



Macroom Town Council
Comhairle Baila Maigh Chromtha

MACROOM TOWN DEVELOPMENT
PLAN 2009-2015

SEA STATEMENT

Cork County Council
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September 2009

1.0 Introduction

In accordance with Article 7 of the Planning & Development Regulations 2004, section 13(l), this report consists of an SEA Statement in relation to the Macroom Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015 and forms the final part of the requirements for the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the Plan.

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process and to document how environmental considerations, the views of consultees and the recommendations of the Environmental Report have been taken into account in the adopted Macroom Development Plan 2009 - 2015. It illustrates how decisions were taken, making the process more transparent. This statement will be made available to the public to accompany the adopted Plan.

The SEA Statement includes the following information:

1. Summary of how environmental considerations and the Environmental Report were factored into the plan;
2. Summary of how submissions/consultations were taken into account: How consultation responses have been taken into account;
3. Reasons for choosing the plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered;
4. Measures to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan;

2.0 Process

As part of the preparation of the Macroom Development Plan, RPS Group Plc. carried out a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). SEA is the process by which environmental considerations are required to be fully integrated into the preparation and adoption of Development Plans and other plans and programmes. The objective of the SEA process is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development.

The SEA process was undertaken in parallel with each stage of the draft Plan making process and involved close consultation and meetings with the SEA Consultation Authorities, members of NBA Planning Consultancy that drafted the Macroom Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015, the SEA team and a number of specialists that focused on the significant environmental issues of the plan as identified during the screening and scoping phases and assessment of baseline information for the area.

In carrying out the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the draft Macroom Development Plan 2009 - 2015, the SEA Team were involved in the Plan preparation process. The SEA Team were fully involved in the analysis of development options and were in a position to make suggestions throughout the process of plan preparation to ensure that environmental considerations and environmental effects were considered in the formulation of strategic aims and development objectives. Furthermore all environmental scoping responses, consultation submissions and mitigatory measures against potential environmental impacts were incorporated into the Policies and Objective of the Development Plan where possible.

3.0 Summary of How Environmental Considerations and the Environmental Report were Factored into the Plan

As part of the SEA Environmental Report, a matrix was developed and used to assess significant environmental effects of the key objectives of the draft Macroom Development Plan. This process enabled an overview of where potential environmental problems may arise from implementation of the draft Plan and allowed for additional policies/objectives to be generated and included in the Plan. As a result of this process it was considered that the key environmental issues of the Macroom Development Plan as set out in Volume III of the Plan related mainly to biodiversity and water matters as set out in table 1 appended to this statement.

Where significant effects were identified and had not been mitigated sufficiently by policies and objectives within the draft Plan, additional mitigation measures were recommended and have been incorporated where possible into the Plan. Table 1 as Appended to this Statement documents all significant effects and mitigation measures as identified in the environmental report and sets out where the proposed mitigation measures have been implemented into the Plan. A Habitats Directive Assessment of the draft Plan was also carried out and is appended to the Environmental Report in Volume III of the Adopted Plan. This assessment recommended a number of amendments to the policies and objectives of the Macroom Development Plan 2009 - 2015 and each of these proposed amendments were incorporated into the Plan before adoption. Overall it was considered that the final proposed draft Plan would not have a negative impact on the environment in this regard.

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires Member States to monitor the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans '*in order, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action*'. Chapter 10 of the Environmental report sets out the monitoring proposals that will be undertaken following implementation of the policies and objectives of the Macroom Development Plan (these are also linked with significant effects and mitigation measures as set out in Table 1 of this statement).

4.0 Summary of how submissions/consultations were taken into account:

This section details how both the Environmental Reports and submissions and observations made to the Planning Authority on the Environmental Reports and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the plan. In particular, the Manager's Reports on the Development Plan under Section 12(4) and 12(8) required under the Planning and Development Act 2000 and prepared after the formal public display periods demonstrate how particular submissions/consultations were considered. The general manner in which submissions were taken into account is outlined below.

