress in implementing the plan.

Responsibility for and Frequency of Monitoring and

- 5.1.6 Monitoring and implementing the Development Plan is primarily the responsibility of the Planning Directorate of Council, mainly through the development management function. However, the County Development Plan also co-ordinates the work and objectives of other key departments within the local authority, such as Economic Development, Roads, Environment, Housing and Community Development. In some cases, the body responsible for the implementation of certain plan objectives may be external, such as the National Roads Authority, the National Transport Authority or Irish Water etc.
- 5.1.7 The statutory Chief Executive's Report on progress in achieving objectives of the Development Plan, will be published two years after the adoption of the Plan and, "shall include information in relation to the progress on, and the results of monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan". If an objective or policy is having a significant adverse effect, a variation may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan.

Table 5-1 Provision for the Monitoring of Significant Environmental Effects

Environmental Report Recommendations		Adopted Plan	
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring provision – Possible indicators
<p>Population 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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase population growth in the main settlements of the county and particularly within Metropolitan Cork. • Reduce the number of new residential properties in the areas where it is difficult to provide services. • Ensure new development is located where it can access a choice of transport modes to connect to the main centres of employment. • Decrease journey time and distance travelled to work during the lifetime of the plan. • All large scale housing development to be accompanied by a Design Statement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant increase in the population of the main towns. • Distance and mode of transport to work/ school. • No. of new houses in rural areas. • No of new houses/ employment development built within 1km of the Cork Suburban rail line or within 400m of a bus route. • Increased high frequency bus service provision as measured by the amount (route kilometers) of bus services with a 15 minute frequency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population Growth at County, Strategic Planning Area and Main Settlement level. • Number of houses built within urban areas at a County, Strategic Planning Area and Settlement level. • The change in modal share over the Plan period at a County, Metropolitan /Cork Gateway and Hub Town level. • The change in the level and frequency of public transport services at a Strategic Planning Area and Main Settlement level. • Number of individual rural houses built on a County, Strategic Planning Area, Rural Housing Area Types and DEDs level • Number of individual rural houses where permission was refused and the reason why on County Strategic Planning Area, Rural Housing Area Types and DEDs level. • Not formally specified for monitoring. Information in relation to rail is capable of being abstracted from the planning register. • The change in the level and frequency of public transport services at a Strategic Planning Area and Main Settlement level.

Table 5-1 Provision for the Monitoring of Significant Environmental Effects continued

Environmental Report Recommendations		Adopted Plan	
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring provision – Possible indicators
<p>Human Health EPO 2: To protect and enhance human health and manage hazards or nuisances arising from traffic & incompatible land uses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid incompatible development nears SEVESO sites or IPPC licensed sites Ensure new development is well served with community facilities and facilitates including walking and cycling routes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of planning permissions granted within the consultation distance of Seveso sites/IPPC facilities. No of new primary health care/schools/crèches/ community facilities provided. Amount of (Km) new cycleways provided. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although not formally specified for monitoring this information is capable of being abstracted from the planning register. Although not formally specified for monitoring this information is capable of being abstracted from the planning register. Not formally specified for monitoring. This information would need to be collated from other departments within the Council
<p>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna EPO 3: Throughout the county, conserve and restore ecosystems, habitats and species in their natural surroundings, and ensure their sustainable management, including the ecological corridors between them.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain the favourable conservation status of all habitats and species, especially those protected under national and international legislation. Implement the actions of the Cork County Biodiversity Action Plan. Establishment of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County Protect habitats from invasive species 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of developments receiving planning permission within designated sites or within the consultation distance of designated sites where the HDA process identified potential for impacts. Reduction in the quantum of greenfield land in the county as measured by the increase in the amount of brownfield land associated with each settlement and the no. of one off houses being built in the countryside. Number of actions achieved in Biodiversity Action Plan Progress on Green Infrastructure strategy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Although not formally specified for monitoring this information is capable of being abstracted from the planning register. The amount of brownfield land developed is not readily tracked. Not formally specified for monitoring. Will become apparent with passage of time <p>Provision has been made for monitoring the number of wind turbines permitted and number of additional wind turbines operational in the County within each of the Wind Deployment Areas.</p>

Table 5-1 Provision for the Monitoring of Significant Environmental Effects continued

Environmental Report Recommendations		Adopted Plan	
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring provision – Possible indicators
<p>Soil</p> <p>EPO 4: Protect the function and quality of the soil resource in County Cork</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No of brownfield sites that have been redeveloped. Volume of construction and demolition waste recycled. Reduction in number of vacant and derelict buildings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not formally specified for monitoring The amount of brownfield land developed is not readily tracked. Not formally specified for monitoring. The volume of construction and demolition waste recycled is not readily tracked The Reduction in number of vacant and derelict buildings is not readily tracked, other than within town centres areas where retail vacancy is to be monitored.
<p>Water (W)</p> <p>EPO 5: Maintain and improve the quality of water resources and improve the management and sustainable use of these resources to comply with the requirements of the WFD.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not formally specified for monitoring but information may be available from EPA. Not formally specified for monitoring but information may be available from EPA. Not formally specified for monitoring but information may be available from EPA. Not formally specified for monitoring but information can be deduced from Census. Not formally specified for monitoring but information can be deduced from Census. Not formally specified for monitoring. Delivery of the Critical Infrastructure required as identified in Table 15.1 and 15.2 at a Strategic Planning Area and Main Settlement level will be monitored .

Table 5-1 Provision for the Monitoring of Significant Environmental Effects continued

Environmental Report Recommendations		Adopted Plan	
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring provision – Possible indicators
<p>Air Quality and Climate (AQ/C)</p> <p>EPO 6: Protect and improve air quality.</p> <p>EPO 7: Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure air quality monitoring results are maintained within appropriate emission limits. • Increase modal shift in favour of public transport, walking and cycling. • Encourage production and use of renewal energy. • Encourage energy efficiency in building design and construction. • Provide flood protection measures where appropriate. • Avoid inappropriate development in areas of flood risk. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trends in Air Quality monitoring data. • Percentage of population travelling to work by public transport, walking or cycling. • No of wind turbines permitted. • No of developments permitted within areas at risk of flooding. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not formally specified for monitoring but information may be available from EPA. • Not formally specified for monitoring but can be extracted from the Census. • The change in modal share over the Plan period at a County, Metropolitan /Cork Gateway and Hub Town level is to be monitored using Census data. • Provision has been made for monitoring the number of wind turbines permitted and number of additional wind turbines operational in the County within each of the Wind Deployment Areas. • Although not formally specified for monitoring this information is capable of being abstracted from the planning register.
<p>Cultural Heritage (CH)</p> <p>EPO 8: Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage (including Gaeltachtaí) in County Cork.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not formally specified for monitoring • Not formally specified for monitoring

Table 5-1 Provision for the Monitoring of Significant Environmental Effects continued

Environmental Report Recommendations		Adopted Plan	
Environmental Protection Objective	Targets	Indicators	Monitoring provision – Possible indicators
<p>Landscape (L)</p> <p>EPO 9: Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in County Cork.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No large scale development permitted in areas of high landscape value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of large scale developments permitted in areas of high landscape value. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not formally specified for monitoring. This information is capable of being abstracted from the planning register.
<p>Material Assets (MA)</p> <p>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.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 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. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New critical infrastructural projects completed (projects identified by the CDP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Delivery of the Critical Infrastructure required as identified in Table 15.1 and 15.2 at a Strategic Planning Area and Main Settlement level will be monitored

Appendix A

SEA Screening of the Proposed Further Modifications to the Material Amendments to the Draft Development Plan.

The Proposed Material Amendments to the Draft County Development Plan were placed on public display for a further period of public consultation with the addendum to the Environmental Report and the supporting environmental assessments from 21st August to 24th October 2014.

A total of 48 submissions were received on the Material Amendments. These included submissions from members of the public and statutory consultees. Details of all the submissions received were detailed in the Chief Executive's Report to Members in October 2014. All submissions were summarised in this report and responded to by the Chief Executive. The Key Issues arising from the submissions were identified in the Chief Executive's Report as being :

- (1) The Core Strategy and issues around the supply of housing land, the availability of a strategic land reserve, the relationship between the Core Strategy and the Municipal District Local Area Plans and the delivery of critical infrastructure
- (2) Population growth targets for Sensitive Water Catchments.
- (3) Architectural Heritage
- (4) Motorway Service Areas.

Some of the submissions raised issues of particular significance to the SEA and these are detailed in Table 1-0 below.

Table A1: Details of submissions on the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan which referenced SEA	
Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to SEA
Department of Environment, Community and Local Government	The submission raises a number of issues in relation to the Core Strategy and, in particular requested that the strategy be amended to disaggregate the data for villages and rural areas so that separate figures are given for the population growth target, household growth, amount of new houses required, net zoned land requirement etc for villages and rural areas and that the information be presented on a Municipal District Basis to inform the new Local Area Plans. Clarification was also sought in relation to the methodology for calculating land requirements and whether it included the 50% headroom required by the Guidelines and how the headroom was reflected in the land surpluses / Strategic reserves identified. Clarification was also sought on the Councils Strategy to deal with land surpluses, how vacancy, unfinished estates and extant permission were dealt with and how the figure for new households was calculated.
Department of Arts, Heritage and The Gaeltacht	This submission welcomes proposed changes 2.3 and 11.8 in relation to the approach to development within the sensitive water catchments but notes that if the amendments are not adopted then an adverse effect of the Draft plan on the sensitive catchments - River Blackwater SAC , Bandon River SAC, Great Island Channel SAC cannot be ruled out. Similarly with proposed change 10.10 affecting the Great island Channel SAC.
South West Regional Authority	The submission raises similar issues in relation to the Core Strategy, headroom, land supply, strategic land reserve, surplus zoned land, figures for villages and rural areas etc as those raised by the Department above and reiterates issues raised in their previous submission on the Draft Plan and seeks further changes.
Irish Water	With respect to issues raised in relation to the outfall from the Dunmanway WWTP, the submission states that the plant was commissioned in July 2012 and provides tertiary treatment and there are no plans for further improvements to the plant. The plant is licensed and the conditions and emissions limit values specified in the Discharge Licence will ensure no deterioration on the quality of the receiving waters as a result of the discharge.

Modifications to amendments as recommended by the Chief Executive.

In response to submissions from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the South West Regional Authority, further Modifications to the Proposed Amendments were recommended in the Chief Executive’s Report. The full text of the proposed modifications and the justification for same is set out in Volume I of the Section 12(8) Chief Executive’s Report.

The proposed modifications are outlined below.

(1) Core Strategy

On foot of submissions received on the proposed amendments, most notably from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government and the South and East Regional Assembly, the Chief Executive recommended that a modification be made to Proposed Change 2.3 Core Strategy providing for the inclusion of additional text and tables into Proposed Change 2.3 and Appendix B, in relation to the Core Strategy, as follows:

1. Insert additional text into Proposed Change 2.3 “Core Strategy Tables and Supporting Text Providing more Background Detail and Clarification” to:
 - Show where the majority of future growth will be targeted to
 - Set out a clear and robust approach to dealing with any surpluses of zoned land identified and clarify whether this is headroom or not
 - Ensure that the amount of zoned land/housing is in line with Regional Planning Guidelines
 - Give a full explanation of how figures under heading "Total new Households 2011-2022" were calculated
 - Confirm if the "Net Estimated Requirement" figure in Table 2.2 is in line with the net land requirements as per Table 4.6 of the South West Regional Planning Guidelines
 - Explain the basis of the requirement for a minimum 360ha strategic reserve in Metropolitan Cork.

2. Insert additional Tables into Proposed Change 2.3 Appendix B, for each Municipal District showing the following;
 - The amount of the County’s population growth target allocated to each Municipal District on a Main Town, Villages and Rural basis.
 - The amount of the County’s “Total New Households 2011 to 2022” allocated to each Municipal District on a Main Town, Villages and Rural basis.
 - The amount of “Gross New Units Required 2011-2022” and “Vacant Units” for the Main Towns and Villages.
 - The amount of “New Housing Units required 2011-2022” allocated to each Municipal District on a Main Town and Villages basis.
 - The “Estimated Net Residential Area Zoned in LAPs/TCPs” required to meet the new housing units required target at Main Towns level.
 - The “Estimated Housing Yield” for the Main Towns and for the Villages based on the figures for villages in the 10 Electoral Area Local Area Plans.
 - The “Current Estimated Strategic Land Reserve (LAPs and TCPs) calculated at a Municipal District level.

SEA Assessment of the Proposed Modification:

Tables B.6- B13 of this Modification now include for the first time details of the number of new housing units required in the villages and rural area for the period to 2022 and the net estimated amount of land in hectares required to deliver the new housing units required in the villages together with the available land supply for the villages in terms of unit yield.

The modification indicates that the level of housing growth allocated to the villages will be greater than currently provided for in the Local Area Plans. As Table 3.7 illustrates, in all Municipal Districts except East Cork, the ‘new house requirement’ for the villages exceeds the ‘estimated housing yield from the villages’ as provided for in the

Local Area Plans adopted in 2011, suggesting the housing growth target in the villages will need to increase (by 2,494 units).

This proposal to increase the amount of housing in the villages is at odds with the reality on the ground, as acknowledged in the existing local area plans and the Environmental Report, in that many of the villages have infrastructural constraints and cannot accommodate development. An oversupply of zoned land has been retained in the towns in order to compensate for the fact that development may not be able to take place in the villages. The potential environmental impact of this proposal cannot be fully assessed without a more detailed assessment of the villages where the additional growth is likely to take place, especially in relation to their water services infrastructure.

Table A2: Housing Requirements and Capacity of zoned land supply by Municipal District

Municipal District Name	Net New housing units Required 2011-2022	Estimated housing Yield – Supply in units	Net New housing units Required 2011-2022	Estimated housing Yield – Supply in units
	Towns	Towns	Villages	Villages
Kanturk - Mallow	5,323	8,592	1,361	987
Fermoy	2,782	4,018	1,533	1,003
East Cork	6,280	7,210	1,121	1,214
Cobh	10,762	15,255	1,045	770
Ballincollig - Carrigaline	8,663	9,509	55	37
Bandon-Kinsale	1,606	2,622	1,642	1,418
Blarney-Macroon	3,034	3,976	2,105	1,526
West Cork	3,741	5,534	2,531	1,944
Total	42,191	56,716	11,393	8,899

When the current LAPs were prepared the target housing figures for the villages were decided upon having regard to a number of issues including the size of the existing village and the scale of development which it was considered that the village could assimilate, the scale of development which had already taken place, developments already permitted, the provisions of the Guidelines on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas, water services etc. The target was focused on housing numbers (which could reasonably and sustainably be accommodated, assuming the delivery of the necessary infrastructure) rather than population. In contrast the Core Strategy of the County Development Plan approaches the issue from the perspective of distributing a population target across the settlement network and therefore reaches a different conclusion as regards the number of houses required.

The existing Local Area Plans adopted in 2011 do not provide for the scale of development envisaged in this modification. The next review of the current LAPs, set to commence in 2015, will need to address this issue comprehensively to ensure that the population growth and housing unit targets for the villages are appropriate. The review which will be subject to the Strategic Environmental Assessment and Appropriate Assessment processes, and consultations with Irish Water in terms of the availability of sustainable water services infrastructure, will determine what the appropriate level of growth in villages should be.

The modification does not alter other aspects of the plan such as the fact that the population target for the Blackwater Catchment is on hold pending further studies (Change 2.3 and 2.4) or Objectives in relation to the provision of appropriate water services infrastructure (WS2-1 or WS 3-1 etc.), which will in effect ensure that development does not take place unless the necessary infrastructure is in place to provide for it, thus avoiding significant adverse effects. This modification will therefore have a neutral impact and the LAPS would first need to be reviewed to give effect to it.

(2) Population Growth targets in Sensitive Catchments

In response to a submission received from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht and the Islands which emphasises the need to adopt proposed amendments 2.3 and 11.8 to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive, the Chief Executive recommended the adoption of these changes without modification.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

These changes relate to development within sensitive Natura 2000 catchments. The recommendation to adopt these changes without modification is positive for the environment.

(3) Architectural Heritage

With respect to Architectural Heritage the Chief Executives report deals with a number of issues in relation to structures to be added or deleted from the Record of Protected Structures and changes to existing and proposed Architectural Areas. These issues are summarised below:

Table A3: Heritage Modifications to the Amendments

Ref. No	Title of Amendment	Chief Executives Recommendation
12.3	New Blarney Architectural Conservation Area	Adopt change as published without further modification to extent of the Blarney ACA.
12. 20	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures (Fermoy Aerodrome/ Fitzgerald’s Barracks)	Do not to adopt the proposed change – i.e do not include the structure on the RPS
12.21	Addition to the Record of Protected Structures (Victorian Dwelling at Cooldubh, Lissarda)	Do not to adopt the proposed change – i.e do not include the structure on the RPS
12.25	Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures (CBS Building, Charleville)	Not to adopt proposed change – Retain structure on the RPS
12.26	Deletion from the Record of Protected Structures (Vickery’s Buildings, Bantry)	Not to adopt proposed change – Retain structure on the RPS
12.27	Amendment to Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area (ACA)	Not to adopt proposed change – do not omit part of the ACA and retain the ACA as it is.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

Recommendation of Chief Executive is that having regard to the background and condition of these structures it would not be appropriate to include these additional structures covered by Changes Ref nos. 12.20 and 12.21. It is considered that the non inclusion of these structures will not have any significant adverse environment impact.

The recommendation that the ACAs in Blarney and Mitchelstown be retained as they are and the structures covered by Changes Ref nos. 12.25 and 12.26. are to be retained on the RPS are considered positive for the environment.

(4) Motorway Service Areas

A modification to the text in relation to motorway service areas as detailed in Proposed Changes 10.8 and 10.9 is proposed to delete some text and update reference to the NRA Service Area Policy Guidance published in 2014. Proposed developments in this category will be assessed relative to these Guidelines.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

Neutral environmental impacts.

(5) Other modifications

Other minor modifications are proposed as Follows:

- a) Change 10.5 is to be amended to include reference to bus service improvements in response to employment growth;
- b) Change 15.7 is to be modified to include reference to local road improvements and public transport upgrades in Douglas;
- c) Change 15.9 in relation o Monitoring is to be modified to alter text in relation to 'trip patterns', 'modal shift' and 'pattern capacity'.
- d) Change 7.2 is being modified to reconfigure Table 7.2 on retail distribution.

SEA Assessment of Recommendation:

Modifications a, b and c are positive and modification d has a neutral impact.

Conclusion:

Proposed further modifications will have a neutral or positive impact.





Section 2: Natura Impact Report

Cork County Development Plan 2014 • December 2014

In accordance with Article 6 of Council Directive 92/43/EEC
on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and Of Wild Fauna and Flora (the Habitats Directive)

- 1 Introduction**
 - 1.1 Context
 - 1.2 Summary of the Habitats Directive Assessment Process
- 2 How Habitats Directive Assessment Was Integrated Into the Process of Making the Plan**
- 3 Description of the Plan**
 - 3.1 Chapter Summaries
 - 3.2 Biodiversity Policy In the Plan
- 4 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites Which Should be Subject to Screening**
- 5 Consideration of Cumulative Impacts**
 - 5.1 Policies With Potential to Impact on Water Quality
 - 5.2 Renewable Energy Policies and Potential for Disturbance Related Impacts on Birds
 - 5.3 Recreational / Tourism Policies
 - 5.4 Pressure for Development In the Cork Harbour Area
- 6 Summary of Assessment of the Draft Plan**
 - 6.1 Sites for which no impacts were identified
 - 6.2 Sites which could be impacted by the draft County Development Plan
 - 6.3 Issues relating to the protection of Natura 2000 network raised at the draft Development Plan Stage – Public Consultation Submissions
 - 6.4 Issues Relating to Water Sensitive Catchments
- 7 Summary of Assessment of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan**
 - 7.1 Screening of Proposed Amendments to the Plan
 - 7.2 Issues relating to the protection of Natura 2000 network raised at the draft Development Plan Stage – Public Consultation Submissions
- 8 Summary Of Assessment of Proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan**
 - 8.1 Screening of Proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan
- 9 Assessment of Final Changes Made to the County Development Plan**
 - 9.1 Screening of Final Changes Made to County Development Plan
- 10 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion**
- 11 References**
 - 11.1 Cork County Council Documents
 - 11.2 NPWS Site Data
 - 11.3 Other References

1 Introduction

1.1 Context

This is the Natura Impact Report for the Cork County Development Plan 2014 adopted on December 8th 2014. In accordance with requirements of Articles 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as transposed into Part XAB of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 (and subsequent amendments), the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites that are designated for the protection of nature (known as Natura 2000 sites or European 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 and 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.

Habitats Directive Assessment is an iterative process which is intended to run parallel to and inform 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 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.

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 reports which are produced for each stage of the plan making process.

This report represents the final stage of Appropriate Assessment for the Cork County Development Plan. It summarises how Appropriate Assessment was integrated into each part of the plan making process and contains an Appropriate Assessment Conclusion Statement. This report should be read in conjunction with the Cork County Development Plan, 2014 as adopted on 8th December 2014. Regard should also be had to the Natura Impact Report which was produced for the draft plan (December 2013), the Habitats Directive Assessment Report for the Proposed Amendments (August 2014), and to the Habitats Directive Screening Report for the proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan (November 2014). Regard should also be had to the Environmental Report for the draft plan (December 2013), and to the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Development Plan, published January 2015.

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.

1.2 Summary of the Habitats Directive Assessment Process

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 effects on the integrity on one or more European sites, or if uncertainty remains in relation to potential impacts on one or more European sites following appropriate assessment.

Article 6(4) of the Directive sets out procedures to allow the adoption and implementation of plans despite a finding of adverse effects on one or more European sites.

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 identify two further assessment stages which must be completed if it is determined that a plan must proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest, despite a

finding that it will have adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites. These procedures can only be invoked where it has been shown that there are no alternative ways to implement the plan which avoid adverse effects on the integrity of one or more European sites. They are set out 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 are imperative reasons of overriding public interest 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

In circumstances where it has been demonstrated that a plan must proceed for imperative reasons of overriding public interest (IROPI), and where it has been shown that there are no alternatives, compensatory measures must be put in place in advance of the implementation of the plan/project which ensure the coherence of the Natura 2000 network. Compensatory measures must compensate for the expected impact on the site. 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.

