

SCREENING FOR STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

FOR
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS
TO THE
DRAFT
DRAFT ABBEYFEALE LOCAL AREA PLAN
2023-2029

for: Limerick City and County Council

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan (LAP) 2023-2029 hereafter referred to as the "Draft Plan".

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive¹ requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or alterations to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or alteration to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Abbeyfeale LAP. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations/Proposed Amendments to LAPs are provided under Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and Article 8 of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004, as amended.

This report should be read in conjunction with the LAP and all other associated documents including the:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Abbeyfeale LAP 2023-2029;
- Screening Appropriate Assessment (AA) Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Abbeyfeale LAP 2023-2029;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Abbeyfeale LAP 2023-2029; and
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Abbeyfeale LAP 2023-2029.

1.2 Process so far

The LAP has been progressed to date in compliance with Sections 19 and 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

SEA² is being undertaken on and has informed the Draft LAP in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Draft LAP on public display contains the findings of the assessment.

AA³ is also being undertaken on the Draft LAP (informing both the Draft LAP and the SEA) in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations. An AA Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment and accompanied the Draft LAP on public display.

The Draft LAP associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft LAP and these are the subject of this report.

¹ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

² Strategic Environmental Assessment is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it.

³ Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning European Sites designated on foot of habitats and species.

1.3 SEA Environmental Report (April 2023)

The SEA Environmental Report for the LAP contains the information specified in Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) as amended. The relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report that address these information requirements are detailed on Table 1.1 below.

The assessment undertaken on relevant Proposed Material Alterations (the findings of which are presented later in this document) has used the information contained in the SEA Environmental Report.

Table 1.1 Information contained within the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Local Area Plan

Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report	Corresponding Section of this Report
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European protected sites	Section 4
(E) List of environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 3, 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix II Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

Section 2 SEA Screening

2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether each Proposed Material Alteration to the LAP would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

2.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is being undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan and has informed this SEA Screening.

2.3 Appropriate Assessment

Appropriate Assessment (AA) is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive⁴, its transposing Birds and Natural Habitats Regulations 2011 (as amended) and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The Local Area Plan is being subject to Stage 2 AA and an AA Natura Impact Report was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan. At adoption of the Plan, the AA Natura Impact Report will be finalised and an AA determination made by the Council.

An AA screening process has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations. This process has determined that Stage 2 AA for certain Alterations is not necessary - a Screening for AA Report contains these findings, has informed this SEA Screening Report and accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations.

2.4 Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations

The analysis of Proposed Material Alterations is undertaken considering interactions Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 2.1). Table 2.2 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.2 is supplemented by Table 2.3 which provides details on:

- Likely significant effects of implementing the Draft Plan, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Draft Plan; and
- Likely residual non-significant adverse effects arising from the Draft Plan.

Effects encompass the full range of effects⁵, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

⁴ Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora

⁵ These include secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long-term permanent and temporary, positive and negative effects

The examination of Proposed Material Alterations also takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	BFF	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of regional and local importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of ecological networks. • Ensure the continued conservation of the Natura 2000 sites, Natural Heritage and Proposed Natural Heritage sites. These sites are important, both as an amenity and natural history resource. • Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species • Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets • To protect, maintain and conserve the County's natural capital
Population and Human Health	PHH	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate a good standard of quality of life for the population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments • Provide policy support for the provision of suitable infrastructure and facilities for the local population • Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management • Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services • Safeguard the County's citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being
Soil (and Land)	S	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Place an emphasis on the development of brownfield sites rather than greenfield sites. By reducing the possible development of greenfield sites this makes a positive contribution to soil conservation • This can also be achieved through the sensitive reuse of existing buildings, reducing the need for new build • Protect geological sites within the plan area • Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource • Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield within the County • Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites
Water	W	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that wastewater infrastructure keeps pace with development proposals • Ensure that the requirements of the Water Framework Directive are incorporated into the Plan • Ensure that wetland and peatland sites are preserved • Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive • Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed regional and County growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and wastewater capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments • Avoid inappropriate zoning and development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion, particularly coastal areas • Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals
Material Assets	MA	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain sustainable access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure • Ensure that there is adequate policy support for infrastructural provision in the plan area • Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County - this includes transport infrastructure • Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
			<p>supply – wind, solar, hydro, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies • Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development • Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes • Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart-buildings, cities and grids
Air	A	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To avoid deterioration of air quality in the plan area • To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture • Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency • Promote continuing improvement in air quality • Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution • Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health – Air Quality Directive • Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels
Climatic Factors	C	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources and where necessary to ensure the sensitive application of energy saving measures to the historic built fabric • To include climate action concerns into the plan policies • To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses • Integrate sustainable design solutions into the County's infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure) • Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets • Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change • Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport
Cultural Heritage	CH	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve features of archaeological heritage and their setting • Protect conserve and promote the sustainable reuse of architectural heritage • Conserve and record those aspects of cultural heritage that may be affected by planning related activities
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the Limerick landscape both urban and rural • Retain the protected views in the Development Plan • To implement the framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 2.2 SEA Screening Analysis of Proposed Material Alterations⁶

Ref	SEA Screening Consideration
1	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions related to this sector/topic that are already contained within the Draft Plan. Considering the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Development Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
2	The update to terminology/language/wording/mapping would not change the effects arising from the Plan. Where the change relates to mapping, the implications of the change may have been considered under other related Alterations. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
3	This alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and/or provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
4	This alteration adds more detail but would not have the potential to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
5	This alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and/or with the wider planning and policy framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
6	Removal of this provision/text would remove the potential for any environmental effects; however, removal of the provision/text would not be likely to result in any environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
7	These alterations relate to supporting documents but would not change Plan provisions. Consequently, SEA is not required.

Ref.	SEA Screening Consideration Ref. – see above
Amendment No. 1 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 2 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 3 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 4 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 5 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 6 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 7 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 8 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 9 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 10 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 11 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment No. 12 to Draft Local Area Plan text	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendments to Settlement Capacity Audit	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment to Maps - Include a new Map, which identifies Opportunity Sites	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment to Maps - Update Flood Map	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment to Maps - Amendment No. 1 to Land Use Zoning Map	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required
Amendment to Maps - Amendment No. 2 to Land Use Zoning Map	Selection of Considerations from Ref. 1 to 7 - SEA not required

⁶ For detail on Proposed Material Alterations please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.

Table 2.3 Detail of effects⁷, if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures, including:	
				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁸	From Limerick Development Plan
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats. Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), 	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna; Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds (e.g. swifts and owls) and bats. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation). 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and Landscape.</p> <p>Objective CH 02: Blue Green Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to</p> <p>a) Develop and enhance blue and green infrastructure opportunities throughout Abbeyfeale and in line with the detail set out in Table 6: LAP Climate Action Opportunities.</p> <p>b) Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value, such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites where possible. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species.</p> <p>c) Protect existing ecosystems and biodiversity assets, such as natural woodland, natural watercourses and riparian habitats, layered ecosystems supporting flora, fauna, pollinators, invertebrates, micro-organisms and mycelium, where possible.</p> <p>Objectives C2 New Amenity Areas, Walkways and Cycleways: It is an objective of the Council to</p> <p>a) Continue to facilitate the development of walkways and cycleways as indicated on the Amenity and Sustainable Transport Map (Appendix 1, Map 3) in co-operation with all sectors, subject to funding. Any proposed development adjacent to walkways must incorporate connecting pathways in their design. Developments shall be designed to overlook proposed walkways and shall link existing and proposed residential areas to each other, to amenity areas and to provide connections to the town centre.</p> <p>b) Proposals for new Walkways/Cycleways, Greenways and Blueways will be subject to appropriate environmental assessments. Any development which would have adverse effect on the integrity of European sites or cause a net loss of bio-diversity will not be permitted.</p> <p>Objective ED 2: Tourism Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to</p> <p>a) Support growth in the tourism sector in Abbeyfeale by facilitating vital connections between complementary sites, attractions and town centre, and ensuring visitors can easily avail of services in Abbeyfeale town centre.</p> <p>b) Support the provision of a range or tourist accommodation types and infrastructure including, hostel accommodation, campervan/caravans sites, subject to be them being located on suitably zoned lands.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors and Landscape.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P1 Protection of Natural Heritage and Biodiversity</i> It is a policy of the Council to:</p> <p>a) <i>Protect and conserve Limerick's natural heritage and biodiversity, in particular, areas designated as part of the European Sites Natura 2000 network, such as Special Protection Areas (SPAs) and Special Areas of Conservations (SACs), in accordance with relevant EU Directives and national legislation and guidelines.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Maintain the conservation value of all Natural Heritage Areas and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) for the benefit of existing and future generations.</i></p> <p><i>Policy EH P2 Sustainable Management and Conservation</i> It is a policy of the Council to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of areas of natural environmental and geological value within Limerick and to protect, enhance, create and connect, where ecologically suitable, natural heritage, green spaces and high-quality amenity areas for the benefit of biodiversity.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P3 Climate Action and the Natural Environment</i> It is a policy of the Council to take into account the contents of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity Climate Adaptation Plan and any forthcoming guidance or legislation on climate action, whether adaptation or mitigation that will emerge during the course of the Plan.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P4 Compliance with Limerick's Heritage Plan</i> It is a policy of the Council to place ecological and environmental issues at the centre of planning policies and decisions and in doing so, will adhere to the objectives set out in Limerick's Heritage Plan 2017-2030.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</i> It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P7 Environmental Noise</i> It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O1 Designated Sites and Habitats Directive</i> It is an objective of the Council to ensure that projects/plans likely to have significant effects on European Sites (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) are subject to an appropriate assessment and will not be permitted under the Plan unless they comply with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive. The Council, will through the planning enforcement process where applicable, seek to restore the ecological functions of designated sites, where they have been damaged through inappropriate development.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O2 Lesser Horseshoe Bat</i> It is an objective of the Council to require all developments in areas where there may be Lesser Horseshoe Bats, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the species. The assessment shall include mitigation measures to ensure that feeding, roosting or hibernation sites for the species are maintained. The assessment shall also include measures to ensure that landscape features are retained and that the development itself will not cause a barrier or deterrent effect on the species.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O3 Ecological Impact Assessment</i> It is an objective of the Council to require all developments where there are species of conservation concern, to submit an ecological assessment of the effects of the development on the site and nearby designated sites, suggesting appropriate mitigation measures and establishing, in particular, the presence or absence of the following species: Otter, badger, bats, lamprey and protected plant species such as the Triangular Club Rush, Opposite Leaved Pond Weed and Flora Protection Order Species generally.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O4 Creation of New Habitats</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) <i>Seek the creation of new habitats by encouraging wild green areas and new water features such as, pools and ponds in new developments.</i></p> <p>b) <i>Encourage management plans for green areas to use the minimum of pesticides and herbicides.</i></p> <p>c) <i>The creation of areas that are not subject to public access in order to promote wildlife use is strongly encouraged.</i></p> <p><i>Objective EH O5 New Infrastructure Projects</i> It is an objective of the Council to require new infrastructure and linear developments in particular, to demonstrate at design stage sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species and to demonstrate a high degree of permeability for wildlife, to allow the movement of species and to prevent the creation of barriers to wildlife and aquatic life in the wider countryside.</p>

⁷ Effects include in-combination effects that are planned for through the wider planning framework including the NPF and associated NDP, the Southern RSES, the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.