4.1 SEA Scoping Consultations

RPS Group on behalf of Macroom Town Council undertook formal scoping with the three statutory Consultees between June and July 2008. Strategic Environmental Assessment scoping letters and reports were sent to the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG), Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DCMNR) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Responses from all parties consulted were received by RPS by July 2008. Each of the scoping responses were taken into account during the carrying out of the Strategic Environmental Assessment and the preparation of the Environmental Report of the draft Macroom Town Development Plan.

The scoping exercise for this SEA determined the potential key environmental impacts and outlined how they should be addressed as part of the Environmental Report (this is documented in Table 2.1 of the Environmental Report).

4.2 Initial Public Consultation Period

The draft Macroom Town Development Plan and Environmental Report went on public display between September to November 2008 and submissions were invited from the public, from the relevant statutory bodies and the Environmental Authorities.

In order to document the SEA process, since the initial consultation draft of the environmental report, the final environmental report has been updated to include the recommended changes to the environmental report resulting from the consultation process and any changes arising from the relevant amendments to the plan.

Consultation responses were received by Macroom Town Council from the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in November 2008.

A submission from the DoEHLG Spatial Planning Policy Development Applications Unit was received during the same period however no comments were received in relation to the Environmental Report.

A submission from the EPA was received relating to the possible impacts of the Draft Development Plan on various aspects of the environment and also included comments relating to the Environmental Report. The EPA submission was broken into two parts and the second part of the submission related to the Environmental Report for the Draft Development Plan. Comments and suggestions in this section put forward for consideration mainly related to the key stages and outputs of the SEA process.

In response to the submission made by the EPA to the consultation draft Environmental Report a new table was drawn up linking potential environmental impacts, mitigation measures and monitoring measures of the draft Plan (see Table 9.1 in section 9 of the Environmental Report similar to table 1 of this statement). This table also references how the relevant mitigation measures of significant effects have been incorporated into the plan.

4.3 Consultation of Habitats Directive Assessment

A Habitats Directive Assessment of the draft Plan was also undertaken by RPS Group and the associated assessment report is attached as Appendix 2 of the environmental report. This document went on public display during the Amendment Stage consultation period. During this process the NPWS were also consulted.

4.4 Assessment of Material Amendments

As a result of the initial consultation submissions made to the draft plan a number of amendments were recommended by the Manager and were set out in the Section 12 (4) Manager's Report which went on public consultation between May and June 2009. The proposed amendments were also environmentally assessed and this assessment also went out to consultation with the proposed amendments.

After the initial consultation period of the amendments as per the Section 12(4) Managers in May/June 2009 the Manager drafted the S. 12 (8) Manager's Report setting out the Manager's Response and Recommendations to the issues raised in the submissions received during the statutory public consultation period. The s.12 (8) Managers Report was presented to the members in August 2009. No material changes to the Plan were proposed at this stage and therefore no additional amendments were assessed in terms of SEA or Habitats Directive Assessment at this stage.

To conclude it was not considered that any of the proposed amendments of the draft Plan would have a significant impact on the environment of the area.

4.5 Adoption of the Plan

The Plan was formally 'made' at a formal meeting on 12th August 2009. At this meeting the Council accepted all recommendations contained in the s.12 (8) report and agreed to adopt the amended draft development plan.

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

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the environmental report to consider "*reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme*" and the significant effects of the alternatives selected.