2 How Habitats Directive Assessment Was Integrated Into the Process of Making the Plan

A summary of the plan making process including the timelines which were followed is set out in **Table 1.**

Table 1: Summary of Plan Making Process Incorporating Habitats Directive Assessment

Date	Stage	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 network were considered.
7 th January – 4 th March 2013	Council published first consultation document (Section 11 Consultation Document) which identified key policy topics for consideration, and invited submissions from the public.	This document identified sustainability and climate change adaptation as some of its key guiding principles. One of the stated aims for the draft County Development Plan was to provide a network of enhanced natural resources of clean water, biodiversity, nature conservation areas, landscape, coastline, greenbelts, parks and open spaces and agricultural land.
March 2013 – December 2013	Council prepared draft County Development Plan, having regard to submissions received during first consultation phase. The draft plan was reviewed by Council members and approved to go out on public display.	<p>The draft plan contained policies relating to the protection of biodiversity including the protection of sites designated for nature conservation. The draft plan also set out Councils objective to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy for the County as well as policy relating to the protection of the water and other environmental resources.</p> <p>Prior to publication, the draft plan was screened to determine whether objectives contained in the plan could have the potential to give rise to significant impacts on the Natura 2000 network. The results of the assessment were compiled into the Natura Impact Report for the draft plan. The Natura Impact Report recommended that further assessment was required to be completed in relation to the draft Core Strategy. A number of recommendations were also included in the report for amendments to be made to policies contained in the plan to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>
9 th December 2013	Council published draft County Development Plan.	Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report for the draft plan also published.
9 th December 2013 – 26 th February 2014	Public consultation phase for draft County Development Plan.	Submissions were received from members of the public, Statutory Authorities and other organisations in relation to the draft plan, Environmental Report and the Natura Impact Report.
March 2014 – August 2014	Issues raised in the submissions received on the draft plan were summarised in the Chief Executives (Section 12(4)) Report to Council members, and recommendations in relation to these submissions were included in the report	Proposed amendments included amendments recommended to be made arising from issues identified during the completion of the Appropriate Assessment process and contained in the Natura Impact Report for the draft plan,

Table 1: Summary of Plan Making Process Incorporating Habitats Directive Assessment

Date	Stage	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 network were considered.
	<p>which was issued to Council members. Council members resolved to make a number of amendments to the plan.</p>	<p>as well as issues relating to the Natura 2000 network which were raised in submissions received from the National Parks and Wildlife Service, other statutory bodies and other organisations.</p> <p>All proposed amendments were assessed to determine whether any of these had implications for the Natura 2000 network. No significant implications for the Natura 2000 network were identified.</p> <p>Discussions with the Department of Environment and Local Government, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht and Irish Water were initiated to seek to resolve issues relating to sensitive water catchments.</p> <p>Further more detailed assessment of potential implications of the plan for the Great Island Channel SAC was completed.</p>
<p>21st August 2014</p>	<p>Council published proposed Amendments to the draft Plan.</p>	<p>Habitats Directive Report for proposed Amendments and Addendum to Strategic Environmental Assessment Report were also published. No implications for the Natura 2000 network were identified.</p>
<p>21st August– 24th October 2014.</p>	<p>Public consultation phase for proposed amendments to draft plan.</p>	<p>Submissions were received from members of the public, Statutory Authorities and other organisations in relation to the proposed amendments.</p>
<p>November – December 2014.</p>	<p>Issues raised in the submissions received in relation to the proposed amendments were summarised in the Chief Executives (Section 12(8)) Report which was issued to Council Members with recommendations in relation to same.</p>	<p>All recommendations to the Council Members which were included in the Chief Executives Report, were screened to determine whether these had implications for the Natura 2000 network (Habitats Directive Screening Statement for modifications to proposed amendments, November 2014). No implications for the network were identified in relation to any of the recommendations which were made.</p>
<p>December 8th 2014</p>	<p>Council Members resolved to make the plan incorporating most of the proposed amendments and recommended modifications, with some final changes.</p>	<p>Final changes to be made to the plan were assessed to determine whether these might have negative implications for the Natura 2000 network. No implications were identified.</p>

Table 1: Summary of Plan Making Process Incorporating Habitats Directive Assessment

Date	Stage	How issues relating to biodiversity and the protection of the Natura 2000 network were considered.
January 15 th 2015	Cork County Development Plan (2014-2020) plan came into effect.	Natura Impact Report and Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement were published.

3 Description of the Plan

3.1 Chapter Summaries

A summary description of the plan is provided below. The plan sets out the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of Cork County over a 6 year period. The plan covers the functional area of Cork County Council, and includes the nine former Town Council Areas of Cobh, Clonakilty, Fermoy, Kinsale, Macroom, Mallow, Midleton, Skibbereen and Youghal.

Table 2: Description of the Plan

Chapter	Description
1 Introduction	This chapter details the principles on which the draft plan is based, the National and Regional Planning Policy and the legislative context within which the draft Plan was prepared. It describes the structure of the plan and the process for completing the plan making process.
2 Core Strategy	<p>The Core Strategy identifies a target growth in population of 70,820 for the county as a whole for the period 2011-2022 and sets out the target distribution of this population growth with 11% of the total new growth allocated to the villages and rural areas and 89% to the towns. The county is divided into four Strategic Planning Areas. Priority is given to the development of the Metropolitan Strategic Planning Area which is around the city, given in role in the development of the Cork Gateway and 61% of total population growth is assigned to this area, equivalent to 43,382 persons. A corresponding need for 31,038 additional housing units is also recognised. The Ring Strategic Planning Area is assigned 19% of total population growth, equivalent to 13,464 persons with a housing requirement of 13,406 units; the North Strategic Policy Area gets 8% of total population growth equivalent to 5,514 persons with a need for 5,689 housing units, while in the West population growth is equivalent to 12% of the total for the county at 8,460 persons and there is a requirement for 7,872 housing units. The core strategy assumes that household formation rates continue to decline and a rate of 2.41 people per household has been applied to the targets for 2022.</p> <p>This chapter also sets out the Settlement Hierarchy for the county comprising the Cork Gateway, Hub Town, Ring Towns, County Towns, Key Villages, Villages, Village Nuclei and other locations, and the West Cork Island Communities, and the strategic objectives for the development of each Strategic Planning Area.</p>
3 Housing	This chapter seeks to ensure that all new development within the County supports the achievement of sustainable residential communities, promoting high quality design, good housing mix and development which prioritise walking and cycling provision. The chapter also sets out the revised density requirements for housing development in the county

Table 2: Description of the Plan

Chapter	Description
	which aim to broaden the range of house types that can be built on zoned land, so that in future more households will be attracted to locate in the towns (especially within the County Metropolitan Area). The chapter also deals with specialised housing needs.
4 Rural, Coastal and Islands	This chapter sets out policies applicable to the management of housing in rural, coastal and island areas. The chapter identifies different rural area types within the county and sets out detailed criteria that will be used to assess applications for rural housing within each area. Chapter also outlines policies in relation to greenbelts and deals with the protection, management and development of coastal resources.
5 Social and Community	This chapter sets out standards for the provision of social and community facilities to meet current and future needs of all age cohorts of the population including childcare, education, health, amenity and recreational facilities. Also includes a new section on planning for the ageing population.
6 Economy and Employment	This chapter outlines the strategy for the economic development of the county which seeks to achieve balanced economic development and improved employment choices across the county. Plan sets out a hierarchy of employment locations, which is informed by the Core Strategy, and deals with employment development in (a) the Gateway locations (Metropolitan Cork) and Mallow Hub, (b) other towns and key villages and, (c) Rural Areas. The strategy aims to ensure new employment opportunities are developed in tandem with the provision of housing and infrastructure so that people have the opportunity to live closer to where they work. The strategy also supports key employment sectors including agriculture and mineral sector and promotes the special economic role of Cork Harbour.
7 Town Centres and Retail	This chapter includes policies aimed at strengthening and reinventing town centres and details the retail hierarchy of the county and future retail needs.
8 Tourism	This chapter identifies the main tourism assets and attractions within the county and includes policies for the development of the tourism sector, including marine leisure and walking and cycling. The chapter also focuses on rural tourism and the development of tourism facilities and tourism accommodation.
9 Energy and Digital Economy	This chapter sets out policies aimed at ensuring that sufficient energy and related infrastructure is available to meet the existing and future needs of the county, recognising the importance of exploiting the renewable energy resources of the county. Chapter includes specific policies on renewable energy development including wind.
10 Transport and Mobility	Transport policies seek to manage overall transport demand and provide better linkages between homes, schools, employment and other destinations. Chapter also focuses on promoting and facilitating more walking and cycling within communities and includes a new approach to car parking standards.
11 Water Services, Surface Water and Waste	This chapter includes an assessment of water services capacity within the main settlements and seeks to ensure the delivery of the infrastructure required to meet the future population targets and support continued economic development of the county. Chapter also details the approach to flood risk management and sets out policy in relation to the management of wastes within the County.
12 Heritage	This chapter deals with the protection of natural, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage.

Table 2: Description of the Plan

Chapter	Description
13 Green Infrastructure and Environment	This chapter sets the scene for the development of a green infrastructure strategy for the county to identify, protect, manage and develop green infrastructure resources. Chapter also set out the framework for protecting the most sensitive landscape areas of the County, scenic views, water and air quality.
14 Zoning and Land Use	Zoning and Land Use. This chapter provides clear guidance on how to manage the appropriate land-uses on zoned land within the County including the management of uses within transitional zones, dealing with non-conforming uses and encouraging the re-use of brownfield land. It also outlines the Part V requirements and the approach to development within Seveso consultation zones.
15 Putting this Plan into Practice	Putting This Plan Into Practise. This chapter 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 lower tiers Plans within it’s functional area.

3.2 Biodiversity Policy In the Plan

It is a stated aim of the County Development Plan to achieve sustainable and balanced economic investment in jobs and services and to sustain the future population of the County together with wise management of the County’s environmental, heritage and cultural assets. To that end, the plan contains a number of policies relating specifically to the protection of biodiversity and to designated sites, protected habitats and species. These are included in Chapter 12 Heritage. Objective HE 2-1 is the primary objective that relates to the protection of sites designated or proposed for designation for the conservation of nature, including Natura 2000 sites and Natural Heritage Areas. Other policies in the plan provide for the protection of biodiversity outside designated sites (HE 2-3, HE 2-4 and HE 2-6), while the commitments contained in policies HE 1-1 and 1-2 relating to implementation of the County Heritage Plan and the County Biodiversity Plan will also contribute towards the protection of biodiversity. Objective HE 2-7 relates to controlling the spread of invasive plant and animal species which is an important element in ensuring the protection of biodiversity.

Objectives relating to the protection of environmental (green infrastructure) resources including flood plains, surface water and groundwater are included in Chapters 11 and 13. The implementation of these objectives will contribute towards providing for the protection of our biodiversity resources.

A number of the objectives in the plan relate to promoting residential or industrial development, tourism or economic activity within parts of the County that are of high value in terms of biodiversity, or within or near Natura 2000 sites. These objectives include caveats to ensure that it is clear that Council policy is to ensure that future development in such areas will only be permitted where it is assessed to be compatible with the nature conservation designations that apply to the area. Cross links to relevant environmental objectives in other parts of the plan are also provided where appropriate.

4 Identification of Natura 2000 Sites Which Should be Subject to Screening

The County Development Plan covers Cork County excluding the administrative area of the City. The County hosts a diverse range of ecosystem types, including marine, freshwater and terrestrial ecosystems, reflecting its geographical position on the southern coast of the country, its geology which is dominated by sandstone ridges and limestone valley floors, and the influence of the people who have settled here. The county supports thirty sites which have been designated, or proposed for designation as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive, and a further ten sites which have been designated as Special Protection Areas under the Birds Directive. This report focuses on these sites and on Natura 2000 sites in adjacent counties within 15km of the Co. Cork border. A total of ten SAC's, and two SPA's that are located within 15km of Co. Cork have been identified for assessment in this report. These are shown in **Figure 1**.

The county also supports over one hundred proposed Natural Heritage Areas and eight Natural Heritage Areas, which are proposed to be designated under the Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000. These sites, and other areas or habitat types which have been identified to be of high biodiversity importance are dealt with in the Environmental Report which was published December 2013 and in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement which is published with the County Development Plan.

Figure 1 shows the locations of these sites in relation to the plan area. **Table 3** sets out the Natura 2000 sites which were subject to review in the context of this assessment. It includes all Natura 2000 sites within the plan boundary area, and all Natura 2000 sites within 15km of the plan boundary. The habitats and species for which these sites are designated are also listed in Table 3. 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.

Figure 1

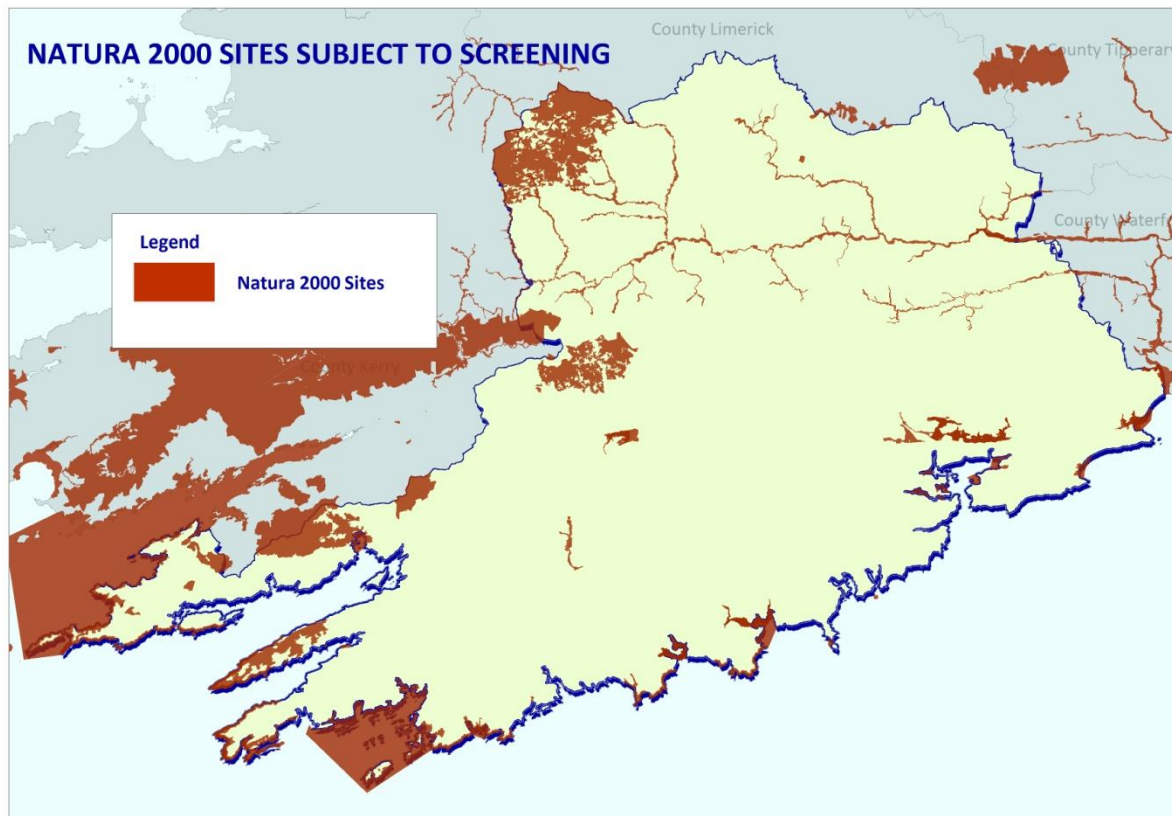


Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
0077	Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC	Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows	This site overlaps with the Ballymacoda Bay Special Protection Area. It is an important site for coastal and estuarine habitats as well as wintering wetland bird species. Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC Site Data	Maintain or restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.
0090	Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC	Old sessile Oak Woodlands with Ilex and Blechnum; Alluvial forest	This is a diverse site which supports woodland, upland, freshwater and	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		with <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> and <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> . Kerry slug; Lesser horseshoe bat; Otter; Common (Harbour) seal	coastal habitats and species. Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC Site Data	and transitional coastal zones in harbour area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine, woodland and upland habitats within SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats; Protect marine mammals from disturbance in particular at haul outs and breeding sites.
0091	Clonakilty Bay SAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Annual vegetation of drift lines, Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); Atlantic decalcified fixed dunes (Calluno-Ulicetea)	This coastal site supports a range of coastal and estuarine habitats. It supports an extensive wetland with a diverse range of habitats. It overlaps with the Clonakilty Bay SPA. It is an important site for wintering wetland bird species. Clonakilty Bay SAC Site Data	Maintain / restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.
0093	Caha Mountains SAC	Blanket Bog and Active Blanket Bog; Northern Atlantic wet heath with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation; Alpine and Boreal heath; Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the Littorelletea uniflorae and/or Isoëto-Nanojuncetea; Killarney fern; Kerry slug	This upland site supports rare plant species and number of upland bird species of conservation value. Caha Mountains SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
0097	Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Submerged sea caves	This coastal marine site supports a range of rare marine plant and animal species. The terrestrial portion of the site is also diverse with woodland, marsh and heath habitats and associated plant and animal species. Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC Site Data	Maintain / restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and streams and transitional coastal zones in lough area; Prevent direct loss marine habitats within the SAC; Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats.
0101	Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths; Submerged or partially submerged sea caves; Harbour porpoise; Otter; Grey seal	This coastal marine site supports a diversity of marine and terrestrial habitats. It is notable for the presence of a number of rare plant species and also supports important sea bird colonies. Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC Site Data	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area; Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats; Protect marine mammals from disturbance in particular at haul outs and breeding sites; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
0102	Sheep's Head Head SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; European dry heaths; Kerry slug	This coastal heathy headland supports the rare and legally protected plant species Pale Dog-violet and Spotted Rock-rose. It also has a small sea breeding seabird population and overlaps with the Seven	Prevent direct loss of terrestrial habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Regulate visitor access /

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
0106			<p>Heads to Toe Head SPA</p> <p>Sheep's Head to Toe Head SAC Site Data</p>	<p>human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.</p>
	St. Gobnet's Wood SAC	<p>Old Sessile Oak Woodlands with Ilex and Blechnum; Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)</p>	<p>This woodland is a good example of a native woodland typical of the south-west. It contains old oak woodlands and supports rich herb and bryophyte communities. The Sullane River which runs through the woodland supports a population of Salmon and a population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel.</p> <p>St. Gobnet's Wood SAC Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent direct loss of woodland habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats;</p> <p>Maintain a high standard of water of water quality Sullane River.</p>
0108	The Gearagh SAC	<p>Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation; Old sessile oak woodlands with Ilex and Blechnum; Alluvial forest with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior; Otter</p>	<p>This is an internationally important wetland site which is designated as a RAMSAR site as well as an SPA. It is the only extensive alluvial woodland in Ireland or Britain, and supports rare plants as well as internationally important numbers of a variety of species of wetland birds.</p> <p>The Gearagh SAC Site Data</p>	<p>Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in watercourses;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and freshwater habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to Otter or Otter habitat;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or deterioration of terrestrial and freshwater habitats.</p>
0109	Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC	<p>Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths</p>	<p>This SAC has two coastal headlands which supports heathy habitats and sea cliffs. It supports two vascular plant species listed in the Red Data Book, Spotted Rock-rose and Pale Dog-violet. The site also supports wetland habitats and overlaps with the Sheeps Head to Toe Head</p>	<p>Prevent direct loss of terrestrial habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within</p>

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
			SPA. Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC Site Data	SAC.
0353	Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This SAC is in Co. Kerry. It consists of a large stone building situated in Dromore Wood. It is an important hibernation site of the Lesser Horeshoe Bat. Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC Site Data	Prevent disturbance to roost site; Protect surrounding woodland habitat.
0364	Kilgarvan Ice House SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This SAC is in Co. Kerry. The site contains three buildings and also covers an area of woodland which is designated Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The ice-house is one of the largest hibernating sites for this species in Europe, while the two other buildings within the SAC serve as summer maternity roosts for this species. Kilgarvan Ice House SAC Site Data	Prevent disturbance to roost site; Protect surrounding woodland habitat.
0365	Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC	Depressions on peat substrates of the Rhynchosporion; Oligotrophic waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Oligotrophic to mesotrophic standing waters with vegetation of the <i>Littorelletalis uniflorae</i> and/or of the <i>Isoëto-Nanojuncetea</i> ; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculion fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-</i>	This is a very large SAC, most of which is located in Co. Kerry. The eastern most portion of this SAC in the Paps Mountain range is within Co. Cork. This portion of the site supports the largest mountain Blanket Bog site in the South West at Caherbarnagh, and supports upland peatland and freshwater habitats including upland streams and rivers as well as a number of lakes including Lough Murtagh, Gortavehy	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC; Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC; Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats; Prevent direct loss of peatland, woodland and freshwater habitats within SAC;

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		<p>Batrachion vegetation; European dry heaths; Juniperus communis formations on heaths or calcareous grasslands; Calaminarian grasslands of Violetalia calaminariae; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt laden soils; Blanket bog (*Active only); Old sessile oak woodlands with Ilex and Blechnum; Alpine and Boreal heaths; Northern Atlantic wet heath with Erica tetralix; Twaite shad; Killarney fern; Slender naiad; Kerry slug; Marsh Fritillary; Lesser horseshoe bat; Sea lamprey; Salmon; River lamprey; Freshwater pearl mussel; Otter.</p>	<p>Lough and Kippagh Lough.</p> <p>Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to Otter or Otter habitat.</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to bat roosts.</p>
0646	Galtee Mountains SAC	<p>European dry heaths, Alpine and Boreal heaths, Species-rich Nardus grasslands, on siliceous substrates in mountain areas, Blanket bog (*active only), Calcareous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation, Siliceous rocky slopes with chasmophytic vegetation</p>	<p>This SAC is in Co's Limerick and Tipperary. This is a large upland site which supports heath and other upland habitats, as well as arctic-alpine plant communities including some rare and protected plant species. The site is also important for a number of upland bird species including Peregrine Falcon.</p> <p>Galtee Mountains SAC Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC;</p> <p>Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.</p>
1040	Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonising</p>	<p>This site is situated on the Mizen Peninsula. It is a coastal site, important for estuarine habitats, dune and heathy habitats. It supports rare plants</p>	<p>Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones;</p>