⁸ May be updated to take account of Proposed Material Alterations and any Further Modifications, in advance of Plan adoption.

Screening for SEA Report for Proposed Material Alterations

Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures, including:	
				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁹	From Limerick Development Plan
	<p>and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora and fauna that they contain. 			<p>c) Support Abbeyfeale’s role in the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019 - 2023 and any subsequent replacement document.</p> <p>d) Require tourism projects to adhere to appropriate environmental and ecological assessment and to mitigate any adverse environmental, biodiversity and ecological impacts.</p> <p>e) Support community engagement in the development of tourism and amenity projects in the town.</p> <p>f) Seek to improve public realm opportunities, to make available spaces to facilitate the tradition of festivals in the town.</p> <p>g) Support of development of the Limerick Greenway, ancillary facilities, connectivity between the Greenway and the town centre, Abbeyfeale as a Greenway hub, with enhanced accessibility to the heritage and cultural assets of the town.</p> <p>Objective CH 04: Special Area of Conservation</p> <p>a) Protect and maintain the integrity of the Special Area of Conservation by the River Feale and protect the watercourses in Abbeyfeale, in accordance with the Semi-Natural Open Space zoning designation on the Land Use Zoning Map and the lands zoned Agriculture by the River Allaughan.</p> <p>b) Ensure the protection of a 20m riparian buffer zone on greenfield sites free from development. Proposals shall have cognisance of the contents of the Inland Fisheries Ireland document - Planning for Watercourses in Urban Environments.</p> <p>c) Ensure that appropriate wastewater infrastructure is available to support new developments to safeguard water quality.</p> <p>d) No projects which will be reasonably likely to give rise to significant adverse direct or indirect or secondary impacts on the integrity of any Natura 2000 sites, having regard to their conservation objectives arising from reduction in species diversity, shall be permitted on the basis of this plan (either individually or in combination with other plans or projects) ⁹.</p> <p>e) To seek to ensure the sustainable and responsible management of all leisure fishing and water-based activities within the Lower River Shannon SAC, in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and/or Inland Fisheries Ireland where relevant, and in compliance with the Salmonid River Regulations (SI No. 293/1988) and the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective CH 05: Tree Protection and Nature Conservation: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Seek to protect natural stone boundary walls, ponds/wetlands, other natural features of local importance and mature trees, where possible. Development that requires the felling or harming of such trees will not generally be permitted, unless supported by a tree survey establishing that the subject trees are of no ecological or amenity value. Such report shall be undertaken by a</p>	<p><i>Objective EH 06 Barn Owl Conservation</i> It is an objective of the Council to require road developments to incorporate from the design stage, elements that will assist in the conservation of the Barn owl.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 07 All Ireland Pollinator Plan</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Continue to actively support the aims and objectives of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2021 – 2025, by encouraging measures to protect and increase the population of bees and other pollinating insects in Limerick.</p> <p>b) Support the aims of the National Bio-Diversity Action Plan and succeeding plans, in emphasising the importance of ecological issues in planning.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 08 Roosting Habitats</i> It is an objective of the Council to require the provision of alternative roosting or settlement facilities for species, such as bird or bat boxes, swift boxes, artificial holts (for otters), or other artificially created habitats in proposed developments, where considered appropriate.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 09 Geological Sites</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Protect from inappropriate development, the County Geological Sites contained in the Limerick Geological Heritage Survey 2021.</p> <p>b) Seek the conservation and protection of features of geological interest within Limerick, particularly those that would have been recognised in the past as Areas of Scientific Interest or by the Geological Survey of Ireland as being of particular value.</p> <p>c) Undertake a survey of such sites during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 010 Trees and Hedgerows</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Retain and protect amenity and biodiversity value of the County and City by preserving as far as possible trees, woodlands and hedgerows, having regard to the significant role that trees and hedgerows play in local ecology, climate change and air quality and their contribution to quality place making and the associated health and wellbeing benefits.</p> <p>b) Require, in the event that mature trees or extensive mature hedgerow is proposed to be removed, that a comprehensive tree and hedgerow survey be carried out by a suitably qualified tree specialist to assess the condition, ecological and amenity value of the tree stock/ hedgerow proposed for removal and to include mitigation planting and a management scheme. The Council will seek in all cases to ensure when undertaking development, or when permitting development, that the loss of, or damage to, existing trees is minimised.</p> <p>c) Require the planting of native trees, hedgerows and vegetation and the creation of new habitats in all new developments and public realm projects. The Council will avail of tree planting schemes administered by the Forest Service, in ecologically suitable locations, where this is considered desirable.</p> <p>d) To identify and prepare TPO’s where trees of exceptional amenity, cultural or environmental value are identified which warrant a high level of protection.</p> <p>e) To implement the Limerick City and County Tree Policy when completed and review as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 011 Invasive Species</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Work with and facilitate the work of agencies addressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive alien species (IAS), by implementing biosecurity measures, selected control measures and surveys, where appropriate.</p> <p>b) Address the presence of invasive alien species on derelict sites under the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act through the preparation of a management and eradication plan for these species.</p> <p>c) Require the submission of a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process, if developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are present.</p> <p>d) Employ biosecurity measures to prevent the spread of invasive alien species and disease and to insist that all such measures are employed on all development sites.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 012 Blue and Green Infrastructure</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Promote a network of blue and green infrastructure throughout Limerick.</p> <p>b) Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species. Projects which would be detrimental to existing blue and green infrastructure features will not be permitted.</p> <p>c) Ensure the integration and strengthening of green infrastructure into the preparation of Local Area Plans.</p> <p>d) Where possible remove barriers to species movement, such as the removal of in-stream barriers to fish passage for example.</p> <p>e) Seek to advance the use of an ecosystem services approach and ecosystem services valuation as a decision-making tool in plans and projects, subject to appropriate ecological assessment.</p>

⁹ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available; b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures, including:	
				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁸	From Limerick Development Plan
				suitably qualified and competent person.	<p><i>Objective EH O14 Nature Based Solutions</i> It is an objective of the Council to increase the use of Nature Based Solutions (NBS) throughout Limerick. <i>Development Management Standards</i>, including under 11.3.8 "Landscaping", 11.3.9 "Trees",</p>
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management. Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-serviced lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects arising from flood events. Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors. 	<p>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Policy ED 1: Strategic Economic Development: It is a policy of the Council to Promote, facilitate and enable economic development and employment generating activities in Abbeyfeale on appropriately lands zoned lands, in a sustainable manner, in accordance with the Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028.</p> <p>Objective ED O1: Enterprise and Employment Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to</p> <p>a) Encourage the reuse and redevelopment of appropriately zoned vacant units, brownfield, derelict and infill sites for employment creation, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>b) Ensure any proposals for the lands zoned for Enterprise and Employment adjoining the N21 include a Traffic and Transport Assessment, to ensure that the local road network and associated junctions with the regional road have sufficient capacity to facilitate the extent of the development planned. The costs of implementing mitigation measures arising from the assessment shall be borne by the developer. Any proposals on these sites shall ensure the provision of a minimum 20m landscaped buffer zone between proposed development and residential developments.</p> <p>c) Ensure any proposal for part of the lands zoned Enterprise and Employment does not preclude the development of the remaining zoning lands. Any proposal submitted on these lands shall include an indicative layout which allows for a coordinated development at Mountmahon.</p> <p>d) Retain sufficient lands around the site boundaries where industrial, enterprise or distribution activities are proposed to accommodate landscaping to soften the visual impact and reduce the biodiversity loss of the development.</p> <p>e) Early engagement with all utilities providers, including Uisce Eireann is strongly advised.</p> <p>f) Promote inter-urban linkages and partnerships across county boundaries, capitalising on collective strengths to attract investment in Abbeyfeale, the wider West Limerick /North Kerry region and the Atlantic Economic Corridor.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O20 Noise and Vibration during Construction and at Open Sites</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect the quality of the environmental against the effects of noise and vibration, by implementing site appropriate mitigation measures during the construction and demolition phases of development.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O21 Commercial and Industrial Noise</i> It is an objective of the Council to prevent members of the public being significantly adversely effected by environmental noise from commercial and industrial noise activities.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O22 Entertainment Noise</i> It is an objective of the Council to manage entertainment noise from venues and music events, so as not to have an adverse effect on the public.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O25 Air Pollution</i> It is an objective of the Council to implement the provisions of national and EU Directives on air pollution and other relevant legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O26 Improvement of Air Quality</i> It is an objective of the Council to improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in Limerick, through the support of sustainable modes of transport, renewable energy, promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes and urban greening.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O27 Air Quality Monitoring</i> It is an objective of the Council to monitor and provide access to the public on the air quality in Limerick and support the EPA in the expansion and management of the national air quality monitoring network.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O28 Air Quality during Construction</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect environmental quality and implement site appropriate mitigation measures during construction and demolition phases of a development, with respect to air quality, including dust.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O29 Odour</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect the public from odour nuisance issues through odour abatement solutions.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P7 Environmental Noise</i> It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</i> It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> <p><i>Objective TR O53 Noise and Transportation</i> It is an objective of the Council to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce noise levels from traffic where they are potentially harmful, in accordance with Limerick's Noise Action Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective TR O54 Noise Sensitive Development</i> It is an objective of the Council to require noise sensitive developments in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads to be designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided in accordance with Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise (2017) and based on the guidance and recommendations of the World Health Organisation.</p> <p><i>Objective IN O21 Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Implement the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans.</p> <p>b) Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations.</p> <p><i>Development Management Standards</i>, including under 11.3.12 "Noise"</p>