Therefore as part of the SEA process three different development strategies for the Plan area were assessed in order to determine the preferred development strategy for the Plan area with the least environmental effects. The three alternatives considered included a 'Do-nothing' option, an option to 'Rezone sufficient lands in accordance with national, Regional and Local projections'; and an option to 'Extend new development zonings on Greenfield lands'. The preferred option set out in the SEA was to rezone sufficient lands in accordance with national, Regional and Local population projections through the intensification and consolidation of the existing Town Centre, redeveloping brownfield sites and Greenfield sites only where there is a natural extension to existing zoning. It was considered that this option would have positive impacts on the Macroom Town Council area as it would allow the rejuvenation of existing derelict sites, which would improve the town's architectural character and townscape and consequently improve its tourist function. It would also be likely to have a positive impact on existing residents and traders of the town. Therefore the development strategy for the town is to rezone sufficient lands in accordance with national, Regional and Local projections as the preferred development strategy for the Macroom Town Development Plan 2009 - 2015.

6.0 Monitoring measures

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

The primary purpose of monitoring is to cross check significant environmental impacts which arise during the implementation stage against those predicted during the plans preparation stage.

Chapter 10 of the Environmental Report sets out the monitoring proposals to monitor significant effects and implementation of mitigation measures to be undertaken following implementation of the policies and objectives of the Macroom Town Development Plan (these are also linked with significant effects and mitigation measures in Table 1 below). Table 10.1 of the environmental report sets out specific potential environmental impacts and indicators and targets to allow monitoring of the quantitative trends and progress over time relating to the significant impacts.

Macroom Town Council is responsible to monitor the significant environmental effects arising from the implementation of the Macroom Development Plan 2009 – 2015. However as set out in the Cork County Development Plan 2009 potential impacts are also considered in a national, regional and local context, which can be referred to where possible. Furthermore the Cork County Planning Policy Unit are carrying out survey work in terms of the review of the Local Area Plans for the entire County, which can be referred to in terms of future monitoring for the Macroom Town Development Plan also.

Table 1: Significant Effects, Proposed Mitigation Measures and Proposed Monitoring of draft Macroom Town Development Plan

Trend and Potential Impacts	Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures (and reference to where addressed in the draft Plan)	Monitoring (Table 10.1)
<p>Biodiversity</p> <p>There is potential for impacts to the aquatic environment in the form of industrial and agricultural run-off, municipal sources of pollution, bridge building, fragmentation of river corridors and soil erosion. These risks apply in particular to the Sullane River. Under the Water Framework Directive, water quality must achieve "good status" by 2015.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Policy NEP3 commits to protect and enhance the quality of watercourses through the promotion of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS).</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B2, W1, W3, W4</p>
<p>The Gearagh cSAC, pNHA and SPA and River Sullane may come under pressure from a number of sources, notably from increased recreation and tourism developments, and additional infrastructural development including through increased surface runoff and potential impacts to groundwater quality.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommendation to maintain the conservation value of The Gearagh (Ramsar site, SPA, cSAC and pNHA) during the lifetime of this plan and to ensure Appropriate Assessment is carried out where development projects are likely to have significant effects on this Natura 2000 site whether within or outside the boundary of the designated site.</p> <p>This is fully addressed by Policy NEP8.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B1, B2, W1, W3, W4</p>
<p>Invasive species: There is potential for invasive species to enter surface waters from a number of sources including runoff from garden centres, from boats and by dumping of waste from fish tanks and garden ponds. There is therefore a need to include a policy in the new plan to prevent the introduction of those alien species which threaten ecosystems, habitats or species. The utilisation of native species in amenity planting and stocking along with change in community actions to reduce the introduction and spread of non-native species should be encouraged.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA recommends a policy for protection against invasive species is required in the new Macroom Town Plan.</p> <p>Policy NEP9 provides protection for native flora and fauna against non-native species.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: B1 B2</p>
<p>Removal of Ecological Corridors: The removal of ecological networks / corridors is a significant issue. It is recognised that there has been a significant increase in hedgerow removal throughout Ireland in recent years.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommends that the plan should include specific buffer zones so as to protect features of European, national, regional county and local importance including rivers and streams from development proposals both in terms of visual and ecological impacts.</p> <p>Policy NEP2 ensures that the River Sullane and its tributaries, including their riparian corridors and associated habitats and species, are protected.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated in Table 10.1: B1, B2</p>
<p>The N22 Macroom bypass may have potential</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not</p>	<p>SEA recommends a policy to undertake environmental appraisals or</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As</p>