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes). Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); European dry heaths	including Sea Kale, Hairy Bird's-foot-trefoil, Lanceolate Spleenwort, Pale Dog-violet, Green-winged Orchid, Bird's-foot and Spotted Rock-rose. It is also an important site for Chough, and overlaps with the Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA. Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats which could be caused by certain activities permitted in intertidal/ marine or coastal areas; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.
1043	Cleanderry Wood SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; European dry heaths; Old sessile oak woodlands with <i>Ilex</i> and <i>Blechnum</i> ; Killarney fern	This site is located on the western side of the Beara peninsula. It supports woodland and heath habitats, and also includes Derryvegal Lough. The site also supports the protected species Killarney Fern. It is of exceptional value as it contains no introduced species, and for the proliferation of moisture loving plant species that occur in the woodland. Cleanderry Wood SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of woodland habitat within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.
1058	Great Island Channel SAC	Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; <i>Spartina</i> swards; Atlantic salt meadows.	This site centres on the North Channel of Cork Harbour. It is of conservation importance for its estuarine habitats. It overlaps with the Cork Harbour SPA, and is a site of international importance based on the large numbers and variety of wintering birds which are dependent upon it.	Maintain/restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones within Cork Harbour; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
			Great Island Channel SAC Site Data	Protect estuarine habitats from risk of toxic contamination arising from industrial and port related activities common in the harbour area.
1061	Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC	Coastal lagoons; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along with shorelines with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes).	This site which is west of Clonakilty, supports good examples of a variety of dune habitat types. It also supports wetland habitats including freshwater marsh, fen and swamp, as well as Kilkeran Lake itself which is a natural sedimentary lagoon. It has rare plants including Sharp-leaved Fluellen. The lake supports low numbers of waterfowl as well as breeding ducks and swans. Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC Site Data	Maintain /restore a high standard of water quality in lagoon and in waters discharging to lagoon; Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC; Prevent contamination of wetland habitats; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent disturbance to birds; Regulate visitor use/human access to coastal habitats.
1070	Myross Wood SAC	Killarney fern	This is a small site near Leap, comprising mixed woodland habitat. It has a diverse ground flora, and is of particular importance for its presence of the Annex II species Killarney Fern. Myross Wood SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of woodland habitat within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Regulate visitor access / human use within SAC.
1230	Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC	Estuaries; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Annual vegetation of drift lines; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; <i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising muds and sand; Atlantic	This site supports estuarine habitats including extensive mudflats and saltmarsh, as well as dune habitat types. The rare plant Sea-kale occurs within the site. This SAC overlaps with Courtmacsherry Estuary	Maintain/restore a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area; Prevent direct loss of coastal and estuarine habitats within the SAC;

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
1547	Castletownshend SAC	salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Embryonic shifting dunes; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with <i>Ammophila arenaria</i> (white dunes); Fixed coastal dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes).	SPA, and is an important site for wintering waterfowl. Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC Site Data	Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of marine habitats; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland and dune habitats within SAC.
		Killarney fern.	This is mixed woodland site near Castletownshend, which is of conservation importance for its population of Killarney Fern. Castletownshend SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of woodland habitat within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Regulate visitor access / human use within SAC.
1873	Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC	Blanket Bog (*Active) only	This is an upland site whose main conservation interest is intact active mountain blanket bog. Other habitats that occur on site include heath and grassland habitats, upland streams and exposed rock. Derryclogher Bog Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
1879	Glanmore Bog SAC	Oligotrophic Waters containing very few minerals of sandy plains (<i>Littorelletalia uniflorae</i>); Water courses of plain to montane levels with the <i>Ranunculon fluitantis</i> and <i>Callitricho-Batrachion</i> vegetation; Northern Atlantic wet heaths with <i>Erica tetralix</i> ; Blanket bog (*active) only; Freshwater pearl mussel; Killarney fern.	This diverse site on the Beara Peninsula, supports a range of upland peaty habitats and freshwater habitats and species of very high conservation importance. In addition to its qualifying features it supports breeding Cough and number of other upland bird species, as well as very good diversity of plant species. Glanmore Bog SAC Site	Maintain/restore a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC; Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC; Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats; Prevent direct loss of peatland or freshwater

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
			Data	habitats within SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
1881	Maulagowna Bog SAC	Blanket bog (*active only)	This upland site is located within Co. Kerry in the Caha Mountains. It supports intact active Blanket Bog, as well Cumer Lough. The Annex I (Birds Directive) species, Chough breeds in this site. Maulagowna Bog SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
1890	Mullaghanish Bog SAC	Blanket Bog (*active only)	This upland site is located on the Cork Kerry border and is centred on Mullaghanish Mountain near Millstreet. It supports intact Blanket Bog habitat. Mullaghanish Bog SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
2036	Ballyhoura Mountains SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; European dry heaths; Blanket bog (*active only)	Situated on the Limerick Cork border, this SAC supports upland peaty habitats including heath and blanket bog. It is of note for upland bird species including Peregrine Falcon and Hen Harrier. Ballyhoura Mountains SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
2037	Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC	Northern Atlantic wet heaths with Erica tetralix; Killarney fern	This upland site is situated on the Limerick Cork border. It supports heath and Molinia grassland habitats, and is of primary importance for its population of Killarney Fern. Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
2041	Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This site consists of a derelict building in Curraglass Wood in Co. Kerry, which is used as a nursery site by Lesser Horseshoe Bats. The surrounding woodland provides important foraging habitat for this species. Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC Site Data	Prevent disturbance to roost site; Protect surrounding woodland habitat.
2123	Ardmore Head SAC	Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; European dry heaths	This is a small headland east of Ardmore Co. Waterford. It is of conservation importance for its coastal heath habitat, and for the range of seabirds that breed here. Ardmore Head SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of terrestrial habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on heathland habitats within SAC.
2137	Lower River Suir SAC	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi), Water courses of plain to montane levels with the the Ranunculon fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation; Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of	This is a large freshwater site which is located in Co's Kilkenny, Tipperary and Waterford. It supports a wide range of freshwater and terrestrial habitats as well as coastal and estuarine habitats. It also supports a number of protected plant species,	Maintain/restore a high standard of water quality in surface waters in SAC; Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC; Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		plains and of the montane to alpine levels; Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles; Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus (Alno-Padion Alnion incanae, Salicion albae); Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles; Freshwater pearl mussel; White-clawed crayfish; Sea lamprey; Brook lamprey; River lamprey; Allis shad; Twaite shad; Salmon; Otter	and is important for wintering waterfowl and a range of fish and mammal species. Lower River Suir SAC Site Data	fish in freshwater habitats; Prevent direct loss of freshwater habitats within SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC.
2158	Kenmare River SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Atlantic salt meadows; Shifting dunes along the shoreline with Ammophila arenaria (white dunes); Fixed dunes with herbaceous vegetation (grey dunes); European dry heaths; Calaminarian grassland of the Violetalia calaminariae; Submerged or partially submerged sea caves; Whorl snail; Lesser horseshoe bat; Otter; Common (harbour) seal.	This is a large coastal site which is located in Co's Cork and Kerry. It is of special importance for its estuarine and coastal habitats and species, some of which are very rare and known only from this area in Ireland. It is also of high importance for the occurrence of a very rare habitat type (Calaminarian grassland) associated with old mine works at Allihies. This grassland is the only Irish site for a number of exceptionally rare lichen species. The bay supports a breeding population of Arctic/Common Tern, and overlaps with the Beara Peninsula SPA which is designated for a breeding population of Chough. Kenmare River SAC Site Data	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in harbour area; Prevent direct loss of habitat within SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of wetland habitats; Protect marine mammals from disturbance in particular at haul outs and breeding sites; Prevent disturbance to Otter or their breeding sites.
2165	Lower River Shannon SAC	Large shallow inlets and bays; Estuaries; Salicornia and other	This is a very extensive SAC which is located primarily in Co. Limerick. However,	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		<p>annuals colonising mud and sand; Vegetated sea cliffs of the Atlantic and Baltic coasts; Coastal lagoons; Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Atlantic salt meadows; Sandbanks (slightly covered by seawater at all times); Reefs; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-batrachion vegetation; Molinia meadows on calcareous, peaty or clayey-silt-laden soils; Alluvial forest with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior; River lamprey; Brook lamprey; Sea lamprey; Atlantic salmon; Freshwater pearl mussel; Bottle-nosed dolphin; Otter</p>	<p>the upper catchment of the River Feale which forms part of this large SAC is located in North West Co. Cork.</p> <p>Lower River Shannon SAC Site Data</p>	<p>SAC;</p> <p>Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats;</p> <p>Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss of freshwater habitats within SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to marine mammals, particularly at haul outs and breeding sites;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to Otter and Otter habitat.</p>
2170	Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	<p>Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide; Perennial vegetation of stony banks; Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand; Atlantic salt meadows; Mediterranean salt meadows; Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculus fluitantis and Callitriche-batrachion vegetation; Alluvial forest with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior; Old sessile oak woodlands with Ilex and Blechnum; Taxus baccata</p>	<p>This is a very large Special Area of Conservation which extends from the western to the eastern boundaries of the north of the Cork. It has been designated for the conservation of a range of freshwater, terrestrial (woodland) and coastal and estuarine habitats and species. It overlaps with two Special Protection Areas, the Blackwater Callows downstream of Fermoy, and the Blackwater Estuary. It supports three protected plant species, Starved Wood Sedge, Killarney Fern and Pennyroyal as well as</p>	<p>Restore a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC;</p> <p>Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats;</p> <p>Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss of freshwater habitats within SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or</p>

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		woods. Freshwater pearl mussel; White-clawed crayfish; Sea lamprey; Brook lamprey; River lamprey; Twaite shad; Atlantic Salmon; Otter	other species listed in the Irish Red Data Book, Bird's –nest Orchid, Golden Dock and Bird Cherry, as well as many native Irish animal species including mammals, birds and amphibians. Blackwater River SAC Site Data	other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC; Prevent disturbance to Otter and Otter habitat.
2171	Bandon River SAC	Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation; Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alnion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae); Freshwater pearl mussel; Brook lamprey.	This site consists of adjoining stretches of the upper Bandon and Caha rivers. It is designated for its examples of Alluvial woodland, and Floating River vegetation habitat types, as well as a range of freshwater species, including the Freshwater Pearl Mussel. In addition to the qualifying features, some very rare, and some protected plant species have also been recorded from this site. The river is also important for a range of wetland bird species. Bandon River SAC Site Data	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC; Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats; Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC; Prevent direct loss of freshwater habitats within SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC.
2173	Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC	European dry heaths; Kerry slug, Freshwater pearl mussel; Salmon; Lesser horseshoe bat; Otter	This is a large freshwater SAC located within Co. Kerry. It is designated for a range of freshwater as well as terrestrial habitats and species. The site is also visited by a number of bird species of conservation importance. Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC Site Data	Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in surface waters in SAC; Maintain open channels to allow the free passage of fish in freshwater habitats; Maintain stable hydrological regime in surface waters in SAC; Prevent direct loss of freshwater habitats within

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2189	Farranamanagh Lough SAC	Coastal lagoons; Perennial vegetation of stony banks.	<p>This is a relatively small site located on the Sheep's Head peninsula. It is designated for the occurrence of a small shallow lagoon in a natural condition, which supports lagoonal specialist species, and for its fine example of vegetated stony bank habitat. The site also supports heath, wet grassland, freshwater marsh, scrub and woodland habitats. Kerry Slug has been recorded within the site.</p> <p>Farranamanagh Lough SAC Site Data</p>	<p>SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or other deterioration of freshwater habitats in SAC;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to Otter and Otter habitat.</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to bat roosts within SAC.</p> <p>Maintain or restore a high standard of water of water quality in lagoon and in waters discharging to lagoon;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent contamination of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats.</p>
2098	Old Domestic Building, Askive Woods SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	<p>This is a small SAC located in Co. Kerry. It is a breeding site of the Lesser Horseshoe Bat. The site also includes woodland habitat which provides suitable foraging habitats for the population of bats which use this roost site.</p> <p>Old Domestic Building Askive Woods SAC Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to bat roost;</p> <p>Protect foraging woodland habitat within SAC.</p>

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2257	Moanour Mountain SAC	Species-rich Nardus grasslands on siliceous substrates in mountain areas (and submountain areas, in Continental Europe)	This site is located in Co. Tipperary on the edge of the Galtee Mountains. It is designated as it supports good quality example of an acid grassland habitat type. The site also supports heath habitats. Moanour Mountain SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of upland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of upland habitats within SAC; Regulate visitor access / human use with potential to cause path erosion on upland habitats within SAC.
2280	Dunbeacon Shingle SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks	This is a small coastal site located at the head of Dunmanus Bay near Durrus. It is of high conservation importance for the diversity of habitats and species that it supports. These include saltmarsh, wet and dry heath, lake, freshwater marsh, tidal estuarine creeks, scrub woodland and wet woodland. The site provides valuable feeding habitat for several bird species, and is also used by Otter. Dunbeacon Shingle SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC; Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in freshwater habitats within SAC; Prevent contamination of wetland habitats; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent disturbance to birds.
2281	Reen Point Shingle SAC	Perennial vegetation of stony banks.	This is a small site which is designated as it supports a good example of shingle beach habitat. Other habitats which occur on the site include lagoon habitat, saltmarsh, marsh/scrub and heath. These add to the overall value of the SAC. Reen Point Shingle SAC Site Data	Prevent direct loss of coastal and wetland habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;
2315	Glanlough Woods SAC	Lesser horseshoe bat	This site is located in Co. Kerry. It consists of a derelict farmhouse and	Prevent disturbance to bat roost;

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
4021			adjacent out-buildings. The buildings support an important Lesser horseshoe bat maternity roost. Glanlough Woods SAC Site Data	Protect bat foraging habitat.
	Old Head of Kinsale SPA	Guillemot and Kittiwake (nationally important numbers)	This is a headland site which has been designated for the protection of important breeding populations of two sea bird species, Guillemot and Kittiwake. Other species that have breed here include Fulmar, Shag, Herring Gull and Razorbill, while Chough and Peregrine Falcon also breed nearby. Old Head of Kinsale SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds.
4022	Ballycotton Bay SPA	Teal; Ringed Plover; Golden Plover; Grey Plover; Lapwing; Black-tailed Godwit; Bar-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Turnstone; Common Gull; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Wetlands and Waterbirds	This site comprises two sheltered inlets which receive the flows of a number of small rivers. It supports a range of estuarine habitat types including a formerly lagoonal lake, saltmarsh, sand and mudflats and some shallow marine water. It supports an excellent diversity of wintering waterfowl species, and it is well known location for passage waders in the autumn. Ballycotton Bay SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to wintering birds; Maintain a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.
4023	Ballymacoda Bay SPA	Wigeon; Teal; Ringed Plover; Golden Plover; Grey Plover; Lapwing; Sanderling; Dunlin; Black-tailed Godwit; Bar-	This site comprises the estuary of the Womanagh River. It supports mudflats and saltmarsh habitats as well as wet fields, all of	Prevent disturbance to wintering birds; Maintain a high standard of water quality in discharging

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Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
		tailed Godwit; Curlew; Redshank; Turnstone; Black-headed Gull; Common Gull; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Wetlands and Waterbirds	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. Ballymacoda Bay SPA Site Data	rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.
4028	Blackwater Estuary SPA	Wigeon; Golden plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Black-tailed godwit; Bar-tailed godwit; Curlew; Redshank; Wetlands and Waterbirds	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 Blackwater River SAC. Blackwater Estuary SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to wintering birds; Maintain or restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.
4030	Cork Harbour SPA	Little Grebe; Great Crested Grebe; Cormorant; Grey Heron; Shelduck; Wigeon; Teal; Pintail; Shoveler; Red-breasted Merganser; Oystercatcher; Golden	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	Prevent disturbance to wintering birds; Maintain/restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in

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4038		Plover; Grey Plover; Lapwing; Dunlin; Black-tailed Godwit; Bar-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Redshank; Black-headed Gull; Common Gull; Lesser Black-backed Gull; Common Tern; Wetlands and Water Birds	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. Cork Harbour SPA Site Data	bay area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.
	Killarney National Park SPA	Merlin, Greenland White-fronted Goose	This site is located within Co. Kerry. This is an upland SPA which has been designated as it supports a wintering population of Greenland White-fronted Goose, and breeding Merlin. Killarney National Park SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds; Protect upland habitats;
4066	Bull and the Cow SPA	Storm Petrel; Gannet; Puffin	This site comprises to small rock islands and surrounding water situated off Dursey Head. It is an important site for breeding populations of Storm Petrel, Gannet and Puffin. Other seabirds which also breed on the islands include Gull spp, Cormorant, Kittiwake, Guillemot, Fulmar and Razorbill. Bull and the Cow Rocks SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds.
4081	Clonakilty Bay SPA	Shelduck; Dunlin; Black-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Wetlands and Waterbirds	This site overlaps with Clonakilty Bay SAC. It is a coastal wetland site which supports a range of coastal / estuarine habitats, brackish grasslands and freshwater marsh. Over 8,000 birds of a variety of species are recorded in the	Prevent disturbance to wintering birds; Maintain / restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
4094	River Blackwater Callows SPA	Whooper swan; Wigeon; Teal; Black-tailed Godwit; Wetlands and Waterbirds	<p>estuary annually.</p> <p>Clonakilty Bay SPA Site Data</p> <p>This wetland site is located downstream from Fermoy, and overlaps with the Blackwater River SAC. It consists of seasonally flooded grassland within the flood plain of the Blackwater. It is of conservation value on account of the occurrence of significant numbers of wintering waterfowl within the site.</p> <p>River Blackwater Callows SPA Site Data</p>	<p>estuarine habitats within the SAC;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to wintering birds;</p> <p>Maintain / restore a high standard of water quality in river;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats.</p>
4095	Kilcolman Bog SPA	Whooper Swan; Teal; Shoveler; Wetlands and Waterbirds	<p>This site supports quaking fen, lake, reed swamp, freshwater marsh and wet grassland habitat. It is of conservation value due to the occurrence of nationally important numbers of number of species of wintering waterfowl.</p> <p>Kilcolman Bog SPA Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent direct loss of wetland habitat;</p> <p>Prevent disturbance to wintering birds;</p> <p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats.</p>
4109	The Gearagh SPA	Teal; Wigeon; Mallard; Coot; Wetland and Waterbirds	<p>This is an internationally important wetland site which is designated as a RAMSAR site as well as an SAC. It is the only extensive alluvial woodland in Ireland or Britain, and supports rare plants as well as internationally important numbers of a</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to birds;</p> <p>Maintain a high standard of water of water quality in watercourses;</p> <p>Prevent direct loss of terrestrial and freshwater habitats within the SAC;</p>

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
4124			<p>variety of species of wetland birds.</p> <p>The Gearagh SPA Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent drainage of wetland habitats;</p> <p>Prevent contamination or deterioration of terrestrial and freshwater habitats.</p>
	Sovereign Islands SPA	Cormorant	<p>This is a marine site consisting of two small islets at the entrance to Oysterhaven Bay. The islands are important for breeding seabirds, including Cormorant, Great Black-backed Gulls and Herring Gulls.</p> <p>Sovereign Islands SPA Site Data</p>	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds.a
4155	Beara Peninsula SPA	Fulmar; Chough	<p>This SPA includes sea cliffs and the land behind these as well as several upland areas further inland of the coast. A large population of Chough have been recorded from this site. They are breeding both on the sea cliffs and at the old copper mines at Allihies. The SPA protects Chough feeding and breeding sites, as well as areas where birds flock in the wintertime. The site is also important for breeding seabird species including Fulmar, Black Guillemot, Shag, Gull spp and Razorbill.</p> <p>Beara Peninsula SPA Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Maintain Chough feeding, wintering and breeding habitat.</p>
4156	Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA	Peregrine Falcon; Chough	<p>This site encompasses high coast and sea cliffs on the SW coast including Sheeps Head, Mizen Head, Brow Head and Crookhaven, Baltimore, Tragumna,</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Protect breeding habitat for Chough and Peregrine Falcon;</p>

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
			<p>Gokane Point and Toe Head. It includes sea cliff and land inward from these. It also includes areas of sand dune at Barley Cove and Crookhaven. It includes breeding, feeding and flocking areas for an important population of Chough. It also supports breeding sea birds and an important population of Peregrine Falcon. It overlaps with five SACs being Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC, Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC, Barley Cove to Ballyrisode SAC, Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC and the Sheeps Head SAC.</p> <p>Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA Site Data</p>	Protect feeding and flocking sites / habitats used by Chough.
4161	Stacks to Mullaghareirks Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mountain Eagle SPA	Hen Harrier	<p>This is a very large upland site which is located in Cork, Kerry and Limerick. This site supports the largest concentration of breeding Hen Harrier in the country. Short-eared Owl, a species which is very rare in Ireland and also listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive has also been known to breed in this site.</p> <p>Stacks to Mullaghareirks Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mountain Eagle SPA Site Data</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Protect feeding and breeding habitat of Hen Harrier.</p>
4162	Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA	Hen Harrier	<p>This is an upland site located near Millstreet. It supports an important population of breeding Hen Harrier. It also supports a</p>	<p>Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;</p> <p>Protect feeding and breeding habitat of Hen</p>

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
			breeding population of Merlin, a species that is also listed on Annex I of the Birds Directive. Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA Site Data	Harrier.
4190	Galley Heat to Duneen Point SPA	Chough	This site is located south-west of Clonakilty. The site encompasses the sea cliffs where Chough and a number of other bird species breed, and land adjacent to the cliffs which provide feeding habitat for Chough. The site is used by breeding seabirds including Fulmar, Gull spp and Cormorant. It is also a breeding site for the Annex I species, Peregrine Falcon. Galley Heat to Duneen Point SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds; Maintain Chough breeding and feeding habitat within SPA.
4191	Seven Heads SPA	Chough	This site is located south-west of Courtmacherry. It supports an important population of breeding Chough. The SPA includes grassland and heath, freshwater marsh and arable land behind the cliffs which are used as feeding areas by this species. Site also supports breeding seabirds including Fulmar; Gull spp, Cormorant as well as breeding Peregrine Falcon. Seven Heads SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds; Maintain Chough breeding and feeding habitat within SPA.
4192	Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA	Cormorant; Peregrine Falcon; Herring Gull; Kittiwake; Chough	This site which runs along the SW coast of Co. Waterford. The site includes sea cliffs which are used by breeding sea birds,	Prevent disturbance to breeding birds; Prevent disturbance to breeding birds;

Table 3: Natura 2000 Sites In Co. Cork and Within 15km of Co. Cork

Site Code	Site Name	Qualifying Interests	Features of biodiversity note and links to site data	Key planning requirements to protect / restore site integrity
			and coastal heath behind the cliffs. The site supports a population of Chough, as well as an important breeding seabird population which includes Cormorant, Gull spp., Kittiwake, Razorbill, Fulmar, Shag, Guillemot and Black Guillemot. It also supports a population of breeding Peregrine Falcon. Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA Site Data	Maintain Chough breeding and feeding habitat within SPA.
4219	Courtmacsherry Estuary SPA	Great Northern Diver; Shelduck; Wigeon; Red-breasted Merganser; Golden Plover; Lapwing; Dublin; Black-tailed Godwit; Car-tailed Godwit; Curlew; Black-headed Gull; Common Gull; Wetlands and Waterbirds	This is a largely estuarine in nature and consists of the drowned valley of the Argideen and Kilbrittain Rivers. The site overlaps with Courtmacsherry SAC. It is of particular importance for the range and numbers of wintering birds that feed on the wetland habitats of the estuary some of which occur in nationally and internationally important numbers. Courtmacsherry Estuary SPA Site Data	Prevent disturbance to wintering birds; Maintain /restore a high standard of water quality in discharging rivers and transitional coastal zones in bay area; Prevent direct loss of estuarine habitats within the SAC; Prevent drainage of wetland habitats; Prevent contamination or deterioration of estuarine habitats.