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				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁸	From Limerick Development Plan
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) and designated sites of geological heritage by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands. Potential for riverbank erosion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces. Riverbank erosion will continue to occur naturally over time and is likely to be enhanced by climate change. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Objective H2: Residential Compact Growth: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the sequential development of the serviced residential lands identified to cater for the envisaged population growth. Ensure that at least 30% of all new housing development is delivered within existing builtup areas, including infill, brownfield and greenfield sites. Consolidate existing development and increase existing residential density, through a range of measures, including re-use of existing buildings and infill development schemes. Ensure that in any proposed alterations to the streetscape of the town centre, adequate consideration is given to conservation, restoration and reconstruction, where it would affect the settings of protected structures, or the integrity of the eighteenth and nineteenth century streetscapes. <p>Objective H4: Serviced Sites: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>Permit serviced sites on adequately zoned lands within the settlement boundary of Abbeyfeale in line with the requirements outlined in the Limerick Development Plan. The Council requires a minimum net density of 10 dwelling units per hectare on lands zoned Serviced Sites.</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p><i>Objective SS 01 Compact Growth</i> It is an objective of the Council to strengthen the core of settlements and encourage compact growth, through the development of infill sites, brownfield lands, under-utilised land/buildings, vacant sites and derelict sites, within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements and develop outwards from the centre in a sequential manner.</p> <p><i>Objective SS 04 Prevention of Urban Sprawl</i> It is an objective of the Council to prevent linear roadside frontage development on roads leading out of towns and villages in order to retain the identity of towns/villages, to prevent sprawl and to ensure a distinction in character between built up areas and the open countryside.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 09 Geological Sites</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> To protect from inappropriate development, the County Geological Sites contained in the Limerick Geological Heritage Survey 2021. Seek the conservation and protection of features of geological interest within Limerick, particularly those that would have been recognised in the past as Areas of Scientific Interest or by the Geological Survey of Ireland as being of particular value. Undertake a survey of such sites during the lifetime of the Plan. <p><i>Objective IN 021 Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Implement the EPA's National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans. Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations.
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology. Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan. Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan. 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Policy CH 2 Water Framework Directive Policy: It is a policy of the Council to:</p> <p>Implement changes to the management of water bodies, taking account of all aspects of the Water Cycle in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and the principal objective of the WFD to achieve at least good status in all waters and to ensure that status does not deteriorate in any waters.</p> <p>Objectives IU 05: Flood Risk Management: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Manage flood risk in accordance with the requirements of "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities", DECLG and OPW (2009) and any revisions thereof and consider the potential impacts of climate change in the application of these guidelines. Ensure development proposals within the areas outlined as being at risk of flooding are subject to Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment as outlined in "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines", DECLG and OPW (2009). These Flood 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 015 Ground Water, Surface Water Protection and River Basin Management Plans</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Protect ground and surface water resources and to take into account the requirement of the Water Framework Directive when dealing with planning and land use issues. Implement the provisions of the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2028 and any succeeding plan. The filling of wetlands, surface water features and modifications and drainage of peatlands shall generally be prohibited. Implement the measures put forward in the Limerick Groundwater Protection Plan, in assessing planning applications and their consequences for ground The Blue Dot Catchments programme is a key action under the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2028. The aim of the programme is to protect and restore high ecological status to a network of rivers and water bodies in Limerick. In Limerick, the following rivers and water bodies are Blue Dot Catchments Bleach Lough, the Ogeen River and the Behanagh River. The Council will take a precautionary approach to development which might affect water quality in these areas in line with requirements of the Water Framework Directive. <p><i>Objective EH 017 Water Quality</i> It is an objective of the Council to support commitments to achieve and maintain 'At Least Good' status, except where more stringent obligations are required. There shall be no deterioration of status for all water bodies under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and its programme of measures, the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan. Key challenges include, inter alia, the need to address significant deficits in urban waste-water treatment and water supply, addressing flooding and increased flood risks from extreme weather events and increased intense rainfall because of climate change.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</i> It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p>

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	<p>groundwaters and water-based designations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 			<p>Risk Assessments shall consider climate change impacts and adaptation measures including details of structural and non-structural flood risk management measures, such as those relating to floor levels, internal layout, flood-resistant construction, flood-resilient construction, emergency response planning and access and egress during flood events.</p> <p>c) Ensure that future developments in flood prone areas is generally limited to minor developments in line with the Circular PL 02/2014 and the Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities and ensure future development of lands within Flood Risk Zone A/B is in accordance with the plan-making Justification Tests in the SFRA.</p> <p>d) Developments on lands benefitting from Arterial Drainage Schemes shall preserve the maintenance and access to these drainage channels. Land identified as benefitting from these systems may be prone to flooding, as such site-specific flood risk assessments will be required as appropriate, at planning application stage.</p> <p>e) Seek to upgrade the culvert serving the Glorach stream to minimise the risk of flooding, subject to resources.</p> <p>f) Ensure the protection of a 20m riparian buffer free from development, on greenfield lands, in particular the lands zoned New Residential by the Glórach stream east of the Clash Road and west of Cedarville.</p>	<p><i>Objective IN 010 Surface Water and SuDS</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks within application site boundaries.</p> <p>b) Work in conjunction with other public bodies towards a sustainable programme of improvement for riverbanks, back drains, etc.</p> <p>c) Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters, in accordance with the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHPLG) and the associated Programme of Measures and any subsequent River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>d) Ensure adequate storm water infrastructure to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the Plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>e) Cater for the future developments through public and private driven initiatives where discharge capacity permits.</p> <p>f) Address the issue of disposal of surface water generated by existing development in the area, through improvements to surface water infrastructure, including for example attenuation ponds, the application of sustainable urban drainage techniques, or by minimising the amount of hard surfaced areas, or providing porous surfaces as the opportunity arises.</p> <p>g) Protect the surface water resources of the Plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps and pollution control measures where deemed necessary.</p> <p>h) Require all planning applications to include surface-water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point and require all new developments to include SuDS, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 11: Development Management Standards of the Plan.</p> <p>i) Promote SuDS and grey water recycling in developments and responsible use of water by the wider community, to reduce the demand for water supply.</p> <p>j) Require SuDS schemes to be designed to incorporate the four pillars of water quality, water quantity, biodiversity and amenity to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of a given site.</p> <p>k) Allow sufficient land take for SuDS when planning the site and consider the region as a whole, in association with adjoining lands and their requirements in designing SuDS. Developers may be required to set aside lands to cater for not only their own SuDS but also regional SuDS.</p> <p>l) Promote the provision of suitable Blue/Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solutions to the surface water disposal in new development, as a means to provide urban flood resilience. This approach capitalises on the potential of urban green spaces and natural water flows, subject to the other planning considerations such as amenity, maintenance, traffic safety, proper planning and sustainable development and environmental requirements.</p> <p>m) <i>To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</i></p> <p>n) <i>Encourage green roofs for the following types of development:</i> -Apartment developments; -Employment developments; -Retail developments; -Leisure facilities; -Education facilities.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 011 Nature Based Solutions</i> It is an objective of the Council to promote integration and delivery of nature based solutions and infrastructure in new developments, including surface water management, public realm and community projects as a means of managing flood risk and enhancing the natural environment.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P5 Managing Flood Risk</i> It is a policy of the Council to protect Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B from inappropriate development and direct developments/land uses into the appropriate lands, in accordance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 (or any superseding document) and the guidance contained in Development Management Standards. Where a development/land use is proposed that is inappropriate within the Flood Zone, then the development proposal will need to be accompanied by a Development Management Justification Test and site specific Flood Risk Assessment in accordance with the criteria set out under The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009 and Circular PL2/2014 (as updated/superseded). In Flood Zone C, the developer should satisfy themselves that the probability of flooding is appropriate to the development being proposed and should consider the implications of climate change.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 020 Flood Risk Assessments</i> It is an objective of the Council to require a Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) for all planning applications in areas at risk of flooding (coastal/tidal, fluvial, pluvial or groundwater), where deemed necessary. The detail of these Site-specific FRAs (or commensurate assessments of flood risk for minor developments) will depend on the level of risk and scale of development. A detailed Site-specific FRA should quantify the risks, the effects of selected mitigation and the management of any residual risks. The assessments shall consider and provide information on the implications of climate change with regard to flood risk in relevant locations.</p>