<p>impacts on flora and fauna and habitats within or close to the town boundary. However these issues have been addressed in the EIA for the scheme. It is important that the mitigation and monitoring measures prescribed in the EIS are adhered to.</p>	<p>mitigated</p>	<p>Environmental Impact Assessments and Appropriate Assessments in areas within or likely to affect cSAC's and SPAs; i.e. new roads and other infrastructure, other major developments, etc.</p> <p>This is adequately addressed by Policy NEP8</p> <p>SEA recommends inclusion of a policy for the preparation of a habitat map (including wetlands) of the town.</p> <p>No policy for preparation of habitat map in the draft Plan</p> <p>The Town Plan, should include an objective to ensure development in the Macro room area and the provision of services (e.g., roads, wastewater and waste related services etc.) in the Macro room area take into account the Management Plan, where, available, for Gearagh cSAC/SPA.</p> <p>Policies NEP8 partly addresses this requirement however does not take account of the management Plan for the Gearagh.</p>	<p>Indicated In Table 10.1: B1, B2, M1 and M2</p>		
<p>Population and Human Health</p>		<p>Provided planning applications granted in particular for residential developments to meet the projected population increases have the provision to provide good quality water and adequate wastewater treatment for such developments there is no predicted impacts to population and human health.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Policies WSP1-WSP10 and WWP1-WWP5 in the draft Plan refer to water supply and wastewater services for existing and new development.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: PH2, M1,M2</p>
<p>The Plan provides for the provision of amenity and open space that improves quality of life. The Plan also promotes the increased use and provision of public transport and renewable resources in their construction. Provided there is compliance with these policies and standards housing development should not have a significant environmental impact.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA recommends an objective to apply a phasing approach to development within the lifetime of this plan including monitoring of residential applications, which ensures that residential development only takes place to a point, which meets the population projections as set by the CASP population projection.</p> <p>Policies H1-H6 of the plan refers to land and development standards for new residential development.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: PH2, M1,M2, L1</p>		
<p>The Plan also promotes diverse employment opportunities, social inclusion and generation of communities all of which improve the quality of life.</p>	<p></p>	<p>This is fully addressed by the Plan.</p> <p>Policies EP1-EP10 support employment; Policy HP5 supports social inclusion; policies CP1-CP7 and objectives C1-C8 provide for community services.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: PH1, PH2</p>		
<p>Soils</p>		<p>New developments on greenfield sites involve changing the character of the ground and soil. New developments have the potential to contaminate the</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA recommends that the Draft Town development Plan should include a policy for the development of brownfield sites over Greenfield sites and should include for implementation of the</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: S1, S2, S3</p>