5 Consideration of Cumulative Impacts

5.1 Policies with Potential to Impact on Water Quality

This plan sets out population targets to 2022 for the County, including increases in populations within a number of sensitive catchments including the catchment of the Blackwater River, the Bandon River, the Blackwater Estuary, Cork Harbour, Clonakilty Bay, Roaringwater Bay and Glengarriff Harbour. Increases in population in these catchments could result in increased levels of nutrient input to receiving waters, increased levels of sediment run-off, increased risk of chemical pollution and increased levels of surface water run-off to receiving waters. Without appropriate mitigation which will require investment in wastewater infrastructure and surface water management, these impacts could be significant when considered cumulatively with similar impacts

arising from existing development within the catchment as well as other land uses in particular agriculture and forestry. **Food Harvest 2020** is national policy which seeks to increase the value of outputs in the agriculture, fisheries and forestry sector in Ireland over the coming years. Intensification of activities within these sectors has the potential to increase pressure on water quality, particularly in sensitive freshwater catchments, which could be significant when considered in combination with development provided for in this plan and in other land use plans including the Electoral Area Local Area Plans, the upcoming Municipal District Plans, Town Plans, Strategic Development Zones and Masterplans.

5.2 Renewable Energy Policies and Potential for Disturbance Related Impacts on Birds

This plan establishes the renewable energy policy for the County to 2022. A significant number of wind energy projects have already been developed or permitted for development within areas that are known to be of importance and which are designated for the protection of a particular species of bird known to be sensitive to turbines (the Hen Harrier). This is a particular issue across the counties of Cork, Kerry and Limerick within and around the Stack's to Mullaghareirks, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle Bog Special Protection Area which is designated for this species. The Hen Harrier are known to avoid suitable breeding and foraging habitat around wind farms, and may also be vulnerable to collision risk. Further developments of this type in this area could have the potential to have significant negative impacts on this species when considered cumulatively, having regard to the number of projects of this type which have been permitted in this area, and having regard to other activities (particularly forestry) which have also caused a loss of availability of suitable habitat to the birds within this area.

5.3 Recreational / Tourism Policies

There is a strong emphasis within the plan on the development of the tourism industry, and in particular the development of the heritage tourism sector, including the development of walking and cycling routes and facilities, as well as the development of the marine leisure sector. Such developments make an important contribution to the economy of the County, but could have the potential to increase pressures on certain Natura 2000 sites. Of particular concern is the potential for increased levels of disturbance to birds which could arise from increased pedestrian / cycling activity adjacent to important winter feeding/roosting areas in the estuaries. Some of these areas which have been identified to be of interest for the development of future walking and cycling amenities, in particular in Cork Harbour, already experience a relatively high level of human activity along or adjacent to the shoreline. Further intensification of disturbance in these areas could be significant when considered cumulatively with other activities within and adjacent to the shoreline which are causing disturbance. Intensification of tourism based activities in upland and coastal areas within Natura 2000 sites, in particular the development or intensification of use of walking routes, could have the potential to contribute to significant negative impacts on heath and bog habitat types.

5.4 Pressure for Development In the Cork Harbour Area

The draft County Development Plan supports significant development initiatives within the area of Cork Harbour relating to

- the movement of Port activities to new locations within the harbour;
- the intensification of Port related activities within the Harbour;

- the development of energy production related activities in the Whitegate area;
- the intensification of industrial related activities Strategic Employment Centres around the harbour at Little Island, Ringaskiddy, Whitegate and Carrigtwohill;
- the development or upgrade of roads infrastructure around the Harbour;
- the promotion of marine leisure activities within the Harbour; and
- the development of Greenways around the Harbour area.

Potential for such activities to give rise to disturbance to birds or to affect water quality has been addressed above. However, there is also the potential for these initiatives to have the potential to have direct negative impacts on coastal habitats by increasing human access to estuarine habitats within the harbour, and by increasing pressure for the development of flood protection infrastructure and for the development of ports and roads infrastructure within this sensitive coastal zone. Impacts on dynamic coastal habitats from such developments could arise if sufficient space is not provided to allow such habitats to retreat as sea levels rise and could be significant when considered cumulatively with the current level of development and activity in the Harbour area.

6 Summary of Assessment of the Draft Plan

(full details are contained in *Natura Impact Report the Draft County Development Plan, December 2013*)

6.1 Sites for Which No Impacts Were Identified

All of the above listed sites were screened to determine whether policies set out in the draft County Development Plan could have implications for any of these sites. Each policy was examined having regard to these sites to see whether they could have the potential to give rise to

- direct loss of habitat within any Natura 2000 site;
- indirect impacts on any Natura 2000 site which could affect quality of habitats within any Natura 2000 site;
- disturbance to species for which any Natura 2000 site is designated;
- a reduction in richness or density of species for which any Natura 2000 site is designated;
- negative changes in indicators of conservation value (eg water quality) in any Natura 2000 site.

Regard was had in the completion of the screening to objective HE 2-1 (protection of sites designated for nature conservation), to other environmental objectives, as well as to caveats included in certain development orientated objectives (see section 3.2) in the completion of this screening. No implications were identified for any of the sites listed in **Table 4** below, having regard to these policies. Full details of the screenings which were completed are contained in **Appendix I** of the *Natura Impact Report the Draft County Development Plan, December 2013*.

Table 4: List Of Natura 2000 Sites For Which Negative Impacts Were Screened Out At The Draft Development Plan Stage.

0077 Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC
0090 Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC
0093 Caha Mountains SAC
0102 Sheep's Head to Toe Head SAC
0108 The Gearagh SAC
0109 Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC
0353 Old Domestic Buildings, Dromore SAC
0364 Kilgarvan Ice House SAC
0365 Killarney National Park, Magillicuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC
0646 Galtee Mountains SAC
1040 Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC
1043 Cleanderry Wood SAC
1061 Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC
1070 Myross Wood SAC
1230 Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC
1547 Castletownshend SAC
1873 Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC
1879 Glanmore Bog SAC
1881 Maulagowna Bog SAC
2036 Ballyhoura Mountains SAC
2037 Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC
2041 Old Domestic Building, Curraglass Wood SAC
2123 Ardmore Head SAC
2137 Lower River Suir SAC
2158 Kenmare River SAC

Table 4: List Of Natura 2000 Sites For Which Negative Impacts Were Screened Out At The Draft Development Plan Stage.

2165 Lower River Shannon SAC
2173 Blackwater River (Kerry) SAC
2189 Farranamanagh Lough SAC
2098 Old Domestic Building, Askive Woods SAC
2257 Moanour Mountain SAC
2280 Dunbeacon Shingle SAC
2281 Reen Point Shingle SAC
2315 Glanlough Woods SAC
4021 Old Head of Kinsale SPA
4022 Ballycotton Bay SPA
4038 Killarney National Park SPA
4066 Bull and the Cow SPA
4094 River Blackwater Callows SPA
4095 Kilcolman Bog SPA
4124 Sovereign Islands SPA
4155 Beara Peninsula SPA
4156 Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA
4190 Galley Head to Duneen Point SPA
4191 Seven Heads SPA
4192 Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA

6.2 Sites Which Could be Impacted by the Draft County Development Plan

Potential for negative impacts to arise in relation to a number of Natura 2000 sites were identified during the screening stage, and recommendations were made to amend the draft plan to modify policies where such impacts were identified, or to complete additional assessment work where impacts were uncertain. Regard was had to the potential for any such impacts to be significant when considered 'in combination' with impacts arising from other sources in the completion of this assessment.

The primary issues identified related to the protection of the sensitive catchments where significant growth is planned (Core Strategy Policies), to the renewable energy policies, and to policies relating to the promotion of tourism activity within or near sensitive sites. Recommendations were made to amend the draft plan to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive in relation to these matters. In addition, recommendations for amendments were made to strengthen the plan and to provide a better balance between policies relating to development and growth, and policies relating to the protection of the environment, where it was considered that this was needed.

It was recommended in the Natura Impact Report that additional assessment work was required in order to determine whether the population targets assigned to certain sensitive catchments (Blackwater River catchment and the catchment of Clonakilty Bay) under the Core Strategy could be accommodated without having impacts on Natura 2000 sites within these catchments. Discussions with representatives of the National Parks and Wildlife Service in February 2014 indicated that further assessment work would also be required in relation to potential for the proposed population targets to give rise to impacts on Cork Harbour and on the Bandon River SAC before these targets could be included in the plan.

Table 5 summarises the sites for which potential for negative impacts were identified during this phase of the assessment process, and the general recommendations which were made in relation to these.

Table 5:
Summary of Screening Assessment, Completed for Natura 2000 Sites Within and Adjacent to Co. Cork

Site Name	Policies Which Could Give Rise To Direct Impacts Causing Habitat Loss	Policies Which Could Give Rise to Indirect Impacts Affecting Habitat Quality	Policies Which Could Cause Disturbance to Qualifying Species	Policies Which Could Cause Reduction In Qualifying Species Richness/ Density	Policies Which Could Cause Changes In Indicators Of Conservation Value	Screening Conclusion
0091 Clonakilty Bay SAC	None	Possible	None	None	Possible	Significant population increase and designation of Clonakilty as a Strategic Employment Centre likely to increase pressures on SAC, particularly relating to protection of water quality. Amendments to draft plan recommended .
0097 Lough Hyne Nature Reserve & Environs SAC	Possible	None	None	None	None	Chapter 9 Onshore wind energy map identifies part of this SAC within area of county where large scale wind energy developments are acceptable in principle. Amendments recommended to draft plan.
0101 Roaringwater Bay & Islands SAC	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Policies promoting economic development RCI 9-2 and RCI 9-3 and tourism development could have the potential to increase

						pressure for development on the inhabited islands of this SAC. Policies relating to development of marine leisure tourism activity have potential to increase disturbance risk to marine mammals. Amendments recommended.
0106 St. Gobnet's Wood SAC	Possible	Possible	None	None	Possible	Changes recommended to Wind Energy Map recommended.
1058 Great Island Channel SAC	Possible	Possible	None	None	Possible	Potential for impacts identified relating to Port activities, designation of Strategic Employment Centres, Core Strategy, upgrading of roads infrastructure within and around the Harbour, allocation of increased population around Harbour, policies relating to tourism and recreation. Amendments recommended.
1890 Mullaghanish Bog SAC	Possible	Possible	None	None	Possible	Changes recommended to Wind Energy Map.

2170 Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC	Possible	Possible	None	Possible	Possible	Potential for significant impacts to arise relating in particular to Core Strategy, Wind Energy Strategy, and provision of roads infrastructure. Amendments recommended to chapters 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 15 of the plan to deal with impacts identified.
2171 Bandon River SAC	Possible	Possible	None	Possible	Possible	Potential impacts identified relating to waste water discharges, and wind energy policy. Amendments recommended to be made to plan re wind energy policy and waste water treatment infrastructure in Dunmanway Town.
4028 Blackwater Estuary SPA	None	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Potential impacts identified relating to inadequate treatment of wastewater and tourism policies. Amendments recommended.
4030 Cork Harbour SPA	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Potential for impacts identified relating to Port activities,

						designation of Strategic Employment Centres, Core Strategy, upgrading of roads infrastructure within and around the Harbour, allocation of increased population around Harbour, policies relating to tourism and recreation. Amendments recommended.
4081 Clonakilty Bay SPA	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Possible	Amendments recommended to draft plan re wind energy policy and provision of waste water infrastructure.
4109 The Gearagh SPA	None	None	Possible	None	None	Amendments recommended to draft plan re wind energy policy and provision of waste water infrastructure.
4161 Stacks to Mullaghareirks Mountains, West Limerick Hills and Mountain Eagle SPA	None	None	Possible	None	None	Amendments recommended to draft plan re wind energy policy and provision of waste water infrastructure.
4162 Mullaghanish to Musheramore Mountains SPA	None	None	Possible	None	None	Amendments recommended to draft plan re wind energy policy and provision of waste water infrastructure.

Table 6 summarises the the recommendations which were made to bring the plan into compliance with the Habitats Directive. The relevant reference number is provided in the table where an amendment was formally proposed by Council members arising from these recommendations.

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
Objective CS 3-1 Network of Settlements	The Core Strategy for the draft plan proposed increases in the population of the settlements in the catchments of the Blackwater River, Cork Harbour and Clonakilty Bay, where deficiencies in waste water infrastructure have been identified, and where there was uncertainty as to whether the proposed populations could be absorbed without having adverse impacts on the integrity of Natura 2000 sites within their catchments.	<p>The following recommendations were included in the NIR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • further detailed assessments are needed to examine the capacity of sensitive water catchments to absorb the population increases set out in plan. • upgrades to the waste water infrastructure serving all settlements within their receiving catchments must be prioritised and must be operational prior to the commencement of discharges. • need to prepare a surface water and waste water management plan for the Blackwater River. All development in the catchment will be required to develop surface water management strategies which comply with this plan. • Core Strategy to be amended to acknowledge constraints, priorities for infrastructure provision. It should be clear that development required to achieve the targets set by the plan <i>cannot proceed</i> until such infrastructure is provided. 	Proposed Changes: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5 and 15.7 respond to this recommendation.

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
CS 4-1 – Metropolitan Cork SPA	Metropolitan Cork surrounds Cork Harbour, an area which hosts two Natura 2000 sites. A very significant proportion of the growth which is targeted for the county will be located within this area. It is considered that there is a lack of sufficient	It was recommended that the protection of the environmental and heritage resources of this area be stated to be a basic principle at the top of the objective.	No change was proposed to CS 4-1.
Objective CS 4-1 d)	acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities associated with the harbour in this objective, which could give rise to pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within or around the harbour.	It was recommended that CS 4-1 d) be amended as follows: In the Cork Harbour area and establish a sustainable balance between competing land-uses to Metropolitan Cork, while protecting the environmental resources of the Harbour.	Proposed change 2.5 provides for this recommendation.
CS 4-2 and CS 4-3 Greater Cork Ring SPA and North Cork SPA	Many of the settlements in the Greater Cork Ring and in the North Cork Strategic Planning Areas are located along the Blackwater River, and a significant proportion of the growth is proposed to be located within the area which forms part of the Cork Gateway is within the catchment of Cork Harbour. It was considered that there is a lack of sufficient	It was recommended that the protection of the Blackwater River SAC be stated to be a basic principle guiding the top of objectives 4-2 and 4-3.	No change proposed to CS 4-2 and CS 4-3 to provide for this recommendation.
Objective CS 4-2 a) Role of Mallow	acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities associated with the areas included in this objective which could give rise pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within this sensitive catchment.	It was recommended that CS 4-2a be amended to highlight particular sensitivities relating to Mallow.	Proposed change 2.7 provides for this recommendation.
Objective CS 4-2 d) Development of villages		It was recommended that CS 4-2 d) be amended as follows: Facilitate the sustainable development of the villages etc.	No change proposed to CS 4-4 however it is stated in section 1.2.8 of the plan that any reference to development in the plan should be considered to refer to sustainable development.
CS 4-4 – The West SPA	The West Cork Strategic Policy Area hosts a large number of Natura 2000 sites. A	It was recommended that the protection of the environmental and heritage resources of this area be stated to be a basic	No change proposed to CS 4-4 to provide for this recommendation.

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
	significant proportion of the growth is targeted within this area. It was considered that there is lack of sufficient acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities of the area included in this objective, which could give rise to pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within or near Natura 2000 sites located here.	principle guiding the future development of Strategic Planning Area at the top of this objective.	
Objective CS 4-4 a) Role of Clonakilty		It was recommended that CS 4-4a) be amended as follows: Recognise the importance of access to educational and cultural facilities, and provide the necessary infrastructure to ensure that this can be achieved while protecting the environmental quality of Clonakilty Bay.	Proposed change 2.8 provides for this recommendation.
Section 4.3.10	The area identified in the plan as a Structurally Weaker Area in the plan was described as being of relatively low environmental sensitivity, despite being located within two sensitive water catchments (catchment of the Blackwater River, and catchment of the Feale River), as well as supporting the largest Special Protection Area in the County.	It was recommended that section 4.3.10 (erroneously referred to as 4.3.8) be amended to take account of environmental resources (Blackwater River SAC, Lower River Shannon SAC, Stacks to Mullaghareirks, Mount Eagle Bogs and West Limerick Hills SPA) associated with this area. The requirement to protect these environmental resources should inform the settlement policy for the area, where protection of very high standards of water quality is important.	Proposed change 4.2 provides for this recommendation.
Section 4.8 Coastal Areas Cork Harbour Study	There has been a significant level of development to facilitate the marine leisure sector, to defend land, and to develop other marine activities within Cork Harbour. Some of this increases human activity within or close to intertidal habitats, and reduces the area of undeveloped intertidal	It was recommended that it be stated in the plan that assessment of future proposals for development which could cause increases in human activity on shoreline habitats within the Cork Harbour SPA, or which could reduce the area of intertidal habitat available to birds must take account of the overall capacity of the SPA to	Proposed change 4.9 provides for this recommendation.

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
	habitat which is available for species of birds for which the SPA has been designated. There is a concern that any further development which increases the level of access to estuarine habitats, or reduces the area of intertidal habitat available to birds within the SPA, may be unsustainable, having regard to the potential for such development to give rise to impacts on birds.	absorb such development, and that future development of coastal recreation facilities in the harbour should only be permitted where it is found that the development will not affect populations or distributions of birds.	
Section 4.9 Islands	This section of the plan promotes and encourages economic development on the islands, but does not highlight the potential constraints on same, or the need for any such development to have regard to the environmental sensitivities. Many of the islands are located within Natura 2000 sites and have other biodiversity/heritage values. It was considered that this could give rise to pressure for development of initiatives which might not be compatible with nature conservation designations.	It was recommended that this section include a paragraph which describes the environmental/ biodiversity/ heritage resources of the islands.	Proposed change 4.11 provides for this recommendation.
Objective RCI 9-2		It was recommended that RCI 9-2 be amended as follows: Support the economic development appropriate to different islands, in a manner that is compatible with environmental and landscape sensitivities as well as nature conservation designations pertaining to the islands.	Proposed change 4.11 provides for this recommendation
Objective RCI 9-3 a)		It was recommended that RCI 9-3 a) be amended as follows: Support sustainable development proposals that are compatible with environmental and landscape sensitivities as well as nature conservation designations pertaining to the islands; and that contribute to the long term economic and social development of the islands.	Proposed change 4.11 provides for this recommendation.
Section 6.4.1	Most of the Strategic	It was recommended that EE 4-1 be amended as follows: Promote	Proposed change 6.2

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
Objective EE 4-1	Employment Centre's identified in the plan are located around Cork Harbour, and development within these areas has the potential to give rise to negative impacts on the Cork Harbour SPA and/or on the Great Island Channel SAC.	the development of Strategic and Whitegate where such development is compatible with relevant environment, nature and landscape protection policies as they apply around Cork Harbour.	provides for this recommendation.
Objective EE 4-4	This objective promotes the development of industry in 'appropriate' locations within the county. However, the criteria which are included in the objective, are relatively limited and make no reference to the environment. It was considered that the objective as worded could encourage pressure for development in environmentally sensitive locations including in Natura 2000 sites.	It was recommended that it be stated in this objective that one of the criteria to be used to identify suitable locations for industrial development in the county would be to locate it in areas of low environmental sensitivity.	Proposed change 6.5 provides for this recommendation.
Section 6.6 Obj. EE 6-1 Obj. EE 6-2	This section focuses on the economic role of Cork Harbour. It was considered that there was insufficient acknowledgement of the biodiversity value/nature conservation status of the Harbour and that the section as worded does not sufficiently flag the environmental sensitivities which may constrain intensification of development.	It was recommended that an additional paragraph be included in section 6-6 EE 6-1 to emphasise that the protection of the environmental/ heritage resources of Cork Harbour will be a guiding principle in the future development of the economic role of the Harbour, and that that special role of Cork Harbour should include recognition of its environmental/ heritage/ ecological values, as well as its economic/employment values.	No change to EE 6-1, however changes were proposed section 6.6.9 to ensure that emphasis was given to recognising environmental resources of the harbour (change 6.8)

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
		<p>It was recommended that section 6.6.5 be amended as follows: Cork County Council is committed to the relocation of port facilities to Ringaskiddy and Marino Point, where this can be achieved in a manner that is compatible with environmental, landscape and nature conservation designations that pertain to the Harbour area, and is in compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>Proposed change 6.7 provides for this recommendation.</p>
		<p>It was recommended that it be stated at the top (rather than at the end) of this objective EE 6-2, that it is a key principle guiding future development of Cork Harbour, that the environmental and heritage resources of the harbour would be protected.</p>	<p>No change to EE 6-2 however a new paragraph was proposed to be include (proposed change 6.8) into section 6.4 which highlights the importance of the environmental and heritage resources of the harbour area.</p>
Obj. EE 9-1	<p>This objective relates to the promotion of business development in rural areas. It was considered that the objective as worded did not provide any safeguards in terms of environmental protection, and could promote pressure for development within areas of high environmental sensitivity, which could give rise to negative impacts on the environment generally, and on Natura 2000 sites in particular.</p>	<p>It was recommended that an additional bullet point be included with EE 9-1 as follows: The development of appropriate new businesses in rural areas will normally be encouraged in areas of low environmental sensitivity especially where: The proposal will not adversely affect the environment or areas designated for nature conservation.</p>	<p>Proposed change 6.9 provides for this recommendation.</p>
Section 8.2	<p>It was considered that section 8.2.2 as currently worded</p>	<p>It was recommended that paragraph 8.2.2 be amended as follows: 'Some of these areas</p>	<p>Proposed change 8.1 provides for this</p>

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	<p>could be taken to suggest that all heritage assets have the potential to be developed as tourism resources, and that this could give rise to pressure for development of tourism initiatives within sensitive locations increasing potential for negative impacts on heritage resources, including potential for negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites.</p>	<p>may have the potential for future tourism a negative impact on the overall character of such areas. Development of ‘heritage’ related tourism activity should be directed only to areas that have been identified to have capacity to absorb increased visitor activity, without causing damage or deterioration to the heritage features of the site or area, or to the surrounding landscape.</p>	<p>recommendation.</p>
Section 8.4	<p>This section of the plan promotes the development of marine infrastructure, to facilitate the continued development of the marine leisure tourism industry with particular reference to Cork Harbour.</p> <p>It was considered that any further development which increases the level of access may be unsustainable, While there are particular concerns relating to Cork Harbour, there are other sites within the county where there is pressure for the development of marine infrastructure within sites designated for nature conservation.</p>	<p>It was recommended that an additional paragraph be included into this section, which establishes protection of the environment generally, and sites designated for nature conservation particularly as a guiding principle which will inform how the marine leisure industry will be developed in the County.</p>	<p>No change was made to section 8.4, however Objective TO 4-1 was amended to ensure that account was taken of this recommendation (Proposed change 8.2)</p>
Section 8.7 and TO 7-1	<p>This section of the plan relates to the promotion of Greenways. One of these routes is located along the periphery of Cork Harbour.</p> <p>A significant portion of the land around the Cork Harbour SPA has been developed for cycling/walking routes, and access to coastal habitats has been increased for purposes</p>	<p>It was recommended that the plan would include text to acknowledge this issue and that it would contain a commitment that no further proposals for development of walking routes or cycleways around Cork Harbour, or for other developments which would increase human activity within the Cork Harbour SPA will be progressed until such time as the</p>	<p>No change proposed however proposed change 8.3 Objective TO 7-1 states that the development of walking and cycling routes will be in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other environmental policies.</p>

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Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
	relating to other types of human use. There is a concern that any further may be unsustainable.	<p>overall capacity of the SPA to absorb such development has been assessed.</p> <p>It was recommended that TO 7-1 be amended as follows: Promote the development of walking and cycling routes throughout the County in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other environmental policies.</p>	Proposed change 8.3 provides for this recommendation.
Objective TO 9-1b)	This section of the plan relates to the development of tourism facilities. However, it was considered that the wording of TO 9-1 b) could be taken to imply that the development of tourism facilities is encouraged within environmentally sensitive areas.	It was recommended that TO 9-1 b) be amended to avoid directing tourism development into environmentally sensitive areas, as follows ‘Consider tourism-related developments outside settlements, in environmentally sensitive locations at an appropriate scale and balance having regard to the pertaining environmental conditions and sensitivities , scenic amenity and availability of services.	Proposed change 8.4 provides for this recommendation.
Section 9.3.14	This section of the plan sets out the general principles which will apply for the development of large scale commercial wind energy projects. Amendments were recommended to clarify the requirements where such applications are made within sensitive catchments, particularly Freshwater Pearl Mussel Catchments within this zone.	<p>It was recommended that sentence 5 paragraph 9.3.14 be amended as follows to highlight the particular sensitivities of freshwater pearl mussel catchments, and to establish the standards which will be required for development in these areas.</p> <p>‘Developers proposing wind energy projects within Freshwater Pearl Mussel Sub Basin Catchments, or in other sensitive catchments, must be able to demonstrate that they have been designed in a manner which</p> <p>prevents any risk of peat slippage or erosion; and which can</p>	Proposed change 9.4 provides for this recommendation.