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					<p><i>Objective CAF O21 Identified Flood Risk</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure that no development shall commence on the lands identified as being at flood risk adjacent to the Raheen Business Park in the townlands of Ballycummin/ Rootiagh, zoned for High Tech/ Manufacturing, until a Site-specific Flood Risk Assessment, including hydraulic model has been prepared for the lands, which demonstrates that the flood risk for the lands can be mitigated or that a less vulnerable use can be accommodated on site.</p> <p>b) Ensure that on the Enterprise and Employment lands located to the northwest of the M20/M7/N18 junction to the south of Toppin's field, that no encroachment onto, or loss of the flood plain occurs at this location and that only water compatible development should be permitted for the lands that are identified as being at risk of flooding.</p> <p>c) Ensure any planning application, including proposals for water compatible uses, on the lands in Flood Zones A and B adjacent to the Coonagh TUS campus, zoned for Education and Community, shall include a comprehensive Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, incorporating a drainage assessment for the lands, which demonstrates that the flood risk can be mitigated and that water compatible uses can be accommodated without adversely impacting on the flood risk of neighbouring residential properties.</p> <p>d) No works including the undertaking of ground level changes shall commence on the lands in the National Technology Park subject to flood risk, until all flood mitigation measures proposed on the site to facilitate future development of the IDA lands have been put in place. These measures shall form part of a project-specific flood risk assessment being completed as part of any planning application.</p> <p>e) Any planning application on the lands zoned Data Centre at Rosbrien shall include a comprehensive Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, which demonstrates that the flood risk can be mitigated and that access/egress, roads and water compatible uses can be accommodated without adversely impacting on the flood risk off site.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O23 Flood Relief Schemes</i> It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the development of Flood Relief Schemes as identified in the CFRAM 10 Year Investment Programme and ensure development proposals do not impede or prevent the progression of these measures.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O24 Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protections Schemes</i> It is an objective of the Council to support and facilitate the Office of Public Works Minor Flood and Mitigation Works and Coastal Protections Schemes and ensure development proposals do not impede or prevent the progression of these measures.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O25 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</i> It is an objective of the Council to have regard to the recommendations set out in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared to support the Plan.</p> <p><i>Development Management Standards, including under 11.3.8 "Landscaping", 11.3.11 SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems)</i></p>
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives. Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality. Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors. Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility. <p>Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors. Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</p>	<p>Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning and sustainable mobility provided by the Plan.</p> <p>Policy TCF P2: Town Centre First and '10 Minute' Town Concept - It is policy of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Implement the 10 Minute Town Concept in Abbeyfeale ensuring that future development including residential, community and educational facilities, employment centres are within a 10-minute walk or cycle from the town centre and/or accessible by public transport services connecting to settlements, including Limerick City, North Kerry, West Limerick and North Cork.</p> <p>b) Prioritise the town centre as the most appropriate location for future development of the town. Planning applications for future development will be assessed as per the zoning objectives of this Plan and considered sequentially in relation to the town centre zoning.</p> <p>Policy SMT P1: Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies - It is a policy of the Council to Support and facilitate the integration of land use and transportation policies for Abbeyfeale, as a means of reducing the impact on climate change. The Council will ensure the delivery of a sustainable compact settlement, which can be served by various modes of transport with a focus on reducing the need to travel.</p> <p>Policy SMT P2: Transport and Movement - Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use: It is a policy of the Council to</p>	<p>Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning and sustainable mobility provided by the Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective IN O1 Climate Action in Infrastructure Planning</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Require all infrastructure development, whether above ground or subterranean, to avoid flood risk areas and areas at risk of coastal erosion.</p> <p>b) Require site selection, location, design and materials to have regard to and be resilient to the changing climate (high winds, temperature fluctuations, increased storm intensity and changes in rainfall).</p> <p>c) Collaborate with utility and service providers to ensure their networks are resilient to the impacts of climate change, both in terms of design and ongoing maintenance.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P3 Climate Action and the Natural Environment</i> It is a policy of the Council to take into account the contents of the National Biodiversity Action Plan and the Biodiversity Climate Adaptation Plan and any forthcoming guidance or legislation on climate action, whether adaptation or mitigation that will emerge during the course of the Plan.</p> <p>Air Quality and Noise</p> <p><i>Objective EH O25 Air Pollution</i> It is an objective of the Council to implement the provisions of national and EU Directives on air pollution and other relevant legislative requirements in conjunction with other agencies as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O26 Improvement of Air Quality</i> It is an objective of the Council to improve air quality and help prevent people being exposed to unacceptable levels of pollution in Limerick, through the support of sustainable modes of transport, renewable energy, promotion of energy efficient buildings and homes and urban greening.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O27 Air Quality Monitoring</i> It is an objective of the Council to monitor and provide access to the public on the air quality in Limerick and support the EPA in the expansion and management of the national air quality monitoring network.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O28 Air Quality during Construction</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect environmental quality and implement site appropriate mitigation measures during construction and demolition phases of a development, with respect to air quality, including dust.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O29 Odour</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect the public from odour nuisance issues through odour abatement solutions.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P7 Environmental Noise</i> It is a policy of the Council to proactively manage environmental noise, where it may have a significant adverse impact on</p>

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	<p>levels, including through measures relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sustainable compact growth; ○ Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport; ○ Drainage, flood risk management and resilience; ○ Sectors including agriculture, residential heating and infrastructure; • Sustainable design, energy efficiency and green infrastructure. 			<p>Seek to implement in a positive manner, in cooperation with other relevant stakeholders and agencies, the policies of the NPF, RSES and the Department of Transport's Active Travel publications, to encourage more sustainable patterns of travel and greater use of sustainable forms of transport in Abbeyfeale, including public transport, cycling and walking.</p> <p>Objective SM 02: Modal Shift and Behavioural Change: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Encourage, promote and facilitate a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport in Abbeyfeale, including the Limerick Greenway.</p> <p>b) Support and facilitate implementation of an integrated, multi-modal and accessible public transport network for Abbeyfeale and its hinterland.</p> <p>Policy CH 1: Climate Change: It is a policy of the Council to</p> <p>Protect and enhance environmental quality and implement the climate action measures through the planning process to help address climate change.</p> <p>Objective CH 01: Climate Change: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure climate-proofing measures are incorporated into the design, planning and construction of all developments, including utilities and their networks. The use of green infrastructure as a mechanism for carbon offsetting and surface water management is encouraged.</p> <p>b) Ensure that all residential and commercial developments are designed to take account of the impacts of climate change, including the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, and that energy efficiency and renewable energy measures are incorporated. In the case of large industrial, commercial or newly constructed public buildings, the incorporation of renewable technologies, such as solar energy in the design will be encouraged, subject to compliance with all relevant planning criteria.</p> <p>c) Support and promote climate smart and the NZEB standard of building or equivalent for all new developments.</p> <p>d) Promote and support development of renewable energy sources, which will achieve low carbon outputs and promote Abbeyfeale as a low carbon area.</p> <p>e) Support the development of low carbon and green technological businesses and industries.</p> <p>f) Promote responsible development and management of land, drainage systems and natural habitats and encourage development at appropriate locations, which minimise the use of fossil fuels and maximises the use of local or renewable resources.</p> <p>g) Promote the appropriate adaption of built heritage to respond to the effects of climate change.</p> <p>h) Protect and enhance environmental quality and implement current and future climate action measures and guidance that may be published during the life time of the plan through the</p>	<p>the health and quality of life of communities in Limerick and to support the aims of the Environmental Noise Regulations, through the development and implementation of Noise Action Plans.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 020 Noise and Vibration during Construction and at Open Sites</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to protect the quality of the environmental against the effects of noise and vibration, by implementing site appropriate mitigation measures during the construction and demolition phases of development.</p> <p><i>Policy EH P6 Water and Air Quality</i></p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to ensure that water and air quality shall be of the highest standard, to ensure the long term economic, social and environmental well-being of Limerick's resources. The World Health Organisation Air Quality Guidelines will be the basis for the air quality guidance in Limerick.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 053 Noise and Transportation</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to identify appropriate mitigation measures to reduce noise levels from traffic where they are potentially harmful, in accordance with Limerick's Noise Action Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 054 Noise Sensitive Development</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to require noise sensitive developments in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads to be designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided in accordance with Professional Practice Guidance on Planning and Noise (2017) and based on the guidance and recommendations of the World Health Organisation.</p> <p>Sustainable Mobility and Transport</p> <p><i>Policy TR P3 Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies</i></p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to support and facilitate the integration of land use and transportation policies, to ensure the delivery of sustainable compact settlements, which are served by sustainable modes of transport.</p> <p><i>Policy TR P4 Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use</i></p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to seek to implement in a positive manner, in cooperation with other relevant authorities and agencies, the policies of the NPF, RSES and the Department of Transport's Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020 (and any subsequent updates), to encourage more sustainable patterns of travel and greater use of sustainable forms of transport, including public transport, cycling and walking.</p> <p><i>Policy TR P5 Sustainable Mobility and Regional Accessibility</i></p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to support sustainable mobility, enhanced regional accessibility and connectivity within Limerick, in accordance with the National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.</p> <p><i>Policy TR P6 Sustainable Travel and Transport</i></p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to support, facilitate and co-operate with relevant agencies to secure sustainable travel within Limerick and seek to implement the 10 minute city/town concept, promote compact growth and reduce the need for long distance travel, as a means to reduce the impact of climate change.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 01 Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all future and retrofitted transport infrastructure is climate proofed, through design and construction, to function in a climate altered future and would, where possible, be multifunctional e.g. provide accessible routes for other services such as fibre optics or water, energy connections or other services and technologies that might come about during the lifetime of the infrastructure.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 03 Delivery and Servicing Strategy</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Reduce the amount of 'last mile trips' being made by motorised vehicles;</p> <p>b) Facilitate the transition to zero emission delivery vehicles such as cargo bikes, solar powered and electric vehicles; and</p> <p>c) Support local 'Click and Collect' facilities where appropriate to minimise trips to individual homes and workplaces.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 04 Universal Design</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all transport schemes incorporate high-quality urban realm design that is attractive, safe, comfortable and accessible for all individuals.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 06 Delivering Modal Split</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Promote a modal shift away from the private car towards more sustainable modes of transport including walking, cycling, carpool and public transport in conjunction with the relevant transport authorities;</p> <p>b) Support investment in sustainable transport infrastructure that will make walking, cycling, carpool and public transport more attractive, appealing and accessible for all.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 08 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Improve and provide clear, safe and direct pedestrian linkages, cycle networks, including the greenways and primary segregated cycle routes, between the employment zones, shopping areas and residential areas throughout Limerick;</p> <p>b) Maintain and expand the pedestrian route network, infrastructure and where possible retrofit cycle and pedestrian routes into the existing urban road network, to provide for accessible safe pedestrian routes within Limerick.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 09 Limerick Cycle Network</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to implement in full, the Cycle Network, which will be set out in the final LSMATS, with priority given in the short term to delivering the primary cycle network and cycle routes serving schools.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 010 Limerick Regeneration Areas Sustainable Travel Infrastructure</i></p> <p>It is an objective of the Council to support LSMATS in the identification and delivery of improvements to walking/cycling</p>