<p>developments have the potential to contaminate the soil and underlying groundwater, particularly in the case of septic tanks and poor wastewater treatment facilities. Existing activities such as agriculture and manufacturing may also pose a risk to soil and groundwater.</p> <p>Construction, agriculture and forestry can lead to soil erosion, which has negative effects on water quality and aquatic biodiversity. Soil erosion results in a loss of nutrients in the upper layers of the soils also leading to a reduced water-holding capacity. Soil erosion can also lead to sediment movement and agricultural pollution into watercourses. This can lead to increased solids in watercourses, disruption of ecosystems and contamination of drinking water.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Greenfield sites and should include for implementation of the policies and objectives of the Soils Directive.</p> <p>The SEA recommends that where development does take place best practice should be implemented to prevent soil erosion and prevent escape of suspended solids into nearby watercourses</p> <p>Policy NEP12 requires new development to have regard to the Soil Directive.</p>	
<p>The frequent rock outcrops and the presence of rock close to the ground surface throughout the Study Area and particularly to the west of Macroom may be a constraint to road construction if excavation through rock for cuttings is required. This may be particularly pertinent to the areas of high ground west of Macroom.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA recommends the inclusion of a policy for the Protection of Areas of Geological Interest.</p> <p>Policy NEP10 fully addresses this to ensure protection for areas of geological interest.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: S2</p>
Water			
<p>In order to facilitate population and housing growth the plan promotes the protection of water quality and water supply through a number of policies and objectives including the provision of adequate infrastructure, upgrading of old water mains, metering of non domestic users, separation of foul and surface water effluents, promotion of SUDS.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA recommends that the Plan should include a policy for a Groundwater Protection Plan for groundwater resources in the Macroom area in accordance with the Groundwater Protection Scheme for Cork County.</p> <p>Development in areas of extreme GW vulnerability should employ best practice to ensure that the underlying GW resource is protected.</p> <p>The plan should also continue monitoring of drinking waters and encourage sustainable water usage (in SUDS).</p> <p>Policies in the plan provide for this, specifically policy WSP2, WSP4, WSP5, WSP8, WSP9, WWP1, WWP2 and SWP3.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1, W2, W3, W4</p>
<p>There are a variety of activities both within and outside the study area, which have the potential to impact on water quality. These include sewerage treatment works, domestic water treatment systems, housing, construction work, industry, landfill, spillages, increased road runoff and agriculture.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>The SEA promotes compliance with the Water Framework Directive and the implementation of Management Plans for the South Western region.</p> <p>Policy WSP2 and WSP7 comply with this.</p> <p>The SEA recommends that all construction of bridges, causeways or</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1, W2, W3, W4, M1, M2</p>

	<p>similar in study area will adhere to best practices guidelines, in particular all NRA Guidelines for road design and construction. Bridge design will avoid in-stream works where possible and all plans will include lengths consultation with the South Western Regional Fisheries Board. There should be a policy to adhere to implementation of any proposed Draft Motorised Bye Laws in order to protect water quality in the River Sullane, Laney or Carrigadrohid Reservoir.</p> <p>Policy NP13 and WSP10 fully complies with this.</p> <p>The SEA recommends a new protection policy to "ensure that a survey for freshwater species, in particular freshwater pearl-mussel, is undertaken prior to the construction of any bridges in the area".</p> <p>Policy NP14 supports the undertaking of a survey for freshwater species prior to the construction of any bridges in the area.</p>		
<p>Specifically the existing problems within the Macroom area include:</p> <p>The river Sullane is classified as "Possibly at Risk of Not Achieving Good Status" and the town centre is considered "probably at risk of not achieving good status" for groundwater impacts to Fisheries - Direct impacts to water will have indirect effects on fisheries.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1, W2, W3, W4, M1, M2</p>
<p>Flooding has not been identified as important particularly in relation to areas where land zoned for development is proposed near or adjacent to rivers or their floodplains. However the threat of climate change and global warming may have an influence over meteorological conditions such that to increase flooding in the study area. Strict control of planning will be required in these areas i.e. along the Sullane River Valley and the OPW's Guidelines on Flood Risk should be adhered to.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1</p>
<p>There is a possibility of unchecked increase in demand for wastewater treatment with potential for increased pollution to surface waters. Therefore correct treatment of wastewater is an important factor to consider in the quality of surface water. It is essential that the WWTP operates to highest</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1, W2, W3, W4, M1, M2</p>