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

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		<p>ensure the ongoing protection of water quality and levels to standards required to prevent impacts on relevant receptor habitats or species.</p> <p>Higher design standards in terms of environmental protection measures are likely to be required to be included in projects at design stage in sensitive catchments, than might be required in other catchments.'</p>	
<p>Figure 9-2 ED 3-5 and section 9.3.14</p>	<p>A number of SACs were shown on Figure 9-2 of the draft plan within areas where large scale wind energy developments are 'Open to Consideration', and part of one was shown within the Acceptable in Principle Zone. The associated text (9.3.14) stated that Natura 2000 sites and NHA's within 'Acceptable In Principle Areas' are not generally considered suitable for wind farm developments, and policy ED 3-5 states that large scale wind energy developments in these areas are open to consideration where they can avoid adverse impacts on Natura 2000 sites and Natural Heritage Areas.</p> <p>It was considered that there was a lack of consistency between Figure 9-2 and policy ED 3-5. and the figure as shown could encourage prospective developers to develop proposals for wind energy development within a number of Natura 2000 sites. It was considered that this</p>	<p>It was recommended that Figure 9-2 be amended to show all Natura 2000 sites within the 'Normally Discouraged' wind energy category to ensure that the plan maps are compatible with plan policy, and to ensure that the plan does not encourage individuals to seek to develop a large scale wind energy project within any Natura 2000 site.</p>	<p>Proposed change 9.4 provides for this recommendation.</p>
		<p>It was recommended that paragraph 9.3.14 be amended to reflect the recommended changes in Figure 9-2).</p>	<p>Proposed change 9.7 provides for this recommendation.</p>

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	<p>position is not compatible with the conservation objectives for these sites, and It was recommended, in the interest of clarity, to show all Natura 2000 sites within the 'Normally Discouraged' wind energy category on figure 9-2.</p>		
	<p>Some SPAs were shown on figure 9-2 to be located within close proximity to areas where large scale wind energy developments are 'Open to Consideration'. A number of species for which the coastal/wetland SPAs are designated display evidence of avoidance of habitat around turbines at distances of up to 800m. Having regard to such evidence, it was recommended that the boundary of the 'Open to Consideration' area be amended to ensure that all parts of these SPAs are >800m from this zone.</p> <p>Two SPAs have been designated for Hen Harrier. There is evidence that this species avoids suitable breeding/foraging habitat within 500m of turbines. Both of the Hen Harrier SPAs are located within 300m of areas where large scale wind energy developments are open to consideration.</p> <p>It was considered that the map as shown has the potential to promote development in areas where</p>	<p>It was recommended that the boundary of the 'Open to Consideration' wind energy zone be amended ensure that all parts of coastal and inland wetland SPAs within the county are a minimum of 800m from 'Acceptable in Principle' or 'Open to Consideration' zones, and that all parts of the upland SPAs are a minimum of 500m from these zones.</p>	<p>Proposed changes 9.7 and 9.8 provide for this recommendation.</p>

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	disturbance to birds could be caused within SPAs.		
Section 9.3.16	This section of the plan encourages proposals for the generation and consumption of electricity in a single premises in all areas of the County, and contains a particular reference to Strategic Employment Centres around Cork Harbour. A number of these SECs are located adjacent to the Cork Harbour SPA, and the development of large scale turbines, even those for the generation and supply of electricity on site, could have the potential to have negative impacts on species of birds for which the SPA is designated.	It was recommended that the fact that most of the SECs are located within close proximity to the Cork Harbour SPA be recorded in this section, and that it be stated in the plan that account will be taken of the potential for any such developments within these areas to affect the SPA as part of the planning assessment.	No change to section 9.3.16, however change proposed to ED 3-7 (proposed change 9.6) covers this issue.
Objective TM 3-1	This section of the plan relates to the provision/upgrading of nationally important roads infrastructure for the County, and TM 3-1 sets out Councils intentions to seek the support of the NRA to implement of a number of roads projects seen to be key to ensuring the success of the Core Strategy. Some of these routes run within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites, or will require new river crossings within sensitive catchments (M20), and these could have the potential to give rise to negative impacts on a number of Natura 2000 sites (see Appendix A). None of them have been identified to be likely to give rise to	It was recommended that TM 3-1 include an additional bullet point as follows: a) Ensure all upgrades to listed routes are planned, designed and constructed to avoid and prevent significant negative impacts on sites designated for nature conservation, and other environmental or heritage resources.	No proposed changes to TM 3-1.

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	<p>direct loss of habitat within Natura 2000 sites. Adherence to high environmental standards will be required during the planning, design and construction phases of these projects, however, at this point, It was considered that these proposals can be progressed without having or contributing to negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site, subject to compliance with appropriate environmental codes of practise (CIRIA Guidelines) and assuming that no significant proposals for new route development through Natura 2000 sites is proposed. Very high standards of environmental mitigation will be required to be incorporated into road design in the catchment of the Blackwater River, than may be required for similar developments in less sensitive catchments. It was considered that this needs to be emphasised in the plan.</p>		
Objective TM 3-2	<p>This section of the plan relates to the provision/upgrading of regionally important roads infrastructure for the County, and TM 3-2 sets out Councils intentions in terms of the implementation of a number of regional roads projects. Some of these routes run within or adjacent to Natura 2000 sites, or will require new channel crossings within sensitive catchments, and these could have the potential to give rise to</p>	<p>It was recommended that the upgrade of the R624 be removed from this list until such time as a viable option for the route has been designated, has been identified and subject to Appropriate Assessment if required.</p> <p>It was recommended that TM 3-1 include an additional bullet point as follows:</p> <p>Ensure all upgrades to listed routes are planned, designed and constructed to avoid and</p>	<p>Proposed changes 10.10 and 10.11 provide for this recommendation.</p>

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	<p>negative impacts on a number of sites (see Appendix A).</p> <p>It was considered that most of these can be progressed without having or contributing to negative impacts on any Natura 2000 site, subject to sensitive planning, design, construction and management. However, in the case of the R624 Cobh road, no route / channel crossing has been identified to date which avoids the potential to give rise to direct loss of annexed habitats within the Great Island Channel SAC. For that reason, It was recommended that this proposal be omitted from the plan until such time as the scheme has been developed in further detail and has been subjected to Habitats Directive Assessment.</p> <p>Adherence to high environmental standards will be required for the planning, design and construction phases of these projects, and this needs to be emphasised within the text of the plan. Higher standards of environmental mitigation will be required to be incorporated into road design in the catchment of the Blackwater and the Bandon Rivers, than may be required for similar developments in less sensitive catchments, and It was recommended that this be reflected in the plan.</p>	<p>prevent significant negative impacts on sites designated for nature conservation, other environmental or heritage resources.</p>	

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Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
Port of Cork Section Objective TM 5-2	This section of the plan relates to the role of Cork Harbour as a nationally important Port, and sets out Councils position in terms of supporting Port of Cork proposals for the relocation of Port facilities to Marino Point and Ringaskiddy. It was considered that there is a lack of sufficient acknowledgement of the environmental sensitivities associated with Cork Harbour included in this objective which could give rise pressure for excessive or inappropriate development within the harbour area.	It was recommended that an additional paragraph be included in this section, highlighting the environmental/heritage resources of the Port, and emphasising that the protection of these resources is a key principle which will guide future development of these resources.	No proposed changes to TM 5-2 , but a cross link to objective EE 6-2 Cork Harbour was included and a new paragraph was proposed to be included in the final plan (para 10.5.18) (change 10.12).
		It was recommended that bullet point TM 5-2 c) be amended as follows: Support Ringaskiddy as the preferred location for the relocation of the majority of port related activities. Also recognising the key role that Marino Point can play in providing an alternative relocation option for some of the port related uses that could best be served by rail transport. The Council is committed to engage with the Port of Cork and other relevant stakeholders in achieving this objective in a manner that is compatible with environmental, landscape and nature conservation designations that pertain to the harbour area.	No proposed changes to TM 5-2. However a link to objective EE 6-2 was included in the final plan.
Chapter 11 Water Services and Waste			
Water Services Investment Programme	This section of the plan relates closely to the Core Strategy and sets out Councils policy and priorities relating to the provision of water and waste water services. The objective as currently worded does not prioritise the delivery of wastewater treatment facilities for a number of settlements within	It was recommended that WS 2-1 a) be amended to ensure that WWTPs causing or contributing to negative impacts on nature conservation sites be included in the priority list for the County. Suggested text for amendment as follows: Prioritise the provision of water services infrastructure in <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • all settlements where services 	Proposed changes 11.3, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5 and 15.7 deal with this issue.

Table 6: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening Process For the Draft Plan

Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
	<p>the catchments of the Blackwater River, Cork Harbour and Clonakilty Bay, including some that are currently overloaded, are failing to meet license conditions, or have insufficient capacity to meet future needs. It was considered that that a failure to prioritise the provision of adequate waste water services within settlements in these catchments would be likely to interfere with the achievement of the conservation objectives that apply to the Natura 2000 sites occurring in them. This position is not compatible with obligations of the Water Framework Directive or the Habitats Directive, and It was recommended that the plan be amended to give priority to the resolution of these issues.</p>	<p>are not meeting current needs, are failing to meet existing license conditions, and where these deficiencies are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ interfering with Councils ability to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive; or ○ having negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites; and <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● the Gateway, Hub and Main Towns to complement the overall strategy for economic and population growth while ensuring appropriate protection of the environment 	
Table 11.1	<p>This table identifies the current status of water and waste water services in the main settlements of the County, and identifies at a broad level what the requirements are to bring infrastructure up to a standard to allow planned development to progress. It was considered that the wording for the red and orange coded settlements does not provide sufficient clarity to ensure the full protection of water resources in sensitive catchments, and amendments to the wording are recommended to provide additional clarity in relation to</p>	<p>It was recommended that Table 11.1 be amended as follows:</p> <p><i>Change wording of orange coding to reflect the following:</i></p> <p>Some new development may proceed where this can take place without overloading existing waste water treatment systems, or cause a breach in discharge license conditions; and where the development will not require increasing levels of abstraction from surface waters within sensitive catchments which would give rise to negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites, or prevent compliance with the</p>	<p>Proposed change 11.8 deals with this issue.</p>

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	<p>these issues.</p> <p>The settlements of Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty do not have the capacity to meet current or future needs, and discharges from these settlements are to waterbodies within water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. In addition the towns of Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty are currently failing to meet license conditions for discharges. The orange coding on these sites could suggest that some development can proceed in these towns, however having regard to the fact that the current treatment regime in each of these towns is likely to be causing or contributing to negative impacts within water sensitive Natura catchments, It was recommended that the waste water treatment coding for these towns be changed to red. It is further recommended that the coding of Dunmanway be changed to red, as plant is currently breaching license conditions, and discharge point is to Bandon River within water sensitive SAC.</p>	<p>Water Framework Directive.</p> <p><i>Change wording of red coding to reflect the following:</i></p> <p>Strategic Infrastructure Deficit. Planned development will require further infrastructure investment to allow projected development to proceed.</p> <p>In relation to wastewater, this must be provided prior to the commencement of discharges from new development, and to operating specifications which can ensure that license discharge limits set by the EPA to prevent impacts on water quality for settlements within the sensitive catchments including the catchments of Natura 2000 sites. These specifications are likely to be higher in sensitive catchments.</p> <p>New surface water abstractions or increased abstraction levels from existing sources within sensitive catchments should only progress following Environmental Impact and Habitats Directive Assessment, and where it can be shown that these would not affect water levels in water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. Direct abstraction of surface waters from EU designated rivers or lakes is unlikely to</p>	

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Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
		<p>be compatible with the conservation objectives of such sites.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was recommended that coding of Cobh, Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty be changed to red for waste water, as these towns do not have the capacity to meet current or future needs, and discharges from these settlements are to waterbodies within water sensitive Natura 2000 sites. Carrigtwohill and Clonakilty are currently failing to meet license conditions for discharges. • It was recommended that the coding of Dunmanway be changed red, as plant is currently breaching license conditions, and discharge point is to Bandon River within water sensitive SAC. 	
Section 11.5		It was recommended that a new objective/text be inserted to prepare a surface water management plan for the catchment of the Blackwater, to ensure that surface water run-off is managed in order to prevent impacts on this SAC.	Proposed change 11.6 provides for this recommendation.

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Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
<p>Objective WS 5-2</p> <p>Section 11.5 and Objective WS 5-3</p>	<p>This objective relates to the protection of river banks and channels. However, the objective referred only to development within zoned land, and It was considered that it did not provide sufficient protection to river banks or riparian areas outside zoned areas. It was considered that the policy as worded failed to provide adequate protection to watercourses and has the potential to give rise to negative impacts on water quality. It was recommended that the policy be amended to apply restrictions to development adjacent to watercourses to all land, not just land that is zoned for development. From an AA perspective this should apply to water sensitive Natura catchments, but it may be appropriate to apply to all catchments from SEA perspective.</p>	<p>It was recommended that objective WS 5-2 be amended to apply restriction in relation to development adjacent to watercourses to all land outside urban areas, not just zoned land.</p>	<p>Proposed change 11.10 provides for this recommendation.</p>
<p>Objective WS 6-2</p>	<p>Section 11.6 sets out Councils flood risk policy, and objective 6-2 sets out policy in relation to flood risk areas. Development within flood risk areas not only has the potential to impact on buildings or other infrastructure, or to affect flood storage capacity in river systems, but it also has the potential to give rise to negative impacts on downstream Natura 2000 sites who require the maintenance of high standards of water quality, and/or the protection</p>	<p>It was recommended that objective WS 6-2 be amended to include a further caveat to ensure that development within flood plains of Natura 2000 sites designated for species or habitats requiring the protection of high standards of water quality to ensure the protection of their favourable conservation status, shall only be permitted where they have been assessed and found not to have the potential to give rise to significant negative impacts, or adverse impacts on such sites.</p>	<p>Proposed change 11.12 provides for this recommendation.</p>

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Policy Ref	Summary of Issue	Summary of Recommendations Contained in Natura Impact Report	Changes Incorporated into Proposed Amendments published 21 st August 2014
	of stable hydrological regimes to maintain their favourable conservation status. It was recommended that the policy be amended to deal with this issue.		
Chapter 13 Green Infrastructure			
	It was considered that policy relating to the protection of surface waters, coastal waters or transitional waters was less clearly stated in this chapter than policy in relation to the protection of groundwater (GI 1—2 and GI 1-3). It was recommended that Council policy in relation to the protection of all water should be clearly stated in the plan.	It was recommended that new sections / policies be inserted into this chapter relating to the protection of surface waters and transitional waters (as per the section dealing with Groundwater) with particular emphasis on protection of surface waters in sensitive catchments, including Natura 2000 catchments.	Proposed change 13.3 provides for this recommendation.
Chapter 14 Zoning and Land Use			
Seveso Sites Objective ZU 5-2	This section of the plan relates to the Seveso II Directive. Objective ZU 5-2 sets out the criteria that Council will have regard to when assessing applications for development of new 'Seveso' industries. It was considered that the objective to does not put sufficient emphasis on the need to have regard to negative impacts on the environment generally, or on Natura 2000 sites in particular when considering appropriate locations for such industries, which could give rise to pressure for development of inappropriate industries in areas of high environmental sensitivity, particularly if these areas fulfil the other criteria set out in the	It was recommended that an additional bullet point be included in SU 5-2 as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential adverse impacts on the environment 	No change proposed.

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	objective. It was recommended that the objective be amended to include consideration of the environment as one of the key criteria in identifying appropriate locations for 'Seveso' developments.		
Chapter 15 Putting the Plan Into Practise			
Table 15.2	As per recommendations set out in this table, it was recommended that amendments be made to the critical infrastructure list to include waste water treatments plants in sensitive settlements, to exclude the R624 and to ensure that the relocation of the discharge point for the Dunmanway WWTP to a site downstream from the Bandon River SAC, in the interest of ensuring the protection of a number of Natura 2000 sites, where potential for impacts have been identified through the screening process.	It was recommended that table 15.2 be amended as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove R624 upgrade until viable route and river crossing has been designed; • Include all WWTPs that are currently failing to meet license requirements, or have insufficient capacity to meet current needs and where that failure has the potential to have adverse impacts on EU designated sites, on the critical infrastructure short term priority list (add Clonakilty); • Prioritise the relocation of the discharge point for Dunmanway to downstream from the SAC. 	Proposed changes 10.10, 10.11, 11.6, 11.7, 15.5 and 15.7 provide for this recommendation.

6.3 Issues relating to the protection of Natura 2000 network raised at the draft Development Plan Stage – Public Consultation Submissions.

All of the submissions which were made during the public consultation phase for the draft plan were summarised in the Section 12(4) Chief Executives Report (published 23rd June 2014), and recommendations were made to Council members to make amendments to the plan on foot of same. On 21st August proposed amendments were published following consideration by Council Members of the Chief Executives Report. Some of these amendments related to recommendations arising from the Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA) process, and some arising from submissions made by Statutory Authorities which also related to the protection of the Natura 2000 network. Of particular importance in relation to the HDA process was the submission of the Department of Arts,

Heritage and the Gaeltacht which included specific recommendations to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. **Table 7** summarises submissions which were made relating to the draft plan which were pertinent to the Habitats Directive. The relevant reference number is provided in the table where an amendment was proposed arising from these recommendations.

Table 7: Details Of Submissions On The Draft Plan Which Referenced Appropriate Assessment

Submitter	Aspects of submission relevant to AA	Response /Outcome
<p>Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht</p>	<p>Identifies four critical conservation issues for compliance with the EU Habitats Directive as follows</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that further development in settlements in the upper part of the Blackwater River will not adversely affect the high level of water quality required by freshwater pearl mussel populations in this river; • Ensuring that further development discharging via the wastewater treatment systems (Carrigtwohill, Midelton) into the Great Island Channel will not adversely affect the site; • Ensuring that provision for the upgrade of the R624 (Cobh/Marino road) can proceed without adverse effects on, or loss of habitat from, Great Island Channel cSAC; • Ensuring that development proposed for Dunmanway will not adversely affect the Bandon River SAC downstream, where a population of the freshwater pearl mussel and the priority habitat alluvial woodland occurs. 	<p>Proposed changes: 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 15.5 and 15.7 relate to issues relating to sensitive catchments.</p> <p>Proposed changes 10.10 and 10.11 relate to objective TM 3-2 which provides for the development of the Cobh Road.</p>
	<p>Requests reference to sustainable development to be included in objectives relating to delivery of infrastructure TO 1-2, TO-71, ED 1-1, ED 4-3, ED 6-3, ED 7-1, TM 2-1, TM 2-2 a and d, TM 3-1 a and b, TM 5-2 f, TM 6-1 b, WS 4-1a, RC 9-2, EE 91</p>	<p>The term “sustainable development” is included in the preamble to the Principle Act therefore the plan is required by law to provide for sustainable development. In order to reinforce this point “Sustainability” has been identified as a Development Plan Principle in Chapter 1, Para 1.2.6 and the following text has been included “Any reference to development in this plan should be considered to refer to sustainable development”. Therefore it is considered that this issue has been comprehensively dealt with. No change proposed.</p>

	States that objective HOU 1-1 Joint Housing Strategy must be screened if objective to implement this strategy is to be included in CDP.	The key elements of the Joint Housing Strategy are included in Chapter 2 “Core Strategy”, Chapter 3 “Housing” and Appendix B. All of these have been subject to full SEA and AA. No change proposed.
	WS 6-1 states that SW CFRAM Study must be screened if obj to implement this is to be included in CDP	The Lee CFRAM Study Natura Impact Statement is currently with the DAHG DAU and Inland Fisheries of Ireland for a 6-week consultation (29.04.14 - 10.06.2014) after which OPW will prepare the AA Conclusion Statement and publish the Final CFRMP. The Draft Plan will be amended if necessary. No change proposed.
	HOU 3-1 (c) – needs to be clarified – relates to urban footpaths, not recreational paths along rivers etc.	Proposed change 3.2 clarifies that this objective relates to urban footpaths only.
	RCI 4-6 Structurally weaker areas. Needs to include option for refusal of developments which could, by their location have adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites.	Proposed change 4.2 provides additional text to highlight the sensitivities relating to the Natura 2000 network that pertain in this area.
	RCI 4-8 Rural housing exceptional health circumstances. Needs to include qualification that developments permitted under this policy need to be subject to compliance with environmental policies and objectives of the plan.	Proposed change 4.3 ensures that it is clear that all objectives relating to rural housing will be assessed in conjunction with all other policies and objectives in the plan, including objectives relating to the protection of the Natura 2000 network.
	RCI 7-4 Include another bullet point to ensure no damage to be caused to sites used by strictly protected wildlife.	Proposed change 4.7 provides for a change to Objective RCI 7-4 which deals with this recommendation.