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				<p>planning process to help address climate change. Objective SM 01: Movement and Accessibility: It is an objective of the Council to</p> <p>a) Enhance the walking and cycling networks through the town within the lifetime of the Plan and seek to improve direct pedestrian linkages, cycle networks and infrastructure throughout the town and improve connectivity to the town centre and existing services.</p> <p>b) Deliver the Traffic Management Scheme for the town within the lifetime of the Plan. High quality public realm will be required as part of any town centre redevelopment.</p> <p>c) Facilitate school zone measures, including slow zones around the schools, and promote/facilitate active travel options for students to reduce the health and safety risks associated with traffic congestion, pollution and inactive lifestyles.</p> <p>d) Incorporate Sustainable Travel measures in all new developments in the town.</p> <p>e) Support the progression of the N21 Abbeyfeale Road Scheme to provide improved regional connectivity and ensure future development proposals do not compromise the development of this scheme.</p> <p>f) Support the progression of enhancing connectivity between the Limerick Greenway and the town centre by safe walkway/cycleway route, subject to the necessary environmental assessments.</p> <p>g) Deliver a footpath on the Clash Road to connect existing and proposed development to the town centre.</p> <p>h) Protect the capacity of the national and regional road network from inappropriate development, having regard to all relevant Government guidance and Objective TR 041 Strategic Regional Roads of the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 and ensure development does not compromise the performance of the network or future improvements to the network. Road Safety Audits and Traffic Impact Assessments will be required to demonstrate implications of development proposals on the national and regional road network.</p> <p>i) Restrict advertising signage adjacent to the national road networks, in accordance with Section 3.8 of the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines, 2012 and any subsequent replacement.</p> <p>j) Ensure all developments protect and safeguard the capacity and efficiency of the drainage regimes of the regional and local network.</p> <p>k) Support the provisions set out in the 2020 DMURS Interim Advice Note – Covid-19 Pandemic Response.</p> <p>l) Transport infrastructure projects that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans/programmes, shall be subject to the undertaking of feasibility assessment, taking into account planning need and the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan relating to sustainable mobility. Where feasibility is established, a Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken, where relevant appropriate, in two stages: Stage 1</p>	<p>infrastructure and improvements to public transport, based on those measures identified in the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 011 Enhanced Public Transport</i> It is an objective of the Council to support and encourage public transport providers to enhance the provision of public transportation and frequency of services in Limerick, including the provision of enhanced accessibility from the City Centre to Shannon Airport.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 015 Transport Interchange</i> It is an objective of the Council to facilitate the provision of quality transport interchanges, in order to facilitate focussed access to multiple public transport modes and to maximise the movement of people via sustainable modes.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 016 Rail Network</i> a) Explore a pathway to rail-based development in the review of the RSES and MASP in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and the Southern and Western Regional Assemblies; b) Support and facilitate new and upgrading of existing rail networks, railway stations and services across Limerick as identified in LSMATS and protect, as required, lands necessary for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations, which would improve journey times and enable an increase in the frequency of services and connections.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 017 Electric Vehicles</i> It is an objective of the Council to: a) Encourage the switch to Electric Vehicles and e-bikes through the roll-out of additional electric charging points at appropriate locations, throughout Limerick, in association with relevant agencies and stakeholders; b) Facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles, both on street and in new developments, in accordance with the Development Management Standards set out in Chapter 11.</p> <p><i>Objective TR 023 Mobility Management</i> It is an objective of the Council to require the submission of Mobility Management Plans, subject to the guidance provided in the Toolkit for School Travel, Safe Routes to School Programme, Workplace Travel Plans – A Guide for Implementers and Achieving Effective Workplace Travel Plans – Guidance for Local Authorities, for any development that the Council consider will have significant trip generation and attraction rates, at peak hours or throughout the day and where existing or proposed public transport may be utilised.</p> <p>Climate Action and Transition to Low Carbon Economy <i>Policy CAF P1 Climate Action Policy</i> It is a policy of the Council to implement international and national objectives, to support Limerick's transition to a low carbon economy and support the climate action policies included in the Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 01 Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the National Adaptation Framework 2018 and the National Climate Change Strategy, including the transition to a low carbon future, taking account of flood risk, the promotion of sustainable transport, soil conservation, the importance of green infrastructure, improved air quality, the use of renewable resources and the re-use of existing resources. Support the implementation of the Limerick Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (2019) and any revised or forthcoming adaptation, mitigation or climate action strategies or plans at local, regional and national level in the formulation of any plans or policies.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 02 Partnership with Service Providers</i> It is an objective of the Council to work in partnership with existing service providers to facilitate required enhancement and upgrading of existing infrastructure and networks (subject to appropriate environmental assessment and the planning process) while cognisance shall be had to support the safeguarding of strategic energy corridors from encroachment by other developments, that could compromise the delivery of energy networks.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 03 Sustainable Development</i> It is an objective of the Council to support sustainable travel, energy efficient projects, provision of green spaces and open space and sustainable residential development projects, as a means of addressing climate change.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 04 Climate Proofing</i> It is an objective of the Council to ensure climate proofing measures are incorporated into the design, planning, layout and orientation and construction of all developments, including the use of sustainable materials, selection of suitable locations and the use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 05 Energy Efficiency in Existing Development</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the retrofitting of existing buildings over their demolition and the integration of renewables into existing buildings, thereby ensuring a fabric first approach is taken.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 06 Energy Efficiency in New Developments</i> It is an objective of the Council to ensure that all developments are designed to take account of the impacts of climate change. This will include the installation of rainwater harvesting systems, sustainable urban drainage systems and nature based solutions for water management. Energy efficiency and renewable energy measures should be incorporated, in the cases of large industrial, commercial or newly constructed public buildings. The incorporation of renewable technologies, such as solar energy in the design will be encouraged, subject to compliance with all relevant planning criteria.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 07 Near Zero Energy Buildings</i> It is an objective of the Council to support and promote climate smart and the Near Zero Energy Building (NZEB) standard of building, or equivalent, for all new developments.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 08 Renewable Energy Objective</i> It is an objective of the Council to promote and support development of renewable energy sources, which will achieve low</p>

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				<p>– Route Corridor Identification, Evaluation and Selection; and Stage 2 – Route Identification, Evaluation and Selection. New transport infrastructure will be considered subject to environmental constraints as identified in the SEA Environmental Report, including those related to habitats and potential impacts (e.g. disturbance from lighting). This will include minimising river crossings, avoiding sensitive habitats, not increasing barriers to flood waters and sustainable design and construction techniques.</p>	<p>carbon outputs including on-land and off-shore renewable energy production, which support tidal turbine, PV, community energy companies and battery technology, subject to adequate environmental and ecological protection.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O9 Achieving Climate Resilience</i> It is an objective of the Council to promote climate resilience in development and economic activities that are regulated by planning. It is important to ensure that any developments are climate resilient as they will need to function in a climate altered environment. This means that they will be able to withstand increased intensity of storm events and rainfall and through adequate design, location and drainage elements, would not contribute to problems elsewhere, such as increased run off.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O12 Urban Greening</i> It is an objective of the Council to support urban greening and planting initiatives across the city, towns and villages.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P2 Transition to a Low Carbon Economy</i> It is a policy of the Council to support the transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy, by way of reducing greenhouse gases, increasing renewable energy and improving energy efficiency and will future proof policies and objectives to deliver on this approach, in so far as possible.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P3 Promote Awareness and Behavioural Change</i> It is a policy of the Council to promote awareness and support behavioural change in relation to climate change and transition to a low carbon economy.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P4 Co-operation with Relevant Stakeholders</i> It is a policy of the Council to cooperate with the Climate Action Regional Office (CARO) and other relevant stakeholders, in respect of adaptation and mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions and future climate change adaptation strategies.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O14 Energy Generation</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the local production of renewable energy and connection to gas network. Where electricity is being generated locally, the Council will support the provision of infrastructure for its transmission to the grid, subject to it fulfilling technical and environmental requirements.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O15 Local Energy Production</i> It is an objective of the Council to support localised renewable and carbon friendly means of heating and energy provision, including district heating systems. New technologies such as air to water and geothermal may have a role to play in this regard.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O16 Circular Economy</i> It is an objective of the Council to encourage the adoption of the circular economy through promotion of the reuse, recycling and reduction of the use of raw materials and resources.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O17 Low Energy Building Materials</i> It is an objective of the Council to encourage the use of low energy building materials and design in all developments.</p> <p><i>Objective TLC O18 Energy and Emissions Balance</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the Energy and Emissions Balance Report and updates of the report as they are prepared. The Council will also support the preparation of a Local Authority Climate Action Plan as outlined in the report.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O19 Decarbonising Zones</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the identification of a Decarbonising Zone by designating a spatial area, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and action owners are identified, to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs, to contribute to national climate action targets and work with statutory agencies and stakeholders as appropriate.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O22 Cooperation with Other Agencies</i> It is an objective of the Council to work with other bodies and organisations, as appropriate, to help protect critical infrastructure, including water and wastewater, within Limerick, from risk of flooding. Any subsequent plans shall consider, as appropriate any new and/or emerging data, including, when available, any relevant information contained in the CFRAM Flood Risk Management Plans and as recommended in the SFRA for the Plan.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P6 Renewable Energy</i> It is a policy of the Council to support renewable energy commitments outlined in national and regional policy, by facilitating the development and exploitation of a range of renewable energy sources at suitable locations throughout Limerick, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding environment landscape, biodiversity, water quality or local amenities, to ensure the long term sustainable growth of Limerick.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P7 Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB)</i> It is a policy of the Council to support the development of Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB) proposals within Limerick and the wider region, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations and to work with relevant stakeholders to realise its potential.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P8 Community Based Renewable Energy</i> It is a policy of the Council to support the development of community based renewable energy projects, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations.</p> <p><i>Policy CAF P9 Renewable Energy Technologies</i> It is a policy of the Council to consider all emerging renewable energy technologies, such as hydrogen electrolysis, pumped storage and small scale anaerobic digestion and any other source of renewable energy technologies that are viable as a means of energy security, subject to the relevant level of necessary environment and ecological assessments.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF O26 Bio Energy</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the development of bio energy and projects in suitable locations and subject to</p>