standards and that monitoring of the performance of wastewater treatment plant and sewerage network is undertaken to capture leakages to GW and SW.		and ensure that WWTP comply with EPA Manuals. Policies WW01-WW05 fully comply with this.		
Air and Climate				
As the population of Macroom continues to grow in the future, there is a need to ensure that growth is planned for and that there are sufficient and appropriate lands zoned to accommodate such growth. A sustainable transport system is required to reduce car dependence and reduce GHG emissions. Sustainable construction and design in addition to clean and energy efficient technologies should be encouraged at design stage. Perhaps planning applications and designs with renewable energy aspects could be given preferential consideration.	Possibly significant if not mitigated	The SEA recommends that sustainable forms of development and sustainable sources of energy should be encouraged in the new plan. There is a need to include a policy on sustainable buildings (Housing and commercial buildings) within the new plan. This is fully addressed by Policy TP, energy Policies EP4 EP6.	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1	
The development of a Macroom bypass would alleviate greenhouse gases in the town centre. The bulk of commuter traffic and freight traveling from Cork to Kerry will no longer pass through the town, thereby removing congestion borne emissions from Macroom town centre. Vehicle traveling on a bypass would travel non stop and in a higher gear, thus using fuel more efficiently and reducing emissions.	Positive impact		Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1	
Sustainable forms of development and sustainable sources of energy should be encouraged in the new plan. There is a need to include a policy on sustainable building within the new plan.	Possibly significant if not mitigated	The SEA recommends that the plan should encourage utilisation of energy efficient technology in office and apartment block developments. The SEA recommends that Sustainable design should be encouraged for all new builds, which should incorporate clean and energy efficient technologies such as solar panels to provide hot water, high levels of fabric insulation, solar gain, and natural ventilation to reduce heating and cooling loads and maximise energy efficiency. Existing vegetation and future landscaping are important considerations for site selection. The minimisation of waste production during the construction process and provision for recycling of construction and demolition waste is another key factor in the design of sustainable building.	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: E1	
Future considerations should include examining the feasibility of district energy systems for public buildings and the Macroom urban area in general, such as combined heat and power and district heating, particularly for new developments. The	Not significant	Energy polices EP4 to EP6 fully with this. The SEA recommends There is also a need to ensure a policy is in place to protect Macroom from Windfarm development as outlined in the Cork County Development Plan 2003-2009. Policy EP6 promotes sustainable sources of energy.	Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: E1	

<p>main advantages of district heat systems include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Fewer emissions in densely populated areas; <input type="checkbox"/> Less individual boilers; <input type="checkbox"/> Higher energy efficiency and lower CO₂ emissions; and <input type="checkbox"/> Reaching Higher Building Energy Rating Targets. 		<p>There is no policy in the plan with regard to Windfarms.</p>	
<p>Material Assets</p>			
<p>Transport</p> <p>Presently the N22 passes through the centre of Macrooom with high volumes of traffic at peak hours causing major traffic congestion due to the inadequate infrastructure. Therefore a new Macrooom Bypass is proposed. The project proposed by the National Roads Authority and Cork County Council is for a two-lane by-pass. A 100 metre wide corridor has been agreed for this route. Other constraints within the study area include congestion within the Town Centre especially during the summer months, lack of cycle routes and parking.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>This is fully addressed by Policies T1 – T11</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1</p>
<p>The main aim for Macrooom Town is to grow in a compact and sustainable manner. One of the key objectives objective is therefore to encourage continued growth in employment and services in the town. However if the town is to continue to grow and prosper its transportation linkages to other economic nodes need to be significantly improved.</p>	<p>Positive impact</p>	<p>This is fully addressed by Policies T1 – T11</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: A1, PH2</p>
<p>Wastewater Treatment</p>			
<p>The existing wastewater plant is currently at capacity. However it is proposed to upgrade the waste water treatment plant for the area, Barry & Partners Consulting Engineers are preparing a preliminary report for the sewerage scheme for Macrooom Town Council which will be August 2008. Recommendations are to include the upgrading of the existing wastewater plant to increase treatment capacity and the provision of additional storage capacity at Masseytown Pump Station where upsized pumps will be required should more development occur in the catchment of this pump station.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>This is fully addressed by Policies WW1 to WW5</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: W1</p>

Water Supply

At present there is adequate water supply in the town. However there is not sufficient water supply for the future of the town's needs. Therefore there are long-term water capacity issues within the town and an additional reservoir may be needed to the north of the town to service the growing population north of the town. Therefore policies should be included in the plan to monitor water supply and ensure future provision for population projections.