	<p>RCI 8-3 (c) suggests strengthening of this objective to ensure compliance with Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>This objective is renumbered RCI 9-3 in the final plan. No change was proposed, as it was considered that the objective was sufficiently worded to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. A cross reference to HE 2-1 was provided.</p>
	<p>RCI 9-4 some uninhabited islands used by breeding seabirds and breeding seals will require access restrictions during the breeding season.</p>	<p>Proposed change 4.11 provides for the inclusion of an additional paragraph was included (4.10.8) to cover this issue.</p>
	<p>ED 3-2 Inconsistent wording refers to areas 'unsuitable' for wind energy, differs from map and policy.</p>	<p>Proposed change 9.1 corrects this inconsistency.</p>
	<p>ED 3-5 (Areas open to consideration for wind energy). States that full AA is required for this objective in relation to certain Natura sites, as they are identified as falling into this zone.</p>	<p>Proposed change 9.4 clarifies that the area designated as Open to Consideration for wind energy developments excludes all Natura 2000 sites.</p>
	<p>ED 6-1 Recommends that infrastructure connections to windfarms be fully assessed as part of the wind farm and renewable energy application to avoid project splitting.</p>	<p>Proposed change 9.10 provides for this recommendation.</p>
	<p>TO 9-1 b note that is some designated sites there may be no environmental capacity for tourism related developments.</p>	<p>Proposed change 8.4 provides for these recommendations.</p>
	<p>TO 9-1 c include ref to requirement for environmental assessment of any such developments as required</p>	
	<p>TO 9-2 d retail developments may not be suitable in a number of natural semi natural tourist attractions</p>	
	<p>TM 1-1b North and West Cork Strategic Plan requires screening and elements are likely to require AA as this is the plan which is the basis for transport plans.</p>	<p>Proposed change 10.2 removes the reference to the North and West Strategic Plan from this objective.</p>
	<p>TM 3-1 f Re NRAs policy on services areas and rest areas on motorways requires screening if it is to be supported in the CDP.</p>	<p>Proposed change 10.9 provides for revisions to TM 3-1 to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>

	TM 3-2 Belvelly Road. This objective requires full AA.	Proposed change 10.10 provides for a revision of this objective to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.
	WS 2-1 a change environmental regulations change to environmental legislation. Include plants that may be having impacts on Natura on priority list.	Proposed change 11.7 provides for this recommendation.
	HE 2-1 Include additional sub – objective requiring planning applications affecting Natura 2000 sites to submit assessment reports.	This issue is covered in section 12.2.5 of the plan. No change proposed.
Department of Environment and Local Government.	This submission recommends that the plan would benefit from additional measures and safeguards to protect particular aspects of the biodiversity of the county, notably the interrelationship between the management of the Freshwater Pearl Mussel stocks on the Blackwater and appropriate future development of key towns along the river catchment. Views of NPWS will be relevant.	Submission did not make recommendations for amendments to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. No changes proposed.
Environmental Protection Agency	Recommends that Objective CS 4-4 (g) be amended to state that it is subject to the requirements of the Habitats, Birds, Waterframework, SEA and EIA Directives.	Proposed changed 2.9 provides for this recommendation.
	Recommends change to TO 4-1a be amended to include a caveat relating to compliance with environmental legislation including the Habitats and Birds Directives.	This recommendation is provided for in proposed change 8.2
	Recommends that Objective ED 3-4 be amended to include a caveat relating to compliance with environmental legislation including the Habitats and Birds Directives.	This recommendation is provided for in proposed change 9.3
	Recommends that Recommends that Objective ED 4-1 be amended to include a caveat relating to compliance with environmental legislation including the Habitats and Birds Directives.	This recommendation is provided for in proposed change 9.9
	Recommends change to GI 13-2 to include reference to Natura 2000 sites.	No change proposed.
Irish Water	In its submission Irish Water commits to working with Cork County Council towards achieving and maintaining required water quality standards in the Blackwater and in Cork Harbour.	Submission did not make recommendations for amendments to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. No changes proposed.
Irish Wildlife Trust	Recommends that recommendations contained in the Natura Impact Report be implemented.	No change proposed.
	Recommends that assessments of assimilative capacity of Blackwater, Clonakilty Bay and Cork Harbour be completed.	No change required to be made to plan

	Recommends specific references to articles 6 and 10 of the Habitats Directive to be incorporated into EE 4-1	Proposed change 6.2 provides for this recommendation.
	Recommends that objective SC 5-5 Strategic Regional Parks be expanded to refer to the necessity for screening or management or re-zoning, plans for public and private Open Space to establish where there may be conflict with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive and with reference to HE 2-4 and HE 2-5.	Cross references to HE 2-3, GI 2-1 and GI 3-1 are provided by proposed change 5.4 to address this issue.
	Recommends change to EE 4-1 to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.	Proposed change 6.2 provides for this recommendation.
	Recommends that section 6.6.5 of chapter 6 is expanded to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.	Proposed change 6.7 provides for this recommendation.
	Recommends changes to ED 4-1 to ensure no impacts on Natura sites, or on fisheries.	Proposed change 9.9 provides for this recommendation.
	Recommends the inclusion of a commitment to prepare a surface water management plan for the Bandon River.	Issue was not raised by Statutory Agencies. No change proposed.
	Recommends that objective WS 6-2 be amended to ensure full account is taken of potential for impacts of development in flood plains on Natura 20000 sites and their qualifying species.	Proposed change 11.2 provides for this recommendation.
	Recommends that objective ZU 2-3 is re-worded to take account of compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	ZU 2-3 is proposed to be deleted. No change proposed.
	Recommends that objective ZU 3-4 is re-worded to take account of compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	Proposed change 14.1 provides for this recommendation.

In addition to the formal submission from the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, a number of meetings were held with representatives from the NPWS to discuss issues relating to sensitive catchments in the early part of 2014. It was indicated at these meetings that further assessment work would be required to determine whether the proposed population targets set for the catchment of Cork Harbour could be accommodated.

The NPWS also wrote to Cork County Council in July 2014 in relation to the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation following a site visit. In that letter they indicated that it cannot be excluded that subsurface flows from the Dunmanway Waste Water Treatment Plant and overflows from the Long Bridge pumping station are having significant effects on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel population within the SAC. They indicated that a full Appropriate Assessment of the projected 25% increase in population for the town would be required.

6.4 Issues Relating to Water Sensitive Catchments

Cork Harbour

On foot of the recommendation of the NPWS, further more detailed assessment of the likely effects of the proposed plan on the Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation within Cork Harbour was commissioned by Cork County Council in May 2014. The outcomes of this study are contained in a report titled *Assessment of the Conservation Status of the Great Island Channel Special Area of Conservation (1058) which was prepared by BEC (Botanical, Environmental and Conservation Consultants Ltd Dublin)*. A summary of that assessment is set out below.

The Great Island Channel has been designated for the protection of two Annex I habitat types, being Mudflats and sandflats (EU Habitat Code [1140]) and Atlantic Salt Meadows (EU Habitat Code [1330]). The current conservation status of these habitats was assessed as follows:

	Area	Structure and Functions	Future Prospects	Overall Assessment
Mudflats	Favourable	Unfavourable-Bad	Unfavourable-Bad	Unfavourable-Bad
Atlantic Salt Meadows	Favourable	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate	Unfavourable-Inadequate

The primary pressures identified on Mudflats and sandflats within this SAC are associated with pollution to surface waters, while impacts arising from fishing and the harvesting of aquatic resources are also an issue in the Cork Harbour area. Waste water treatments plants at Carrigtwohill and Midleton discharge directly into the SAC and both are currently failing to meet the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. Other sources of nutrient input may be arising from leaks in the sewage network around the SAC and from rivers flowing into the SAC. Waste water discharges from other agglomerations in the lower harbour may also be affecting the nutrient status of the SAC as a result of tidal/wind movements. Nutrient inputs to the Great Island Channel SAC from domestic and industrial septic tanks located within the catchment, as well as inputs from agricultural activity including the spread of slurry or fertilisers contribute to negative impacts on water quality. Inadequate water quality is an issue in the SAC, and it is stated that the increased waste water loadings generated by the population targets included in the draft plan would place further pressure on water quality in the SAC.

The main threats to Atlantic Salt Meadow habitat within Cork Harbour relate to reclamation, drainage, pollution, overgrazing and trampling. Coastal squeeze (in which saltmarsh is unable, in the event of rising sea levels, to retreat in a landward direction because of a physical barrier) was identified to be an issue in some locations. The spread of the invasive species *Spartina anglica* may also be an issue which could affect this habitat type in some locations in the Harbour.

Recommendations were included in the report to prioritise the upgrading of waste water treatment infrastructure in the greater Cork Harbour Area (in particular the treatment plants in Carrigtwohill and Midleton) to meet the requirements of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive. It is stated in the report that additional more stringent standards than those set out in the Urban Waste Water Regulations may be required to meet the requirements of the Habitats Directive. In addition to upgrading these plants, it is also suggested in the report that the relocation of discharge points outside sensitive areas may be required.

The assessment concluded that the population targets which have been set for Metropolitan Cork **can be accommodated** without giving rise to adverse impacts on this SAC **provided**

- the proposed upgrades to the Carrigtwohill and Midleton Waste Water Treatment Plants are in place in advance of proposed population increases;
- that the Cork Great Island Channel Pollution Reduction Programme (DEHLG, 2010) is implemented;
- the Water Services (Amendment) Act 2012 and the Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC) continues to be implemented.

The report concludes that the removal of nutrients to the Great Island Channel SAC through the implementation of the above listed changes will allow the functioning of 1140 Mudflats and sandflats to recover. It is also stated that these measures will also have a positive impact on 1130 Atlantic salt meadows, as possible detrimental effects on pioneer saltmarsh communities from excessive green algae growth resulting from eutrophication will be reduced.

Other recommendations are included in the report which relate to the monitoring of spread of *Spartina anglica*, continued monitoring of water quality and the creation of new areas of saltmarsh habitat within the harbour area.

Amendments were proposed to be made to the plan to reflect this position (Amendment ref 2.4 and 11.8).

Blackwater River

Discussions were initiated with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and with Irish Water in relation to the Blackwater River, however, full assessment of the carrying capacity of the Blackwater Catchment could not be completed before the plan was adopted. As this was the case, amendments were proposed to be made to the plan (to indicate that development which would have an adverse effect on the SAC will be put on hold until such time as issues relating to impacts on water quality in this catchment are resolved (proposed amendments 2.3, 2.4, 11.6, 11.7 and 11.8). It is understood that these amendments will result in a pause to development which requires connection to existing treatment plants within this catchment, until

- a) it has been established that the river has the assimilative capacity to accept increased treated discharges, without interfering with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been set for the SAC; and
- b) waste water treatment plants can meet treatment standards required to ensure that discharges from these will not interfere with the achievement of the Conservation Objectives which have been set for the SAC.

All settlements within the catchment with deficient waste water infrastructure are included on the priority list of sites requiring urgent infrastructure upgrade, and Irish Water has indicated that it will work with Cork County Council and other stakeholders towards achieving and maintaining the required water quality in the Blackwater and to providing appropriate waste water treatment for the target populations identified in the County Development Plan where practicable.

Full Appropriate Assessment of the population targets set in the draft Plan for the Blackwater River is still required *before* development which is provided for in the draft Plan can proceed.

Bandon River

Cork County Council received a letter from the National Parks and Wildlife Service in July 2014 which indicates that they consider that it cannot be discounted that discharges from the WWTP combined with overflows from the Long Bridge pumping station at Dunmanway are having significant effects on the Freshwater Pearl Mussel population in the Bandon River Special Area of Conservation. They

have advised that a full Appropriate Assessment of the proposed increase in population for the town is required. This must be completed and any required upgrades to waste water treatment infrastructure must be in place *before* development which is provided for in the draft Plan can proceed. This has been provided for by way of proposed amendments (Amendment Refs 2.3 and 11.8) to the plan.

Clonakilty Bay

A review of water quality data and other information relating to Clonakilty Bay was completed after the publication of the draft County Development Plan, as uncertainty remained as to whether the population targets for the town could be accommodated without giving rise to adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites within the Bay. At present Clonakilty is served by a Waste Water Treatment Plant which provides secondary treatment and which was designed to cater for a population equivalent of 5,333. However, this becomes overloaded in the summertime when the population of Clonakilty expands significantly. A review of EPA license application documents showed that the effluent quality does not meet the standards which are required to meet the Urban Wastewater Treatment regulations for sensitive waters. The estuarine waters at Clonakilty Bay have been classified to be eutrophic and at risk of not achieving good status. The discharge point for the plant is at the estuarine channel of the River Feagle within the Clonakilty Bay Special Area of Conservation and the Clonakilty Bay Special Protection Area. Anoxic conditions have been recorded in the immediate vicinity of the discharge point and the current nutrient loading is likely to be giving rise to negative impacts on the Annex I habitat *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* one of the habitat types for which the SAC is designated. No other habitat types for which the SAC is designated are considered to be vulnerable to impacts relating to water quality.

Work is currently underway to develop a new WWTP for Clonakilty, and it is expected that the plant will be operational by mid 2015. This plant will be capable of treating a population equivalent of 20,500 and will include capacity to reduce remove nitrogen and phosphorous prior to discharge of treated effluent. The population targets for the town are to increase the population to 7,218 by 2022. The WWTP has been designed to take account of an increase in domestic population to 8,802 by 2030, as well as to take account of increased pressure from other sources including industry and tourism, and therefore is designed to meet future longterm needs.

An Appropriate Assessment report was prepared on behalf of Cork County Council in respect of the new WWTP. It concluded that the new WWTP will result in a reduction in organic loading to the bay, and may also reduce the extent of algal mat cover in the bay. The reduction in nutrient loading will be likely to have a positive effect mudflat habitats (one of the qualifying features for which the Clonakilty Bay SAC is designated), a possible return of pollution intolerant fauna. Conversely, the decreased nutrient loading in the estuary may reduce the abundance of pollution tolerant fauna in the inner estuary which provides a food source for winter waders, and therefore improvements in water quality have the potential to give rise to negative impacts on the Clonakilty Bay SPA. However, it is noted in the AA report that the likely reduction in the extent of algal mat cover in the estuary will increase foraging habitat for birds across the estuary and partially mitigate the decrease in invertebrates which will be brought about by a reduction in BOD loading. While the development of the new plant may bring about negative impacts for some of the species of bird for which the SPA is designated, it is acknowledged that the importance of organically enriched areas for birds should not prevent the upgrading of waste water treatment in the interests of the wider environment (Ramsar Convention, 1994).

It is understood that even allowing for the proposed population targets for Clonakilty, improvements in capacity and treatment standards which will be provided when the new WWTP is operational, will

mean that there will be a significant reduction in nutrient loading to Clonakilty Bay, and as per the AA report prepared for the Clonakilty WWTP, this will result in an improvement in the quality of the Annex I habitat *Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide* for which the SAC is designated. It was considered that the population targets which have been set for Clonakilty can be accommodated without giving rise to adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites, provided the proposed upgrade to the WWTP discharging to the bay is in place in advance of the proposed population increases.

7 Summary of Assessment of the Proposed Amendments to the draft Plan

(full details are contained in *Proposed Amendments to the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013, published August 2014*)

7.1 Screening of Proposed Amendments to the Plan

Cork County Council published proposed material amendments to the draft County Development Plan on 21st August 2014. The proposed amendments related to recommendations arising from the Appropriate Assessment process, recommendations arising from the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process, as well as to submissions made by Statutory Authorities, the general public and arising from the deliberations of Council Members. All of these were screened to determine whether they had the potential to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 network during July and August 2014, and the results of that assessment were published and made available online with the proposed amendments in the ***Habitats Directive Assessment Report - Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan (21st August)***.

A summary of this process is provided in **Table 8** below. No implications for the Natura 2000 network were identified for any of the proposed amendments as published. It was recommended that cross references to environmental objectives be provided in relation to some of proposed amendments, and in relation to some of the objectives in the draft plan, where these related to objectives promoting development in particularly sensitive areas. All of these cross links were provided in the final plan.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
Chapter 2: Core Strategy			
2.1	Additional text to be included with paragraph 2.1.3 to include reference to the Dublin Airport Authority.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
2.2	Additional text to be included with paragraphs 2.1.3 and 2.1.7 to state Councils support for the protection of the environment and the maintenance and improvement of biodiversity	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
2.3	<p>Part 1 of this amendment relates to changes to the Core Strategy Table (Table 2-2) and supporting text (replacement of paragraphs 2.2.2-2.2.5) to provide an explanation of calculations included in draft plan relating to population targets and requirements for new housing in each of the Strategic Planning Areas within the County.</p> <p>Part 2 of this amendment relates to proposed changes to tables in Appendix A of the plan which identify population targets and infrastructural requirements for individual settlements in the County.</p> <p>No changes to population targets have been made, however, further detail is provided in the table to show what the current position is in relation to water infrastructure, and what the desired position is for 2022.</p> <p>Footnotes have been added to the table to identify settlements located in sensitive catchments where development will be put on hold until resolution of issues relating to impact on water quality.</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does not in itself give rise to potential impacts on any Natura 2000 site.</p> <p>However, waste water treatment plants in some of the settlements in sensitive catchments which are included in these tables are currently overloaded, and/or some of the plants in particularly sensitive catchments may not be designed to treat water to the standard which is required to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. Furthermore, it remains uncertain as to whether the population targets which have been set for settlements within the Blackwater Catchment, and which are shown in tables which are the subject of this amendment, can be accommodated without interfering with the Conservation Objectives which have been set for the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation (see section 2.1 relating to water sensitive catchments above). It is also uncertain whether</p>	<p>Progression towards the achievement of the population targets for settlements in sensitive catchments will require the completion of Appropriate Assessments for the settlements in Blackwater Catchment and for Dunmanway, and the upgrade of wastewater infrastructure in relevant settlements. These assessments may result in downward revisions of population targets for the relevant settlements, which will be required to be made to the Plan.</p> <p>It was recommended that discussions with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and Irish Water to continue to resolve issues relating to the Blackwater catchment, and the Bandon catchment and to secure implementation of required upgrades to waste water infrastructure in all sensitive catchments.</p>

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	<p>It is important to note that colour coding in the tables is not linked to Appropriate Assessment, and therefore that a green colour coding does not imply that waste water infrastructure for any given settlement is sufficient to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>	<p>population targets which have been set for Dunmanway can be accommodated, as current information suggests that it cannot be discounted that current discharges from the plant are having a negative impact on the SAC.</p> <p>The footnotes to the table set out Councils position that development in particular settlements which could have an adverse effect on any Natura site is on hold until issues relating to impacts on water quality are resolved. This means that there will be a pause to any developments which require connection to treatment plants in settlements within the Blackwater Catchment and in Dunmanway until such time as appropriate assessments have been completed, and any required upgrades to wastewater infrastructure have been put in place.</p> <p>In settlements in other water sensitive catchments where there are issues with plant design or performance that are resulting in negative impacts on Natura sites, this means that there will be a pause to any development requiring connection to these plants until required upgrades to wastewater infrastructure have been completed.</p>	
2.4	<p>Insertion of modified text at paragraphs 2.2.6-2.2.8 to highlight constraints to achievement of population growth targets in sensitive</p>	<p>The proposed amendment does give rise to potential impacts on any Natura 2000 site (see comments re proposed amendment 2.3).</p>	<p>See above.</p>