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					<p>adequate assessment. The development of grid injection, where this is necessary for renewable energy input will also be supported.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 027 Renewable Energy Production</i> It is an objective of the Council to encourage and facilitate the production of energy from renewable sources, such as from bioenergy, solar, hydro, tidal, geothermal and wind energy, subject to appropriate levels of environmental assessment and planning considerations.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 028 Assessment of Renewable Energy Projects</i> It is an objective of the Council to encourage the development of wind energy, in accordance with Government policy and having regard to the principles and planning guidance set out in the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government publications relating to Wind Energy Development and the DCCA Code of Practice for Wind Energy Development in Ireland and any other relevant guidance, which may be issued in relation to sustainable energy provisions during the course of the Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 035 Community Based Energy Initiatives</i> It is an objective of the Council to support community energy-based initiatives, subject to adequate assessment, to help achieve low carbon communities.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 036 Geothermal Energy</i> It is an objective of the Council to facilitate geothermal energy generating developments, both standalone and in conjunction with other renewable energy projects in suitable locations.</p> <p><i>Objective CAF 040 Community Renewable Energy</i> It is an objective of the Council to support and strengthen sustainable local/community renewable energy networks, micro renewable generation, climate smart countryside projects and connections from such initiatives to the grid. The potential for sustainable local/community energy projects and micro generation to both mitigate climate change and to provide for local fuel need is also supported.</p> <p><i>Development Management Standards, including under 11.7 "Climate Action"</i></p>
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the Plan area) that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the Plan area and beyond. Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies. Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments. Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts). Increases in waste levels. Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure. Interactions between agricultural waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies. Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure 	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use provisions.</p> <p>Policy IU P1: Infrastructure and Utilities: It is the policy of the Council to:</p> <p>Ensure the provision of adequate infrastructure capacity to accommodate future development and the timely provision of infrastructure needed for the sustainable growth of Abbeyfeale.</p> <p>Objective IU 01: Water Supply Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure compliance for infrastructure led-growth in accordance with the DHPLG Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p> <p>b) Facilitate improvements to the existing water supply system to cater for the needs of an expanding population.</p> <p>c) Ensure that development proposals provide adequate water infrastructure to facilitate proposed developments. Evidence of consultation by developers with Uisce Eireann prior to submitting planning applications will be required.</p> <p>d) Ensures future development protects existing wayleave and buffer zones around public water services infrastructure.</p> <p>e) Promote water conservation and demand management measures among all water users, and to support Uisce Eireann in implementing water conservation measures such as leakage reduction and network improvements, including innovative solutions in specific situations.</p> <p>f) Proposals for abstractions of water will be subject to the appropriate environmental assessments and demonstrate compliance with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Objective IU 02: Wastewater Infrastructure: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Support the implementation of the Uisce</p>	<p>Also refer to measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health, Cultural Heritage, Soil, Water, Air, various Land Use provisions.</p> <p><i>Policy IN P1 Strategic Infrastructure</i> It is a policy of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Secure investment in the necessary infrastructure (including digital technology, ICT, telecommunications networks, water services, surface water management, waste management, energy networks), which will allow Limerick to grow and realise its full potential.</p> <p>b) Fulfil Limerick's ambition as a contemporary City and County in which to live, work, invest and visit, with supporting infrastructure, whilst complying with the relevant EU Directives and national legislation, including the protection of the environment.</p> <p><i>Blue/Green Infrastructure</i> <i>Objective EH 012 Blue Green Infrastructure</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Promote a network of Green and Blue infrastructure throughout Limerick.</p> <p>b) Promote connecting corridors for the movement of species and encourage the retention and creation of features of biodiversity value, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as woodlands, hedgerows, earth banks, watercourses, wetlands and designated sites. In this regard, new infrastructural projects and linear developments in particular, will have to demonstrate at design stage, sufficient measures to assist in the conservation of and dispersal of species. Projects which would be detrimental to existing Blue – Green Infrastructure features will not be permitted.</p> <p>c) Ensure the integration and strengthening of green infrastructure into the preparation of Local Area Plans.</p> <p>d) Where possible remove barriers to species movement, such as the removal of in-stream barriers to fish passage for example.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 013 Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy</i> It is an objective of the Council to prepare and implement a Green and Blue Infrastructure Strategy for Limerick City and Environs.</p> <p>e) Seek to advance the use of an ecosystem services approach and ecosystem services valuation as a decision-making tool in plans and projects, subject to appropriate ecological assessment.</p> <p><i>Water Services</i> <i>Objective IN 05 Water Services</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Support Irish Water in the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure and services in accordance with the Service Level Agreement, until such time as the Agreement is terminated.</p> <p>b) Collaborate with Irish Water in the protection of water supply sources to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Article 7(2) of the WFD. Protection and restoration of drinking water at the source can have co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change.</p> <p>c) Liaise with Irish Water during the lifetime of the Plan to secure investment in the pro-vision, extension and upgrading of the piped water distribution network and wastewater pipe network across Limerick City and County, to serve existing population and future population growth and sustain economic growth, in accordance with the requirements of the Core and Settlement Strategies.</p>

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	Mitigation Measures, including:	
				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁸	From Limerick Development Plan
	<p>growth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings and grids. 	<p>and soil, water, biodiversity and human health – including as a result of emissions of ammonia from agricultural activities (e.g. manure handling, storage and spreading) and the production of secondary inorganic particulate matter.</p>	<p>to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</p>	<p>Eireann Investment Plans, in accordance with the settlement strategy of the RSES and Development Plan.</p> <p>b) Ensure adequate wastewater infrastructure is available to cater for existing and proposed development, in collaboration with Uisce Eireann, avoiding any deterioration in the quality of receiving waters and ensuring discharge meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive. This includes the separation of foul and surface water through the provision of separate networks and nature-based rainwater management measures. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments – evidence to this effect may include correspondence from Uisce Eireann.</p> <p>Objective IU 04: Surface Water Management and SuDS: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters in accordance with the Draft River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2022-2027 (DHPLG) and associated Programme of Measures.</p> <p>b) Require all planning applications to include surface water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point.</p> <p>c) Require all new developments to include Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) to control surface water outfall and protect water quality.</p> <p>a) Require applicants to investigate the potential for the provision of porous surfaces, where car parking and hard landscaping is proposed.</p> <p>b) Protect the surface water resources of the plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps, and pollution control measures, where deemed necessary.</p> <p>Objectives IU 07: Waste Management: It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Support the Regional Waste Management Office in implementation of the Regional Waste Management Plan and the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy – Closing the Loop, to ensure sustainable patterns of consumption and production.</p> <p>b) Require all commercial and residential development to provide an adequate internal and external space for the correct storage of waste and recyclable materials.</p>	<p>d) Collaborate with Irish Water to resolve the existing water services infrastructural constraints in Newcastle West – a Key Town designated by the RSES.</p> <p>e) Ensure that development proposals connecting to the public water and/or wastewater networks comply with Irish Water Standard Details and Codes of Practice. Where relevant ensure developments comply with the EPA Code of Practice for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2021.</p> <p>f) Require future developments to connect to public water services and wastewater if available to the site. Combined water and wastewater systems will not be permitted. Consent to connect to Irish Water assets will be requested as part of the planning application process.</p> <p>g) Have regard to Section 28 Guidelines – Draft Water Services Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DHPLG, 2018 and any subsequent guidelines when carrying out the forward planning and development management functions of the Planning Authority.</p> <p><i>Objective IN 06 Drinking Water Source Protection</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect both ground and surface water sources, to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Article 7(2) of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>i. New developments which could pose an unacceptable risk to drinking water sources will not be permitted.</p> <p>ii. New development should not conflict with the protection guidelines set out in the Limerick Groundwater Protection Scheme and/ or Groundwater Source Protection Zone reports.</p> <p><i>Objective IN 08 Public Waste Water</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure adequate and appropriate wastewater infrastructure is available to cater for existing and proposed development, in collaboration with Irish Water, to avoid any deterioration in the quality of receiving waters and to ensure that discharge meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>b) Require all new developments to connect to public wastewater infrastructure, where available and to encourage existing developments that are in close proximity to a public sewer to connect to that sewer. These will be subject to a connection agreement with Irish Water and evidence of this agreement will be required as part of any planning application.</p> <p>c) Require all new development to provide separate foul and surface water drainage systems, to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>d) Apply a presumption against any development that requires the provision of private wastewater treatment facilities (i.e. Developer Provided Infrastructure) other than single house systems and in very exceptional circumstances.</p> <p><i>Objective IN 010 Surface Water and SuDS</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure the separation of foul and surface water discharges in new developments through the provision of separate networks within application site boundaries.</p> <p>b) Work in conjunction with other public bodies towards a sustainable programme of improvement for riverbanks, back drains, etc.</p> <p>c) Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater, including reducing the discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters, in accordance with the National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHPLG) and the associated Programme of Measures and any subsequent River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>d) Ensure adequate storm water infrastructure to accommodate the planned levels of growth within the Plan area and to ensure that appropriate flood management measures are implemented to protect property and infrastructure.</p> <p>e) Cater for the future developments through public and private driven initiatives where discharge capacity permits.</p> <p>f) Address the issue of disposal of surface water generated by existing development in the area, through improvements to surface water infrastructure, including for example attenuation ponds, the application of sustainable urban drainage techniques, or by minimising the amount of hard surfaced areas, or providing porous surfaces as the opportunity arises.</p> <p>g) Protect the surface water resources of the Plan area and in individual planning applications request the provision of sediment and grease traps and pollution control measures where deemed necessary.</p> <p>h) Require all planning applications to include surface-water design calculations to establish the suitability of drainage between the site and the outfall point and require all new developments to include SuDS, to control surface water outfall and protect water quality in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 11: Development Management Standards of the Plan.</p> <p>i) Promote SuDS and grey water recycling in developments and responsible use of water by the wider community, to reduce the demand for water supply.</p> <p>j) Require SuDS schemes to be designed to incorporate the four pillars of water quality, water quantity, biodiversity and amenity to the greatest extent possible within the constraints of a given site.</p> <p>k) Allow sufficient land take for SuDS when planning the site and consider the region as a whole, in association with adjoining lands and their requirements in designing SuDS. Developers may be required to set aside lands to cater for not only their own SuDS but also regional SuDS.</p> <p>l) Promote the provision of suitable Blue/Green Infrastructure (BGI) and Nature Based Solutions to the surface water disposal in new development, as a means to provide urban flood resilience. This approach capitalises on the potential of urban green spaces and natural water flows, subject to the other planning considerations such as amenity, maintenance, traffic safety,</p>