Possibly significant if not mitigated

SEA Recommends that following new Policies to be included within the Plan:

Outline a timeframe for the Waste Water Treatment Plant Upgrade.

A timeframe has not been identified within the draft Plan

Ensure no development takes place in the absence of the Waste Water Provision.

This is fully addressed by Policy WWMP2

The Plan should include a policy to ensure that all developments currently served by septic tanks should be connected to the WWTP where possible.

This is fully addressed by Policy WWMP3

To ensure separation of foul and surface water effluents through the provision of separate collecting networks and to ensure that all new developments provide separate collecting systems.

This is fully addressed by Policy WWMP1

Include a policy as per the Department of the Environment, Heritage and local Government (DoEHLG) policy, whereby: Storm water will not be combined with foul networks and all future development will provide soakways or separate storm networks.

This is fully addressed by Policy WWMP4

Policies should be included in the plan to monitor water supply and ensure future provision for population projections.

This is fully addressed by Policy WSP1/WSP2

Include specific objective for the preparation of a Water Conservation Strategy for Macroom town and surrounding area as appropriate.

This is fully addressed by Policy WSP6

Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated in Table 10.1: M2, M1, W1, W2, W3, W4

Cultural Heritage

Developments or works which occur in close proximity to archaeological monuments would have potential to impact existing archaeological

Possibly significant if not mitigated

SEA recommends the following new Policy to be included in the plan:

Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated in Table 10.1: CH1, CH2

<p>monuments through disturbance or destruction of the monuments. New developments that are adjacent to and/or alterations/extensions to existing protected structures also need to be carefully managed to ensure that the cultural heritage of such areas are not disturbed or negatively impacted upon.</p>		<p><input type="checkbox"/> Any direct impacts on national monuments in State or Local Authority care or subject to a preservation order will require the consent of the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government under Section 14 of the National Monuments Act 1930 as amended by Section 5 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 2004.</p> <p>This is fully addressed by Policy AP5</p>	
<p>It is deemed that the Plan area is of high archaeological potential. This determination is based on the presence of substantial archaeological remains from many periods of the past within the development area.</p> <p>In addition to the Record of Protected Structures, structures of architectural heritage merit, although not put forward for inclusion in the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) may continue to contribute to the identity of a locality and should be taken into account in the preparation of the Development Plan. The Macroon area is unique in form and character. The contribution of any features, which give identity to and enhance that uniqueness, should be given recognition in the Development Plan.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>Any potential impacts on archaeological heritage should be subject to full archaeological assessment. (i.e. not just medium to major scale developments as noted in the plan).</p> <p>This is fully addressed by Policy AP4</p> <p>It is recommended that maps indicating RMP's, RPS's and other elements of cultural heritage should encapsulate the entire town rather than just the town centre.</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: CH1, CH2</p>
<p>Landscape</p> <p>It is considered that much of the lands surrounding the town are of high landscape character. Elevated lands to the north and south of the town are sensitive to development. Lands to the east and south east of Macroon town are designated as Scenic Landscape in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 and Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007. Two scenic routes are located in close proximity to the town and there are also a number of locally important views as outlined above. In addition The Gearagh is located to the south west of the town and is designated as a cSAC and SPA. The policies and objectives for landscape protection in the Plan are generally positive.</p>	<p>Possibly significant if not mitigated</p>	<p>SEA recommends the following new policies to be included in the plan:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> New Developments in the plan area should have cognisance to the A89, A90 and A91 Scenic Routes in the Cork County Development Plan 2003 (S72/S73/S74 Scenic Routes in the Draft Cork County Development Plan 2007).</p> <p>This is fully addressed by Policy NEP15</p>	<p>Refer to Monitoring Programme As Indicated In Table 10.1: L1</p>