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	water catchments and to emphasise requirement to prioritise provision of appropriate infrastructure in sensitive catchments.		
2.5	It is proposed to amend objective CS 4-1(d) to provide additional emphasis to environmental resources in Cork Harbour.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
2.6	It is proposed to amend CS 4-1 to state support for the extension of the amenity area between the Lee Fields and Ballincollig Regional Park.	No potential for negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites identified.	No modifications required.
2.7	Insert additional text into CS 4-2(a) referencing requirement to provide necessary infrastructure to ensure that population targets for Mallow Hub can be achieved without having adverse impacts on the receiving environment.	As stated in section 2.1, there is no certainty as to whether the population targets set for settlements in the Blackwater Catchment, including those set for Mallow can be implemented without giving rise to adverse effects on the SAC. The population targets for Mallow must be subject to Appropriate Assessment before they can be progressed.	See recommendations for proposed change 2.3
2.8	Insert additional text into CS 4-4(a) referencing requirement to provide necessary infrastructure to ensure that the establishment of Clonakilty as a Strategic Employment Centre can be achieved while protecting the environmental quality of Clonakilty Bay.	No potential for negative impacts identified (see discussion regarding Sensitive Catchments section 2.1 above).	No modifications required.
2.9	Objective CS 4-4 relates to the development of port facilities at Castletownbere. It is proposed	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	to modify the text of the objective to clarify that future growth and development of Port facilities will be subject to the requirements of environmental legislation.		
2.10	Additional text is proposed to be added to paragraph 2.5.16 which describes Figure 2.7 Core Strategy Diagrammatic Map to reference the important role of the national road network and Cork Airport.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
2.11	Additional information is proposed to be provided in objective CS 4-1 regarding the prioritisation of development in the Metropolitan Cork Gateway to locations in Carrigaline (Shannonpark), Midelton (Waterrock), Carrigtwohill (North of the railway), Ballincollig (Maglin), North Environs (Ballyvolane), Glanmire (Dunkettle), Blarney (Stoneview), Monard and Cobh.	Some of these sites are located in close proximity to or have a hydrological connection to Natura 2000 sites in Cork Harbour. Development in these areas will need to have regard to potential for impact on the Great Island Channel SAC, and on the Cork Harbour SPA, as well as on the environment generally. The masterplans for same will be subject to Habitats Directive Assessment and possibly Strategic Environmental Assessment. The sensitivities of these Natura sites are well flagged within objective CS 4-1, and in other parts of the plan. Subject to investment in appropriate infrastructure and sensitive planning, it is considered likely that these sites can be developed without having negative impacts on these Natura sites. It is not considered that the amendment gives rise to any potential for negative impacts on Natura sites.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
Chapter 3: Housing			
3.1	It is proposed to modify paragraph 3.2.4 to clarify Councils responsibilities to all key stakeholders regarding land supply particularly in the Mallow Hub Town and the Cork Gateway (previously the Construction Industry).	The amendment itself will not give rise to negative impacts on Natura 2000 sites. However, this paragraph includes a reference to the Mallow Hub Town. As previously stated there is no certainty as to whether the population targets set for settlements in the Blackwater Catchment, including those set for Mallow can be implemented without giving rise to adverse effects on the SAC.	It is recommended that the reference to the development of the Hub Town of Mallow in this section of the plan be cross referenced with text to be included in accordance with amendment ref 2.4.
3.2	It is proposed to modify part (c) of objective HOU 3-1 to clarify Council policy in relation to the provision of public lighting and footpaths in urban areas.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
3.3	It is proposed to delete objective ZU 2-3 and to amend objective HOU 5-1 to clarify Council policy in relation to the requirements for provision of social housing.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
3.4	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 3.3.5 to provide for the development of traffic calming measures in the public realm.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
3.5	It is proposed to modify Objective HOU 3-2 to require developers to take account of the most up to date guidelines in relation to street design (Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets).	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
3.6	It is proposed to modify paragraph 3.5.2 of the draft plan which relates to Council policy on Social Housing.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 4: Rural, Coastal and Islands			
4.1	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 4.1.2 to state Councils policy in relation to strengthening and sustaining vibrant rural communities	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.2	It is proposed to delete text in paragraph 4.3.10 which describes North West Cork to be generally of low environmental sensitivity and to clarify that parts of this area have high environmental sensitivity. This amends the description of Structurally Weaker Areas which was contained in the draft plan to acknowledge that parts of this zone are environmentally sensitive.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.3	It is proposed to modify section 4.4 to clarify Councils policy in relation to rural settlement.	The changes that are proposed may increase the number of people eligible to apply for permission to build houses in rural areas, and may increase the number of one off rural houses being built in the countryside. This may increase pressure on environmental resources particularly water, thereby giving rise to indirect impacts on Natura 2000 sites. However, section 4.6 of this chapter sets out a list of the planning considerations which will be taken account of when the Council considers applications for	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
		permission for the development of houses in rural areas. This list includes consideration of impacts on sites designated for nature conservation, as well as impacts on water resources. Assuming that these principles will be adhered to, it is considered that changes that are being proposed to be made to this amendment will be unlikely to give rise to significant impacts on any Natura 2000 site.	
4.4	It is proposed to amend RCI 4-7 to clarify Council policy in relation to full time home based businesses in rural areas.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.5	It is proposed to include additional text in paragraph 4.6.2 which sets out the criteria which will be taken into consideration in the assessment of planning applications in rural areas, to include some new criteria and to provide crosslinks to other relevant parts of the plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.6	It is proposed to amend paragraph 4.6.7 which relates to the definition of ribbon development.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.7	It is proposed to insert additional text after objective RCI 7-3 which relates to the replacement and refurbishment of derelict dwellings in the countryside, and to insert additional text to objective RCI 7-4 to clarify that Council must be satisfied that refurbishment of derelict dwellings will not cause damage to strictly protected wildlife before it will grant permission for such works.	Potential for positive impacts on bats identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
4.8	It is proposed to include coastal flooding and coastal erosion to paragraph 4.8.4 identifying these as key issues of concern in the coastal zone of the County.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.9	It is proposed to insert additional text after paragraph 4.8.17 to highlight environmental sensitivities around Cork Harbour.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.10	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 4.8.19 relating to coastal protection. It identifies that new coastal protection schemes will be necessary to protect coastal areas vulnerable to erosion. It also states that it will be important to ensure that the development of coastal protection schemes is justified economically and environmentally.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.11	It is proposed insert additional text after paragraph 4.9.7 and to Objectives RCI 9-2 and RCI 9-3 to acknowledge the heritage and environmental resources associated with the Islands, and to ensure that Council supports further economic development of the Islands in a manner that is compatible with these resources.	Potential for positive impacts identified.	No modifications required.
4.12	It is proposed to modify text in paragraph 4.9.8 relating to the islands of Cork Harbour to clarify that all of the islands (as opposed to Spike and Haulbowline only) have a significant role to play in its future development of the Harbour, and references	Some of the Islands in Metropolitan Cork support European sites designated for nature conservation. These areas may not be compatible with economic or tourism objectives as cited in this paragraph.	It is recommended that this paragraph be crosslinked to EE 6-2 and to HE 2.1 and paragraph 12.2.1.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	economic and tourism chapters in particular.		
4.13	It is proposed to insert additional text to Objective RCI 5-7 'strategic and exceptional development' which relates to an objective to establish showgrounds and ancillary facilities on the Munster Agricultural Society grounds at Curaheen.	This site is not located within or close to any Natura 2000 sites. No potential for negative impacts have been identified.	No modifications required.
4.14	It is proposed to insert a reference to Cork Harbour into objective RCI 8-2(a) which relates to the development of an integrated approach to Coastal Zone Management in the County.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 5: Social and Community			
5.1	It is proposed to insert new text after paragraph 5.7.3 relating to the national age friendly cities and counties programme.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
5.2	It is proposed to modify objective SC 6-1 relating to the provision of Healthcare Facilities.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
5.3	It is proposed to modify the text of objective SC 5-2(b) to promote the linking of new open spaces with existing spaces to form a green infrastructure network.	This change may help to support the preservation of existing or development of new ecological linkages in the countryside as advocated in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. May provide for positive impacts to the Natura 2000 network.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
5.4	It is proposed to modify objective SC 5-5 to cross reference policy relating to the provision of recreation and amenity spaces with policy relating to Green Infrastructure (HE2-3, GI 2-1 and GI 3-1).	This change may help to support the preservation of existing or development of new ecological linkages in the countryside as advocated in Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. May provide for positive impacts to the Natura 2000 network.	No modifications required.
5.5	It is proposed to modify the text relating to the provision of ancillary family accommodation (Granny Flats).	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
5.6	It is proposed to modify the text of paragraph 5.3.2 relating to childcare facilities guidelines	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 6: Economy And Employment			
6.1	It is proposed to amend table 6.1 'employment hierarchy' to include towns that were previously left out in error.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
6.2	Strategic Employment Areas are primarily located around Cork Harbour in areas that are close to European sites. It is proposed to modify objective EE 4-1 Strategic Employment Areas to clarify that development in these areas can only proceed in a manner that is compatible with environmental legislation, including the Habitats Directive.	This amendment may reduce pressure for inappropriate development in sensitive areas within or close to Natura 2000 sites.	No modifications required.
6.3	It is proposed to insert a new paragraph after 6.4.11 to reference the Bottlehill landfill site and outline scope for development of integrated waste management or waste to	Bottlehill is located within a sensitive catchment and in an area that is known to be of importance for a population of the Annexed I species Hen Harrier. New	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	energy facilities.	proposals for development of the Bottlehill site will need to take account of these environmental resources during the planning assessment stage.	
6.4	It is proposed to make a change to paragraph 6.4.12 which states that Council will support the establishment and expansion of large scale industries to locations outside town centres, in areas that are not zoned for industrial use, where a relocation out of town centres could bring benefits. Any such establishment and expansion to be subject to normal planning considerations.	It is understood that this amendment relates only to the relocation of existing large scale industries, only where this will bring social / environmental benefits to towns, only where there is no suitable zoned land and only subject to normal planning considerations, which include considerations relating to impacts on Natura 2000 sites as well as impacts on the environment generally.	No modifications required.
6.5	It is proposed to insert additional text to objective EE 4-4 Industry to clarify that industry should be located in areas of low environmental sensitivity.	Potential to reduce pressure for development in areas of environmental sensitivity.	No modifications required.
6.6	It is proposed to make a modification to paragraph 6.6.4 to clarify that the movement of containers from Ringaskiddy will be by road. The original iteration of this paragraph implied that other modes for movement of containers could be possible, although it is not clear what these other modes were.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
6.7	It is proposed to make a modification to paragraph 6.6.5 relating to the relocation of port facilities to Ringaskiddy and Marino point, to clarify that any such relocation must be in a	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	manner that is compatible with environmental legislation and complies with the Habitats Directive.		
6.8	It is proposed to modify section 6.6.9 to include reference to the environmental, heritage and ecological value of Cork Harbour.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
6.9	It is proposed to reword objective EE 9-1 business development will be encouraged where it is to be located in areas of low environmental sensitivity.	Potential to reduce pressure for development in areas of environmental sensitivity.	No modifications required.
6.10	It is proposed to insert additional text to objective EE 6-2 to clarify that policy in relation to development in the Cork Harbour area will take account of residential, tourism and recreational amenities.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 7: Town Centres And Retail			
7.1	It is proposed to modify Table 7.1 retail network/hierarchy.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
7.2	It is proposed to modify Table 7.2 – retail floorspace distribution	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
7.3	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 7.7.6 which relates to comparison retailing distribution.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
7.4	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 7.10.3 to clarify Council policy which supports occupancy of	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	vacant retail warehousing in preference to the provision of new floorspace.		
7.5	It is proposed to modify paragraph 7.2.4 which states the aims of the plan as they relate to the development of town centres.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 8: Tourism			
8.1	It is proposed to modify paragraph 8.2.2 which concerns the development of tourism opportunities relating to sites and features of natural and other heritage value, to clarify that any such development should only be to areas that have been identified to have capacity to absorb increased visitor activity without harming the heritage resources upon which they are focused.	Potential to reduce pressure for development in areas of environmental sensitivity.	No modifications required.
8.2	It is proposed to modify objective TO 4-1 to clarify that the development of the marine leisure sector will be encouraged in a manner that is compatible with environmental sensitivities, and has regard to the Habitats Directive.	Potential to reduce pressure for development in areas of environmental sensitivity including European sites.	No modifications required.
8.3	It is proposed to modify the text of paragraph 8.7.9 relating to the development of greenways to include a reference to the disused Mallow-Fermoy-Lismore rail line. It is also proposed to modify the text of objective TO 7-1 to clarify that the encouragement of development of walking and cycling routes will be in a manner that is compatible with nature conservation and other	The disused Mallow-Fermoy-Lismore rail line includes a number of crossings of the River Blackwater within the Blackwater River Special Area of Conservation, and close to the Blackwater Callows Special Protection Area. Reconstruction or redevelopment of parts of the route within the SAC and adjacent to the SPA will require sensitive planning	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	policies.	and development to prevent impacts on these sites. Expert ecological input will be required at the planning stage. It is considered that the proposed amendments to TO 7-1 make this requirement clear.	
8.4	It is proposed to modify objective TO 9-1 which relates to the development of tourist facilities to clarify that where these are to be developed outside existing settlements, regard will be had to environmental sensitivities, and they will be developed in a manner that is compatible with environmental legislation.	Potential to reduce pressure for development in areas of environmental sensitivity including European sites.	No modifications required.
8.5	It is proposed to include additional text in paragraph 8.9.7 which relates to the improvement of access and the provision of signage for tourist destinations.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 9: Energy And Digital Economy			
9.1	It is proposed to amend policy ED 3-2 to ensure consistent use of terminology within the plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
9.2	It is proposed to amend paragraph 9.3.12 to clarify the definition of wind energy development which is the subject of policies ED 3-4 – ED 3-6 in the plan from large scale to commercial.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
9.3	It is proposed to amend objective 3-4 of the plan which relates to zones where commercial wind energy developments will be acceptable in principle to clarify that this policy is subject to	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	compliance with environmental legislation.		
9.4	It is proposed to amend paragraph 9.3.14 and objective ED 3-5 which relates to wind energy policy in Open to Consideration areas, to clarify that Natura 2000 sites are not included within this zone, and to clarify policy in relation to sensitive water catchments within this zone.	Should reduce pressure for development within Natura 2000 sites. Should encourage high environmental standards in terms of project design within sensitive catchments.	No modifications required.
9.5	It is proposed to amend paragraph 9.3.15 and objective ED 3-6 to replace references to large scale wind energy with references to commercial wind energy development.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
9.6	It is proposed to amend objective ED 3-7 to clarify that Council policy in relation to non-commercial wind energy development and the considerations which will be taken account of in assessing proposals.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
9.7	It is proposed to amend Figure 9-3 Wind Energy Strategy Map to include all Natura 2000 sites within the zone where wind energy will be Normally Discouraged. This aligns the maps with policy ED 3-6.	This amendment aligns the wind energy maps with policy ED 3-6 which states that Natura 2000 sites are within areas where wind energy development will be normally discouraged. This may ease pressure for development within Natura 2000 sites, particularly in areas that are otherwise highly suitable for the development of wind energy.	No modifications required.
9.8	It is proposed to include a new paragraph after objective ED 3-6 to clarify that the areas identified in Figure 9-3 where wind energy development	This amendment may ease pressure for development around Special Protection Areas where wind energy development could give rise	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	proposals will be normally discouraged include buffer areas around a number of SPAs	to negative impacts on birds.	
9.9	It is proposed to amend objective ED 4-1 to clarify Councils policy which is to encourage sustainable development of hydro-electric power generation projects in a manner that is compliant with environmental legislation.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
9.10	It is proposed to insert additional text in paragraph 9.6.2 to clarify that proposals for grid connections to renewable energy developments should where practical be fully assessed as part of the renewable energy application.	This amendment should provide for consideration of the siting of supporting infrastructure for renewable energy projects at the initial planning application stage. It may give rise to more complete assessment of all of likely environmental impacts of commercial wind energy developments at the initial planning assessment stage and may reduce potential for impact on Natura 2000 sites.	No modifications required.
9.11	It is proposed to amend objective ED 6-2 which relates to the siting of Transmission Networks and provides for consideration of impacts on landscape as well as impacts on the natural and built environment.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 10: Transport And Mobility			
10.1	It is proposed to amend paragraph 10.1.1 which describes patterns of commuter movement in the County.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.2	It is proposed to amend objective TM 1-1(b) to omit	The purpose of this amendment is to remove the	It is recommended that a cross link be provided from TM 1-1

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	reference to the North and West Cork Strategic Plan. It is also proposed to insert text after paragraph 10.1.3 which states that the focus of transport infrastructure and investment will be on the network of settlements broadly in line with the Atlantic Gateway Initiative, the South West Regional Planning Guidelines and the North and West Cork Strategic Plans.	reference to the North and West Cork Strategic Plan from this objective as it has not been subject to Appropriate Assessment, although reference to this plan is retained in supporting text to the objective.	to HE 2-1 and 12.2.1.
10.3	It is proposed to amend objective TM 2-2(d) which relates to cycling to state that cycling routes will be promoted which generally seek to avoid or minimise impacts on the environment and on EU designated sites.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.4	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 10.2.21 to include a reference to Monkstown-Passage West bus routes and to update figure 10-1 to reflect service changes.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.5	It is proposed to insert additional text into objective TM 2-4(a) and (b) which relates to the provision of a public transport service.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.6	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 10.3.3 to include a reference to the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.7	It is proposed to insert additional text after section 10.3.3 relating to the demand management study of the N40 to ensure that its use is optimised over the lifetime of the plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
10.8	It is proposed to insert additional text after section 10.3.3 which outlines the provisions of the National Roads Authority draft policy as it relates to Motorway Service Areas.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.9	It is proposed to modify TM 3-1(f) which relates to the provision of service and rest areas on the National Road Network. This removes a commitment to implement the NRA policy in relation to Service and Rest Areas and instead includes a commitment to consider the most up to date guidance in relation to same. It is proposed to modify TM3-1(i) which relates to the control of signage on roads.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.10	It is proposed to amend objective TM 3-2(c) to remove references to the upgrading of the R624-N25 – Cobh and replace this with a commitment to improve road access between the N25 and Cobh subject to full ecological assessment. It is proposed to include new text after paragraph 10.3.4 which identifies the need to upgrade road access between the town of Cobh and the national road network and identifies the need to carefully consider the ‘balance between the need for improved road access and the need to ensure that any proposals do not adversely affect Natura Sites’.	This amendment has arisen to address issues identified during the Habitats Directive Assessment of the draft plan relating to proposals to seek funding for the upgrade of the R624 which connects the N25 to Cobh. A previously identified preferred route is known to be likely to give rise to adverse impacts on the Great Island Channel SAC, and possibly on the Cork Harbour SPA, and it would be necessary to complete Appropriate Assessment in relation to this route before it could be included in the plan. It is the intention of the Council to initiate a new study which will explore alternative routes/solutions to provide improved access from Cobh to the national road network which avoids	This objective requires a cross link to Objective 2-1 and section 12.2.1.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
		adverse effects on the Great Island Channel and the Cork Harbour Special Protection Area. This will be the first step must be in place before this project can proceed.	
10.11	It is proposed to insert additional text to TM3-2 to state Council policy in relation to control of traffic noise on regional and local roads.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.12	It is proposed to insert a new paragraph into the section relating to further development of the Port of Cork, after 10.5.17, which states that the sustainable development of Cork Harbour requires the safeguarding of its key environmental and heritage resources.	This amendment provides better balance to this section by acknowledging that there is a need to ensure the protection of the environmental and heritage resources of Cork Harbour while planning for the future development of the Port. No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.13	This proposal relates to amendments to be made to Table 1a (Appendix C) which relates to carparking requirements for new development.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.14	This proposal relates to amendments to be made to Table 1a (Appendix C) which related to carparking requirements for new development.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
10.15	This proposal relates to amendments to be made to the list of Key Regional Projects included in objective TM 3-1(a) to be prioritised to include the N73 Mallow to Mitchelstown as a separate project.	The N73 Mallow to Mitchelstown project was included in the original draft plan which was published, to be included as part of the N72 Mallow to Fermoy project. The proposed amendment does not give rise to potential for negative impacts.	It will be the responsibility of the NRA to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment and (where necessary) Appropriate Assessment to ensure that these routes can progress and without having significant negative impacts on the environment, or on Natura 2000 sites.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
10.16	It is proposed to insert new text to paragraph 10.5.20 to include reference to quay walls as well as ports and harbours.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 11: Water Services And Waste			
11.1	It is proposed to retitle the chapter Water Services, Surface Water and Waste	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.2	It is proposed to amend paragraph 11.1.2 to bring the plan up to date in relation to the establishment of Irish Water which has taken place since the draft plan was produced.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.3	It is proposed to insert new text to paragraph 11.2.2 which is explanatory text relating to Table 11.1 which sets out the County Water Services Capacity for planned Population Growth during the plan period.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.4	It is proposed to modify paragraphs 11.2.3 and 11.2.4 which sets out Irish Waters position in relation to the prioritisation of investment and how Council will align its Capital Investment Programme to meet the objectives and priorities of the Irish Water strategy.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.5	It is proposed to modify paragraph 11.2.5 to bring the plan up to date with recent changes relating to the establishment of Irish Water.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.6	It is proposed to include new text after paragraph 11.2.10 which sets out Councils position in relation to the management	See discussion in section 2.1 and comments in relation to proposed change 2.3.	See recommendations in relation to proposed change 2.3.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	of sensitive catchments, particularly the River Blackwater, Cork Harbour and the Upper Bandon River.		
11.7	It is proposed to modify objective WS 2-1 to clarify Councils objectives relating to the provision of water infrastructure.	The amendments to this objective clarifies that development requiring connection to public wastewater infrastructure may only proceed in where appropriate wastewater treatment is available which meets the requirements of environmental legislation including the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. No potential for negative impacts is identified.	No modifications required.
11.8	<p>It is proposed to amend Table 11.1 – Capacity of Current Water Services Infrastructure to accommodate Planned Population Growth and to include additional text relating to the Cork Gateway. The proposed change to table 11.1 includes the provision of an extra column to show locations where water services investment needs to be prioritised in order to achieve planned population targets.</p> <p>Footnotes have been added to the table to identify settlements located in sensitive catchments where development will be put on hold until resolution of issues relating to impact on water quality.</p> <p>It is important to note that colour coding in this table is not linked to Appropriate Assessment, and therefore that a green colour coding does not imply that waste water infrastructure for any given settlement is sufficient to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive.</p>	No potential for impacts arise.	See recommendations relating to proposed change 2.3.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
11.9	It is proposed to amend objective WS 3-1 Wastewater Disposal to clarify Council policy in relation to the progression of new development in areas with issues relating to the disposal of waste water.	The amendments to this objective clarifies that development requiring connection to public wastewater infrastructure may only proceed in where appropriate wastewater treatment is available which meets the requirements of environmental legislation including the Water Framework Directive and the Habitats Directive. No potential for negative impacts is identified.	No modifications required.
11.10	It is proposed to amend objective WS 5-2 in relation to river channel protection.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.11	It is proposed to insert text after paragraph 11.6.16 to reference the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
11.12	It is proposed to modify WS 6-2 to reference the need to consider potential for impacts on Natura 2000 sites when assessing proposals for development within areas at risk of flooding.	Potential to reduce risk of impacts on inappropriate development within Flood Risk Zones.	No modifications required.
11.13	It is proposed to modify paragraph 11.7.5 to include a reference to Western European trends towards development of an integrated waste management systems and waste to energy facilities, in the context of the Bottlehill Landfill site and to modify objective WS 7-1 to provide support to the sustainable development of the Bottlehill facility for uses associated with integrated waste management.	Bottlehill is located within a sensitive catchment and in an area that is known to be of importance for a population of the Annexed I species Hen Harrier. Proposals for redevelopment of the Bottlehill site will need to take account of these environmental resources. Proposals for a change of use at this site will require assessment in relation to environmental impacts and potential for impacts to	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
		Natura 2000 sites as part of the procedure for giving consent.	
Chapter 12: Heritage			
12.1	It is proposed to amend Objective HE 1-1 which relates to the County Biodiversity Action Plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
12.2	It is proposed to modify paragraph 12.3.5 which relates to the protection of National Monuments.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
12.3	It is proposed to include a new Architectural Conservation Area to the plan located in Blarney.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
12.4 - 12.26	These amendments relate to proposed additions, deletions and amendments to the Record of Protected Structures.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
12.27	It is proposed to include a new Architectural Conservation Area to the plan located in Mitchelstown.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 13: Green Infrastructure And Environment			
13.1	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 13.2.3 to add Flood Risk/Alleviation to the list of key themes to be addressed in the Green Infrastructure Strategy.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
13.2	It is proposed to make a minor modification to paragraph 13.10.12 which relates to Irish Water.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
13.3	It is proposed to insert additional text and a new	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	objective after objective GI 10-1 relating to the Surface Water Regulations and a new objective to the protection of surface waters.		
13.4	It is proposed to modify text in paragraphs 13.13.1 and 13.13.2 which relates to noise and Noise Action Plans.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
Chapter 14: Zoning And Land Use			
14.1	It is proposed to insert additional text to objective ZU 3-4 to include a reference to Article 10 of the Habitats Directive which relates to the protection of ecological connectivity in the greater countryside.	Potential to have positive benefits for biodiversity generally.	No modifications required.
14.2	It is proposed to modify Objective ZU 3-7 which relates to types of uses considered appropriate in industrial areas, to clarify that waste to energy recovery facilities will be considered in Industrial Areas designated as Strategic Employment Areas in LAPS.	Most of the areas identified as Strategic Employment Areas are located in areas of relatively high environmental sensitivity around Cork Harbour within close proximity to Natura 2000 sites. Development of waste to energy recovery facilities in these locations could have the potential to have negative impacts on these sites and proposed projects relating to such facilities will require assessment of any such impacts.	No modifications required.
Chapter 15: Putting This Plan Into Practice			
15.1	It is proposed to insert two new paragraphs before paragraph 15.1.1 that set the context and state Councils intention to implement the plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
15.2	It is proposed to insert additional text to paragraph 15.1.4 and delete paragraph 15.1.5 to reflect the establishment of Irish Water since the draft plan was published.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
15.3	It is proposed to insert new text to paragraph 15.1.7 which relates to mechanisms to ensure implementation of the plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
15.4	It is proposed to modify paragraph 15.2.2 to include a cross references to objective TM 3-1 in chapter 10, and to Table 11.1 water infrastructure listed in chapter 11.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
15.5	It is proposed to revise Table 15-1 which sets out major housing and employment infrastructure priorities within the Cork Gateway. The change prioritises development in terms of tranches 1-3. There have been some changes to the priorities as originally published.	It is not considered that the adjustments to priorities which have been made have the potential to give rise to negative impacts to any European sites, as in accordance with proposed revised objective WS 2-1, development may only proceed where appropriate wastewater treatment is available which meets the requirements of environmental legislation.	No modifications required.
15.6	It is proposed to modify paragraphs 15.2.8, 15.2.9 and 15.2.10 to reflect changes made to Table 15-1.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
15.7	It is proposed to revise Table 15.2 which summarises priorities for delivery of critical infrastructure in the main towns of the County. It has resulted in the inclusion of additional new short term and long term priorities to the list, including the inclusion of waste water infrastructure upgrades	The inclusion of waste water infrastructure upgrades in settlements within sensitive water catchments on the short term priority list, may help to secure the delivery of critical infrastructure to allow for the resolution of issues relating to compliance with environmental	It is recommended that discussions with the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and Irish Water continue to resolve issues relating to the Blackwater catchment, and the Bandon catchment and to