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					<p>proper planning and sustainable development and environmental requirements.</p> <p>m) To prohibit the discharge of additional surface water to combined (foul and surface water) sewers in order to maximise the capacity of existing collection systems for foul water.</p> <p>n) Encourage green roofs for the following types of development:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Apartment developments; -Employment developments; -Retail developments; -Leisure facilities; -Education facilities. <p>Traffic <i>Objective TR O44 Traffic Management</i> It is an objective of the Council to require the submission of Mobility Management Plans and Traffic and Transport Assessments in accordance with the requirements of Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014), for developments with the potential to create significant additional demands on the traffic network by virtue of the nature of their activity, the number of employees, their location or a combination of these factors and for significant developments affecting the national and non-national road network.</p> <p>Waste Management <i>Objective IN O15 Waste Management and the Circular Economy</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Support innovative, smart solutions and processes, based on the principles of the circular economy to implement the Regional Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region 2015 – 2021 and any subsequent plan, including any targets contained therein.</p> <p>b) Collaborate with the Regional Waste Management Office and other agencies to implement the EU Action Plan for the Circular Economy – Closing the Loop, 2015, its successor the Circular Economy Action Plan: A New Circular Economy Action Plan for a Cleaner More Competitive Europe, 2020 and the Resource Opportunity-Waste Management Policy, DECLG, 2012 and any subsequent plans.</p> <p>c) Promote sustainable patterns of consumption and production in the areas of product design, production processes and waste management.</p> <p>d) Implement the provisions of the Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy – Ireland’s National Waste Policy 2020 - 2025, DECC, 2020 in the assessment of planning applications.</p> <p>e) Protect existing civic amenity sites and bring sites throughout Limerick and support the development of additional sites in accordance with the Southern Regional Waste Management Plan 2015 – 2021 and any subsequent plans.</p> <p><i>Objective IN O19 Construction and Demolition</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Require construction Waste Management Plans to be submitted as part of planning applications, to address waste management on site during construction and mitigation measures to address waste generation, in accordance with the principles of the circular economy and the principles of prevention, renewal and recycle.</p> <p>b) Require a Refurbishment/Demolition Asbestos Survey (RDAS) with full details of disposal of the asbestos to be submitted with any planning application. The RDAS should be carried out in accordance with Section 8 of the Health and Safety Authority, Asbestos Guidelines (Practical Guidelines on ACM Management and Abatement) by a suitable qualified professional with expertise in asbestos disposal.</p> <p><i>Objective IN O21 Hazardous Waste and Contaminated Sites</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Implement the EPA’s National Hazardous Waste Management Plan (NHWMP) 2014-2020 and any subsequent plans.</p> <p>b) Collaborate and seek guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Health and Safety Authority (HAS), Health Service Executive (HSE) and Southern Region Waste Management Office, on the technical requirements for clearance and redevelopment of any contaminated lands when dealing with planning applications at these locations.</p> <p><i>Development Management Standards</i>, including under 11.8 “Transport and Infrastructure” and 11.10 “Environmental Infrastructure”</p>
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere by facilitating development within the Plan area. • Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within the Plan area by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.	Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.	<p>Objective CH 07: Built Heritage: It is an objective of the Council to Promote the protection and improvement of built heritage in accordance with the NPO 11 of the Project Ireland 2040, RSES, Limerick Development Plan 2022 – 2028, Section 28 Guidelines, including the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities.</p> <p>Objective CH 08: Protected Structures: It is an objective of the Council to</p> <p>a) Resist the demolition of Protected Structures, in whole or in part, the removal or modification of features of architectural importance, and design element that would adversely affect the character or setting of a Protected Structure, unless</p>	<p><i>Policy EH P5 Protection of the Built Environment</i> It is a policy of the Council to promote high standards for conserving and restoring the built environment and promote its value in improving living standards and its benefits to the economy.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O21 Commercial and Industrial Noise</i> It is an objective of the Council to prevent members of the public being significantly adversely effected by environmental noise from commercial and industrial noise activities.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O22 Entertainment Noise</i> It is an objective of the Council to manage entertainment noise from venues and music events, so as not to have an adverse effect on the public.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O35 Preservation of the Archaeological Heritage</i> It is an objective of the Council to seek the preservation of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. This is to include all the sites listed in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. The preferred option is preservation in situ, or at a minimum preservation by record.</p>

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				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁸	From Limerick Development Plan
				<p>exceptional circumstances can be clearly demonstrated by a suitably qualified professional.</p> <p>b) Protect Protected Structures and attendant grounds in accordance with the best conservation practice and relevant heritage legislation</p> <p>c) Support the re-introduction of traditional features on Protected Structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc.) previously existed.</p> <p>d) Positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of Protected Structures and attendant grounds so as to render them viable for modern use. Proposed works shall be subject to demonstration by a suitably qualified Conservation Architect or other relevant expert that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected and, suitable design, materials and construction methods will be utilised in accordance with best conservation practice and relevant heritage legislation.</p> <p>e) Promote awareness of the appropriate adaption of built heritage to climate change as per Government Draft Heritage Ireland 2030, the Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for the Built and Archaeological Heritage, 2019, the Built Vernacular Strategy, 2021, the pending National Policy on Architecture, the Limerick Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 – 2024 and higher-level spatial plans. The Council have regard to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government’s publication on Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings (2010) and the Irish Standard IS EN 16883:2017 Conservation of Cultural Heritage – Guidelines for Improving the Energy Performance of Historic Buildings (2017) and any future advisory documents in assessing proposed works on Protected Structures.</p> <p>Objective CH 09: Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA’s): It is the objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Protect, conserve and where appropriate, enhance the ACA’s as identified in Map 4. The design of any development any proposed works in the Architectural Conservation Area, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and/ or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole.</p> <p>b) Proposals for development within the ACA’s shall;</p> <p>Reflect and respect the scale and form of existing structures within the ACA’s in proportioning, overall scale and use of materials and finishes, particularly with reference to the street frontages and seek to contribute to or enhance the character and streetscape of the ACA’s;</p> <p>Seek to retain/incorporate/replicate exterior features which contribute or enhance the character and streetscape of the ACA’s such as shop fronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, decorative plasterwork etc;</p> <p>Ensure priority is given to the pedestrian, to inclusive access, and to facilitating the improvement of the quality of the public realm: the latter will include for consideration of the planting</p>	<p><i>Objective EH O36 Preservation of unrecorded/newly discovered Archaeological Heritage</i> It is an objective of the Council to protect and preserve the preservation in situ (or at a minimum by record) of all sites and features of historical and archaeological interest, discovered subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O38 Protection of the setting of Archaeological Monuments</i> It is an objective of the Council to ensure that no development shall have a negative impact on the character or setting of an archaeological monument.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O39 Proper procedures during the planning process</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure early engagement at preplanning stage in undertaken with the Local Authority Archaeologist to promote the ‘preservation in situ’ of archaeological remains and settings in development.</p> <p>b) Adopt a policy of archaeological monitoring on developments where the scale and nature of such developments may, in the opinion of the Planning Authority, have a negative impact on previously unknown archaeological features/artefacts.</p> <p>c) Require the preparation of an Archaeological Heritage Assessment in cases where it is deemed that Archaeological Heritage would be affected by a proposed development (due to their location, size or nature). The report shall be prepared by a suitably qualified archaeologist on the archaeological implications, if any, of the proposed development either prior to a decision on a planning application or prior to commencement of development on site.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O40 Archaeological Monuments in Local Authority ownership/guardianship</i> It is an objective of the Council to preserve and enhance as appropriate and as funding allows monuments vested in the Local Authority.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O42 Industrial Archaeology</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Seek the preservation of buildings and infrastructure associated with former industrial sites;</p> <p>b) Ensure detailed recording of these remains; promote knowledge and interpretation of these sites among the general public;</p> <p>c) Support the work of the Interreg Atlantic Coast Area project, (MMIAH) The recovery and valorisation of Maritime Military and Industrial Heritage.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O44 Raise public awareness and encourage active participation</i> It is an objective of the Council to generally raise public awareness of the archaeological and historic heritage and to assist and encourage active participation by the public, following consultation with National Monuments Service, in the conservation, consolidation and presentation of landmark sites, where this is appropriate and subject to available resources.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O45 Heritage Plan 2017-2030</i> It is an objective of the Council to support the archaeological objectives in the Heritage Plan.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O46 Increase access to Archaeological Monuments</i> It is an objective of the Council to facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O48 Work to Protected Structures</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Protect structures included on the RPS from any works that would negatively impact their special character and appearance.</p> <p>b) Ensure that any development proposals to Protected Structures, their curtilage and setting, shall have regard to the ‘Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities’ published by the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>c) Ensure that all works are carried out under the supervision of a qualified professional with specialised conservation expertise.</p> <p>d) Ensure that any development, modification, alteration, or extension affecting a Protected Structure and/or its setting, is sensitively sited and designed and is appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout and materials.</p> <p>e) Ensure that the form and structural integrity of the Protected Structure is retained in any redevelopment and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or views and vistas from within the grounds of the structure are respected.</p> <p>f) Respect the special interest of the interior, including its plan form, hierarchy of spaces, architectural detail, fixtures and fittings and materials.</p> <p>g) Support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc.) previously existed.</p> <p>h) Ensure that new and adapted uses are compatible with the character and special interest of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>i) Protect the curtilage of protected structures and to refuse planning permission for inappropriate development within the curtilage and attendant grounds, that would adversely impact on the special character of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>j) Protect and retain important elements of built heritage including historic gardens, stone walls, entrance gates and piers and any other associated curtilage features.</p> <p>k) Ensure historic landscapes and gardens associated with Protected Structures are protected from inappropriate development.</p> <p><i>Objective EH O49 Energy Efficiency of Protected Structures</i> It is an objective of the Council to have regard to the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government’s</p>