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	in settlements within sensitive water catchments on the short term priority list.	legislation, as well as the implementation of the Cork Strategy. Potential for positive impacts for Natura 2000 sites.	secure implementation of required upgrades to waste water infrastructure in all sensitive catchments.
15.8	It is proposed to modify paragraph 15.3.4 to reflect the establishment of Irish Water since the draft plan was published.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
15.9	It is proposed to insert new paragraphs after 15.4.4 and to insert a new Appendix to the plan which sets out the proposed approach to monitoring of the implementation of the plan.	No potential for negative impacts identified. Consideration should be given to including provision for a review of environmental data such as water quality data, and habitats and species data, as part of the process of monitoring the effectiveness of policies relating to the protection of the environment which are included in the plan; and to monitor the influence of the implementation of plan policies relating to economic, industrial and tourism development etc on the environment. This can be done when the list of monitoring indicators is being finalised.	No modifications required.
15.10	It is proposed to insert a new section after section 15.4 to update the plan concerning the preparation of Local Economic And Community Plans (LECPs) for Cork County.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.
15.11	It is proposed to make amendments to section 15.5 which presents information in relation to the preparation of the next round of Local Area Plans, and sets out how administrative boundaries in the County have been realigned	This change does not change policy or objectives of the plan. No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Proposed Amendments Completed August 2014

Ref Number	Proposed Change	Potential for Impacts on Natura 2000 sites	Recommendation
	on foot of the enactment of the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014.		
15.12	It is proposed to insert a new section relating to Master plans after section 15.5.	No potential for negative impacts identified.	No modifications required.

7.2 Issues relating to the protection of Natura 2000 network raised at the draft Development Plan Stage – Public Consultation Submissions.

A total of 56 submissions were received during the Public Consultation phase on the proposed amendments to the draft County Development Plan. Of these submissions a number raised issues relating to the protection of the Natura 2000 network and Habitats Directive Assessment. These are summarised below.

Two submissions were received from the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The first of these recommended that amendments 2.3, 10.10 and 11.8 be adopted to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. The submission welcomes the putting on hold of any development which would have an adverse impact on Natura 2000 sites until after completion of an Appropriate Assessment and the upgrading of treatment plants/discharge infrastructure. This recommendation was reflected in the Chief Executives (Section 12(8)) Report to the members.

The second submission related to an amendment which was proposed to be made to objective TM 5-2 which was published separately to the other proposed amendments. The submission states that the Department has no reason to expect significant impacts on the Cork Harbour SPA arising from this amendment. No modification was recommended to be made to the plan on foot of this submission.

Three of the submissions which were received (Irish Wind Energy Association, RES and Brookfield Renewable Ireland) sought to modify amendments relating to wind energy policy to relax the policies restricting development of wind energy projects within and near Natura 2000 sites. No modification was recommended to be made to the plan on foot of this submission.

A submission by Eirgrid requested that policy relating to the development of new transmission networks would be further modified to take account of potential situations where there may be a proposal to develop a network despite a finding of adverse impacts on the integrity of a Natura 2000 sites. No modification was recommended to be made to the plan on foot of this submission.

Two submissions (from Jeff Agar and Croonenberg Carlien and from Pamela deHaas) refer to wind energy policies and seek modifications to provide protection to Natura 2000 sites, extend buffer zones around Natura 2000 sites, and to require new development proposals to be subject to Cumulative Impact Assessment. No modification was recommended to be made to the plan on foot of these submissions.

8 Summary Of Assessment of Proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan

(full details are contained in *Proposed Amendments to the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013, published August 2014*)

8.1 Screening of Proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan

All of the submissions which were made during the public consultation phase for the proposed amendments were considered in the Section 12(8) Chief Executives Report (published 30th October 2014), and recommendations were made to Council members to make six minor modifications to the draft amendments on foot of same. In addition, the Chief Executive recommended against the adoption of some of the proposed amendments which were published in 2014. These amendments related to proposals for additions and deletions to the Record of Protected Structures and to the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas. These recommendations of the Chief Executive were screened to determine whether they had the potential to give rise to impacts on the Natura 2000 network and the results of that assessment were published in the *Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Assessment - Proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan (November 2014)*. The screening process is summarised in **Table 8** below. No implications for the Natura 2000 network were identified for any of recommendations made by the Chief Executive in the Section 12(8) Report.

Table 8: Summary of Habitats Directive Screening of Modifications Recommended to be Made to Proposed Amendments.

Proposed Modification Ref	Summary of Recommended Modification	Implications for Natura 2000 Network
Amendment 2.3	Provide additional information in relation to population targets as they will apply at Municipal District Areas level.	No implications identified.
Amendment 7.2	This proposal is to make minor modifications to Table 7.2 relating to the distribution of retail floor space in Metropolitan Cork.	No implications identified.
Amendment 10.5	Modify paragraph TM 2-4(b) to include a reference to employment growth as well as population growth.	No implications identified.
Amendment 10.8	Insert additional text after section 10.3.3 to highlight recent updating of NRA Policy re Motor Service Area Policy.	No implications identified.
Amendment 10.9	Changes to TM 3-1 National Road Network to bring references relating to NRA policy up to date.	No implications identified.
Amendment 15.7	This proposal is to modify Table 15.2 to include the development of local roads and the delivery of public transport improvements in Douglas on the Short Term Priority List of Critical Infrastructure.	No implications identified
Amendment 15.9	This proposal is to make minor modifications to the key Indicators of Monitoring Table in relation to transport monitoring measures.	No implications identified

Other recommendations which were made by the Chief Executive related to proposals for additions and deletions to the Record of Protected Structures, and for changes to be made to two

Architectural Conservation Areas. These recommendations had no implications for any Natura 2000 sites.

9 Assessment of Final Changes Made to the County Development Plan

9.1 Screening of Final Changes Made to County Development Plan

All of the proposed amendments, and the recommended modifications to the proposed amendments were considered by the Elected Members of Cork County Council on the 2nd and 8th December 2014. Council members voted to adopt the plan with most of the proposed amendments and recommended modifications to same on December 8th 2014. All of the proposed amendments which were recommended to be made to the plan arising from the Habitats Directive Assessment process were accepted. A small number of final changes were proposed to be made to the plan and these are set out in **Table 9** below. None of these changes were identified to be likely to have negative implications for any Natura 2000 site.

Table 9: Summary of final changes agreed to be made to the County Development Plan, December 2014

Ref	Proposed Final Change	Implications for Natura 2000 Network
Objective ED 6-2	Remove the word need from sentence as follows: Proposals for new electricity transmission networks will need to consider the feasibility of undergrounding or the use of alternative routes especially in landscape character areas that have been evaluated as being of high landscape sensitivity.	No implications identified.
Section 10.3.3	Text is changed as follows: The recently prepared 'Draft "NRA Service Area Policy" (August 2014) sets out the policy basis on which service areas will be provided to meet the needs of road users on the national road network. The recently prepared Draft Policy on Service Areas on the National Road Network' (2014) by the NRA supports the provision of Motorway Service Areas approximately every 45-60kms along the motorway network and identifies two locations in County Cork along the M8 to north of Fermoy (either junction 13/14) and a location closer to the city to serve the N8/N25. In relation to off-line facilities it states that provided off-line facilities are in close proximity to the roadway and of sufficient standard, the NRA will take these locations into account when evaluating the level of provision and prioritisation of development for on-line NRA service areas.	No implications identified.
Objective TM 3-1	Text is changed as follows: 1. It was proposed to make a change to the draft plan to delete objective TM 3-1(f) and replace with new objective as follows: (f) Implement the NRA's policy document on the Provision of Service Areas and Rest Areas on Motorways and High Quality Dual Carriageways. and replace with	No implications identified.

Table 9: Summary of final changes agreed to be made to the County Development Plan, December 2014

Ref	Proposed Final Change	Implications for Natura 2000 Network
	<p>(f) Consider the most up-to-date guidance in relation to the provision of Service and Rest Areas on the National Road Network (Section 2.8 of the Department of the Environment Community Heritage and Local Government ‘Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines’ (2012) and ‘NRA Service Area Policy’ (August 2014) current NRA Service Areas on the National Road Network policy).</p> <p>2. It is proposed to make a change to the draft plan to insert additional text to objective TM 3-1(i) as follows:</p> <p>(i) Control the proliferation of non-road traffic signage on and adjacent to national roads having regard to the NRA’s “Policy on the Provision of Tourist and Leisure Signage on the National Roads” and Section 3.8 of the ‘Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012)’ of the Department of the Environment Community Heritage and Local Government.</p>	
Objective TM 5-2	It was proposed to delete and insert additional text into Objective TM 5-2: Cork and Other Ports as follows:	No implications identified.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ensure that the strategic port facilities at Ringaskiddy, Whitegate and Cork Airport have appropriate road transport capacity to facilitate their sustainable development in future years. <u>See also Objective EE 6-2:Cork Harbour</u> b) Support the relocation of port activities and other industry away from the upper harbour on the eastern approaches to the city. <u>See also Objective EE 6-2:Cork Harbour</u> c) Support Ringaskiddy as the preferred location for the relocation of the majority of port related activities having regard to the need for a significant improvement to the road network Also recognising the key role that Marino Point can play in providing an alternative relocation option for some of the port related uses that could best be served by rail transport. Both locations should be considered taking account of residential amenity, tourism and recreation. The Council is committed to engage with the Port of Cork and other relevant stakeholders in achieving this objective. <u>See also Objective EE 6-2:Cork Harbour</u> d) Local area plans should give priority to identifying appropriate and sustainable locations for port related activities. e) Generally support the ports and harbours of the County and recognise their essential role in facilitating industrial development, defence, trade, marine leisure, recreation and other economic sectors, while respecting their environmental setting. f) Improve port and harbour infrastructure in the County and to safeguard lands in the vicinity of ports and harbours against inappropriate uses that could compromise the long-term economic potential (including access) of the port or harbour. 	No implications identified.

Table 9: Summary of final changes agreed to be made to the County Development Plan, December 2014

Ref	Proposed Final Change	Implications for Natura 2000 Network
Proposed Change 12.25	It is proposed to make a change to Table 1.1 of Volume 2 Heritage and Amenity of the draft plan to delete RPS 01059 CBS Building (Community and Enterprise Centre), Main Street Charleville from the Record of Protected Structures.	No implications identified.
Proposed Change 12.26	It is proposed to make a change to Table 1.1 of Volume 2 Heritage and Amenity of the draft plan to delete RPS 00919 Vickery's Inn, New Street Bantry from the Record of Protected Structures.	No implications identified.
Proposed Change 12.27	It was proposed to make a change to the Mitchelstown Architectural Conservation Area (ACA).	No implications identified
Proposed Change 14.2	<p>It is proposed to revert to Draft Plan wording in Objective ZU 3-7: Appropriate Uses in Industrial Areas as follows:</p> <p>b) Industrial areas that are not used for small to medium sized industry, warehousing or distribution are considered generally to be suitable for waste management activities (including the treatment and recovery of waste material but not including landfill or contract incineration facilities). In the interests of clarity, contract incineration facilities comprise those whose primary role is to manage wastes that are not generated by the company.</p> <p>c)The provision of strategic large scale waste treatment facilities will be considered in 'Industrial Areas' designated as Strategic Employment Areas in the local area plans subject to the requirements of National Policy, future Regional Waste Management Plans and the objectives set out in local area plans.</p>	No implications identified

10 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion

Cork County Development Plan 2014 Appropriate Assessment Conclusion	
Name and Location of Natura 2000 sites subject to Screening for Appropriate Assessment	<p><i>Sites within the County</i> Ballymacoda (Clonpriest and Pillmore) SAC (0077); Glengarriff Harbour and Woodland SAC (0090); Clonakilty Bay SAC (0091); Caha Mountains SAC (0093); Lough Hyne Nature Reserve and Environs SAC (0097); Roaringwater Bay and Islands SAC (0101); Sheep’s Head SAC (0102); St. Gobnet’s Wood SAC (0106); The Gearagh SAC (0108); Three Castle Head to Mizen Head SAC 0109); Killarney National Park, Magillycuddy Reeks and Caragh River Catchment SAC(0365); Barley Cove to Ballyrisode Point SAC (1040); Cleanderry Wood SAC (1043); Great Island Channel SAC (1058); Kilkeran Lake and Castlefreke Dunes SAC (1061); Myross Wood SAC (1070); Courtmacsherry Estuary SAC (1230); Castletownshend SAC (1547); Derryclogher (Knockboy) Bog SAC (1873); Glanmore Bog SAC (1879); Maulagowna Bog SAC (1881); Mullaghanish Bog SAC (1890); Ballyhoura Mountains SAC (2036); Carrigeenamronety Hill SAC (2037); Kenmare River SAC (2158); Lower River Shannon SAC (2165); Blackwater River (Cork/Waterford) SAC (2170); Bandon River SAC (2171); Blackwater River (Kerry) 2173; Farranamanagh Lough SAC (2189); Dunbeacon Shingle SAC (2280); Reen Point Shingle SAC (2281); Old Head of Kinsale SPA (4021); Ballycotton Bay SPA (4022); Ballymacoda Bay SPA (4023); Blackwater Estuary SPA (4028); Cork Harbour SPA (4030); Bull and the Cow SPA (4066); Clonakilty Bay SPA (4081); River Blackwater Callows SPA (4094); Kilcolman Bog SPA (4095); The Gearagh SPA (4109); Sovereign Island SPA (4124); Beara Peninsula SPA (4155); Sheeps Head to Toe Head SPA (4156); Stack’s to Mullaghareirks, West Limerick Hills and Mount Eagle SPA (4161); Galley Hed to Duneen Point SPA (4190); Seven Heads SPA (4191); Courtmacsherry Estuary SPA (4219)</p> <p><i>Sites within 15km of the County</i> Old Domestic Buildings; Dromore SAC (0364); Kilgarvan Ice House (0364); Galtee Mountains SAC (0646); Old Domestic Building Curraglass Wood SAC (2041); Ardmore Head SAC (2123); Lower River Suir SAC (2137); Old Domestic Building Askive Woods SAC (2098); Moanour Mountain SAC (2257); Glanlough Wood SAC (2315); Killarney National Park SPA (4038); Helvick Head to Ballyquin SPA (4192);</p>
Description of the Plan	See Section 3 of this report.
Is the Plan Directly Connected with Or Necessary to the Management of the Natura 2000 sites identified above	No
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>Other plans that set land use policy and promote the development of economic, tourism, renewable energy, agriculture, forestry and mineral exploration activity in the county which could act ‘in combination’ with policies set out in the County Development Plan to give rise to negative impacts on the Natura 2000 network include <i>inter alia</i>:</p> <p>Atlantic Gateways Initiative 2006 Common Agricultural Policy (2014-2020)</p>

	<p>Cork Area Strategic Plan (2008) Cork City Development Plan 2009-2015 Cork County Electoral Area Local Area Plans 2011 Clonakilty Town Plan 2009-2015 Cobh Town Plan 2013 Fermoy Town Plan 2009-2015 Forests, products and people – Irelands forest policy-a renewed vision 2014 Harvest 2020-A Vision for Irish Agri-Food and Fisheries Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015 Kinsale Town Plan 2009-2015 Limerick County Development Plan 2010-2016 Macroom Town Plan 2009-2015 Mallow Town Plan 2010-2016 Marine Leisure Infrastructure Strategy for the Southern Division of Cork County 2010-2020 Midleton Town Plan 2013 National Climate (2007-2012) Climate Adaptation Framework (2012) National Development Plan 2007-2013 National Renewable Energy Action Plan National Spatial Strategy National Tourism Policy for Ireland (draft) 2014 National Waste Management Plan 2004-2009 North and West Cork Strategic Plan 2002-2020 Port of Cork Strategic Development Plan 2010 Skibbereen Town Plan 2009-2015 Smarter Travel. A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020 South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009-2015 South Western Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 West Cork Islands Integrated Development Strategy 2010 Youghal Town Plan 2009-2015</p>
<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 one or more Natura 2000 sites were as follows:</p> <p>Proposed increases in population and economic growth in settlements within sensitive water catchments.</p> <p>Renewable energy policy which promoted development of renewable wind energy projects within and near Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Policies promoting the intensification of tourism/recreational activities within or near Natura 2000 sites.</p> <p>Development of new water crossing and upgrade of road Fota – Cobh.</p> <p>Proposals for increased levels of Port and Industrial related development around Cork Harbour.</p>

<p>Changes to the plan to prevent these impacts</p>	<p>A number of amendments were made to the plan to ensure compliance with the Habitats Directive. A brief summary of these amendments is described below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Population targets set for the Blackwater Catchment and the Bandon River Catchment have been put on hold until full Appropriate Assessment has been completed in respect of the targets for these catchments and until the upgrade of waste water treatment infrastructure has been completed; • The provision of any required upgrades to waste water treatment infrastructure has been included on the short term priority list for all settlements within the catchments of the Blackwater, Bandon and Cork Harbour; • The Wind Energy Map has been modified to exclude all Natura 2000 sites from the Open to Consideration and Acceptable In Principle Zones for the development of wind energy projects; • The objective relating to the provision of improved access to Cobh has been modified to remove reference to upgrading of the R624-N25. All options to improve access to Cobh will now be assessed to identify a route which can avoid adverse effects on Natura 2000 sites. • Policies relating to development in Cork Harbour have been modified to include caveats highlighting the sensitivity of this area; • Policies relating to the development of walks and cycleways have been modified to include caveats highlighting the sensitivities of some of the areas that these may pass through or close to; • Policies relating to the development of the tourism industry have been modified to include caveats highlighting the sensitivities of some of the areas that may be the focus of tourism development.
<p>List of Agencies Consulted</p>	<p>The draft plan and proposed amendments to same were referred to all of the relevant Statutory Authorities and were available for consideration by the general public at a number of different stages during the plan making process. Submissions made by Statutory Authorities, groups and members of the public which related to impacts on the Natura 2000 network were considered at every stage of the plan as described in this report. Amendments were made to the plan to address all of the substantive issues raised in these submissions.</p>
<p>Appropriate Assessment Conclusion</p>	<p>On the basis of the amendments which were made to the plan which are summarised above, it is concluded that the Cork County Development Plan 2014 will not affect the overall integrity of any Natura 2000 site, or interfere with the achievement of the conservation objectives which apply to these sites.</p>

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	Appropriate Assessment
Where can the full results of the assessment be accessed and viewed	The full AA process may be tracked through this Natura Impact Report and through the references set out below. All documents are available at www.corkcoco.ie/planning

11 References

11.1 Cork County Council Documents

The following is a list of the main documents which were prepared during the making of the Cork County Development Plan. All of these documents are available at www.corkcoco.ie/planning. Background documents and other reports including the reports of the Chief Executive of Cork County Council which was also prepared as part of the plan making process are also available on this website as are other land use documents including the Town Plans and Electoral Area Local Area Plans.

Cork County Council Development Plan Documents	
Publication Date	Document Title
January 2013	Section 11 Public Consultation Document.
December 2013	draft County Development Plan
	Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report
	Natura Impact Report draft Plan
June 2014	Assessment of the Conservation Status of the Great Island Channel SAC (1058). Prepared by BEC Consultants on behalf of Cork County Council.
August 2014	Proposed Amendments to the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013
	Strategic Environmental Assessment - Addendum to SEA Environmental Report
	Habitats Directive Assessment Report – Proposed Amendments to Draft Plan
September 2014	Amendment No 10.17 Objective TM 5-2 to the Draft Cork County Development Plan
	Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report Addendum No 2
	Habitats Directive Assessment Screening Report Amendment No 10.17 Objective TM 5-2
December 2014	Chief Executives Recommendations on Proposed Amendments to the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2013 – Vol 1 Key Issues, Responses, Recommendations and Further Modifications to Proposed Amendments
	Habitats Directive Screening Assessment Proposed Modifications to Amendments to the Draft Plan
January 2015	Cork County Development Plan 2014
	Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement Cork County Development Plan 2014
	Natura Impact Report Cork County Development Plan 2014

11.2 NPWS Site 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).

11.3 Other References

Drewitt A Land Langston RHW , 2006 . Assessing the impacts of windfarms on birds. Ibis Vol 148 March 2006.

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.

Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Second Draft) Allow Sub-basin Management Plan, NS 2, March 2010

Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Second Draft) Bandon Sub-basin Management Plan, NS 2, March 2010

Freshwater Pearl Mussel (Second Draft) Munster Blackwater Sub-basin Management Plan, NS2 2010

Pearce-Higgins J, Stephen L, Langston R H W, Bainbridge I P and Bullman R. The distribution of breeding birds around upland wind farms. Journal of Applied Ecology, Vol 46, 2009

SWRMB, SWRBD Transitional and Coastal Waters Action Programme, 2010.

SWRMB, Water Matters Our Plan, South Western River Basin Management Plan (2009-2015). South Western River Basin District. 2009.