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				From Abbeyfeale Draft Local Area Plan: ⁸	From Limerick Development Plan
				<p>of trees in the wider public open spaces, benches for sitting and the articulation of uses through appropriate paving.</p> <p>Objective CH 10: Archaeological Heritage: It is the objective of the Council to:</p> <p>(a) Seek the preservation of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. This includes all the sites listed on the Sites and Monuments Record as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994.</p> <p>(b) Protect and preserve all sites and features of historical interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Sites and Monuments Record, this includes all sites that may be discovered during the course of excavation or construction.</p> <p>(c) Protect and preserve all underwater, riverine archaeological sites.</p> <p>(d) Ensure that any proposed development shall not have a negative impact on the character or setting of an archaeological monument or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.</p> <p>(c) The area of a monument and the associated buffer area shall not be included as part of the open space requirement demanded of a specific development, but should be additional to the required open spaces; and</p> <p>(d) If appropriate, where such a monument lies within a development, a conservation and/or management plan for that monument shall be submitted as part of the landscape plan for the proposal.</p> <p>(e) Promote awareness of the appropriate adaption of archaeological heritage to climate change as per Government policy 'Built and Archaeological Heritage – Climate Change Sectoral Adaption Plan', 2019 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Draft Heritage 2030, and Limerick Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 – 2024 and higher level spatial plans.</p> <p>Objective CH 11: Cultural Heritage: It is the objective of the Council to: a) Ensure that the capacity to stage public events is a factor in the design of public realm throughout the town. b) Support the further development of the cultural heritage of Abbeyfeale, through the development of festival and events.</p>	<p>publication on Energy Efficiency in Traditional Buildings (2010) and the Irish Standard IS EN 16883:2017 Conservation of Cultural Heritage – Guidelines for Improving the Energy Performance of Historic Buildings (2017) and any future advisory documents in assessing proposed works on Protected Structures.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 050 National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)</i> It is an objective of the Council to review and update the RPS on foot of any Ministerial recommendations including the NIAH and any future updates. The Ministerial Recommendations, made under Section 53 of the Planning Act, will be taken into account when the Planning Authority is considering proposals for development that would affect the historic or architectural interest of these structures.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 051 Architectural Conservation Areas</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Protect the character and special interest of an area, which has been designated as an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) as set out in Volume 3.</p> <p>b) Ensure that all development proposals within an ACA be appropriate to the character of the area having regard to the Character briefs for each area.</p> <p>c) Ensure that any new development or alteration of a building within an ACA or immediately adjoining an ACA, is appropriate in terms of the proposed design, including scale, height, mass, density, building lines and materials.</p> <p>d) Seek a high quality, sensitive design for any new development(s) that are complementary and/or sympathetic to their context and scale, whilst simultaneously encouraging contemporary design which is in harmony with the area. Direction can also be taken from using traditional forms that are then expressed in a contemporary manner, rather than a replica of a historic building style.</p> <p>e) Seek the retention of all features that contribute to the character of an ACA, including boundary walls, railings, soft landscaping, traditional paving and street furniture.</p> <p>f) Seek to safeguard the Georgian heritage of Limerick.</p> <p><i>Objective EH 052 Shopfronts within an ACA</i> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p>a) Ensure that all original and traditional shopfronts, which contribute positively to the appearance and character of a streetscape, within an ACA are retained and restored.</p> <p>b) Ensure that new shopfronts are well designed, through the sympathetic use of scale, proportion and materials</p>
Landscape	Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the Plan area.	Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.	Landscape will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.	Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage Objective ED 01: Enterprise and Employment Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to a) Encourage the reuse and redevelopment of appropriately zoned vacant units, brownfield, derelict and infill sites for employment creation, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria. b) Ensure any proposals for the lands zoned for Enterprise and Employment adjoining the N21 include a Traffic and Transport Assessment, to ensure that the local road network and associated junctions with the regional road have sufficient capacity to facilitate the extent of the development planned. The costs of implementing mitigation measures arising from the assessment shall be	Also refer to measures under Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna and Cultural Heritage. <i>Policy EH P8 Landscape Character Areas</i> It is a policy of the Council to promote the distinctiveness and where necessary safeguard the sensitivity of Limerick's landscape types, through the landscape characterisation process in accordance with the 'Draft Guidelines for Landscape and Landscape Assessment' (2000) as issued by the Department of Environment and Local Government, in accordance with the European Landscape Convention (Florence Convention) and with 'A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland – 2015- 2025'. The Council shall implement any relevant recommendations contained in the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht's National Landscape Strategy for Ireland, 2015 – 2025. LCA 07 Southern Uplands a) Where housing is permitted, encourage appropriate scale and high-quality design for this landscape area, combined with sensitive site location and landscaping. Respect traditional scale particularly on elevated or locally prominent sites. b) Strongly encourage use of landscaping plans, taking into account existing topography and landforms, in efforts to blend developments into the surrounding landscape. Retention of existing landscape features and their integration and use in helping development to blend into the landscape, is of great importance in any upland area. c) Not permit further forestry developments that are subject to planning permissions over 280m above sea level. d) Encourage development within existing settlements.

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				<p>borne by the developer. Any proposals on these sites shall ensure the provision of a minimum 20m landscaped buffer zone between proposed development and residential developments. c) Ensure any proposal for part of the lands zoned Enterprise and Employment does not preclude the development of the remaining zoning lands. Any proposal submitted on these lands shall include an indicative layout which allows for a coordinated development at Mountmahon. d) Retain sufficient lands around the site boundaries where industrial, enterprise or distribution activities are proposed to accommodate landscaping to soften the visual impact and reduce the biodiversity loss of the development. e) Early engagement with all utilities providers, including Uisce Eireann is strongly advised. f) Promote inter-urban linkages and partnerships across county boundaries, capitalising on collective strengths to attract investment in Abbeyfeale, the wider West Limerick /North Kerry region and the Atlantic Economic Corridor.</p> <p>Objective CH 10: Archaeological Heritage: It is the objective of the Council to: (a) Seek the preservation of all known sites and features of historical and archaeological interest. This includes all the sites listed on the Sites and Monuments Record as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act 1994. (b) Protect and preserve all sites and features of historical interest discovered subsequent to the publication of the Sites and Monuments Record, this includes all sites that may be discovered during the course of excavation or construction. (c)Protect and preserve all underwater, riverine archaeological sites. (d)Ensure that any proposed development shall not have a negative impact on the character or setting of an archaeological monument or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value. (c) The area of a monument and the associated buffer area shall not be included as part of the open space requirement demanded of a specific development, but should be additional to the required open spaces; and (d) If appropriate, where such a monument lies within a development, a conservation and/or management plan for that monument shall be submitted as part of the landscape plan for the proposal. (e) Promote awareness of the appropriate adaption of archaeological heritage to climate change as per Government policy 'Built and Archaeological Heritage – Climate Change Sectoral Adaption Plan', 2019 Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Draft Heritage 2030, and Limerick Climate Adaption Strategy 2019 – 2024 and higher-level spatial plans.</p> <p>Objective CH 10: Cultural Heritage: It is the objective of the Council to: a) Ensure that the capacity to stage public events is a factor in the design of public realm throughout the town. b) Support the further development of the cultural heritage of Abbeyfeale, through the development of festival and events.</p>	<p>e) This area is open to consideration for wind energy development. f) Where wind farms are permitted, a random spacing with random layout shall be considered in proposed wind farm developments, to limit the visual and landscape impact. LCA O10 Western Uplands (Western Hills/Barnagh Gap/Sugar Hill) a) Where housing is permitted, encourage appropriate scale and high-quality design for this landscape area, combined with sensitive site location and landscaping. Respect traditional scale particularly on elevated or locally prominent sites. b) Discourage the selection of locally prominent sites. c) Encourage the use of local landform and landscape features, combined with sensitive landscaping in order to screen development. d) Ensure that forestry that is subject to planning permission, is confined to below 280m above sea level to protect intact remnants of peatland habitat. e) This area is open to consideration for wind energy development. f) Where wind farm development is permitted, a random spacing layout shall be considered to limit the visual and landscape impact.</p>

2.5 Schedule 2A

PART 1

1. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources*

The Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 provides a six-year framework for the sustainable development of Abbeyfeale, while considering the conservation and protection of the built and natural environment. It sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the town in terms of its social, cultural, economic and physical development and consists of a written statement supported by mapping and other appendices. The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Plan.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Material Alterations provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

2. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy*

The Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 has been guided by the National Planning Framework, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region and the Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028. In turn, the Plan will guide any lower-tier plans and future proposals for land use developments and activities. The Material Alterations are being proposed to the Draft Local Area Plan.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Material Alterations provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan influence other plans, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development*

The Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 - to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate - has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Plan and found that the Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Material Alterations provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which the Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

4. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, they contribute towards its amelioration.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Material Alterations provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to the Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

5. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection)

The Draft Abbeyfeale Local Area Plan 2023-2029 relates to the land use and town planning sector and has fulfilled requirements in relation to SEA. This process integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

Taking the above and the examination of the Proposed Material Alterations provided under Sections 2.2 to 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of the Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

PART 2

1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

c) intensive land-use.

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status

Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

Section 3 Conclusion

Proposed Material Alterations are advised not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan and the existing Limerick Development Plan 2022-2028 that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from the Proposed Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, the Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

An SEA Statement will be prepared following adoption of the Plan, which will detail how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations on the SEA and associated Plan-preparation process were considered. The Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report will be finalised in a similar manner at adoption, taking into account how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations were considered.