

Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023 SEA Statement

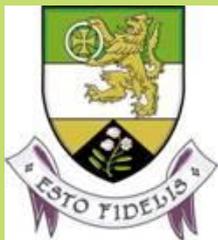
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Client:

Offaly County Council

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1 Introduction and Background

The Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023 was adopted by the elected members of the Offaly County Council on the 18th September 2017. This Local Area Plan (hereafter referred to as the LAP) is a land use plan and overall strategy for the development of Edenderry over the period of 2017 to 2023. The SEA for the Edenderry LAP was carried out in order to comply with the requirements of the 'SEA Directive' (2001/42/EC) and the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 as amended by S.I. No. 201/2011 - Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.

The Edenderry LAP is the primary tool available to Offaly County Council when assessing development proposals for the Edenderry area and aims to ensure that future developments in the area take place in a planned, structured and sustainable manner.

Offaly County Council has prepared the Edenderry LAP 2017-2023 to replace the 2011 Edenderry LAP. The LAP has been prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) to develop and improve in a sustainable manner the environmental, social economic and cultural assets of Edenderry.

The strategic vision for Edenderry as set out in the LAP is:

“A vibrant, successful and sustainable town reinforced by strong local identity and civic pride.”

The mission to achieving this vision is built around the principle of the sustainable development of the town and encouraging development to take place in a consolidated and coherent manner. Offaly County Council is committed to actively pursuing this mission and impressing upon other stakeholders the need:

‘To work towards the consolidation and coherent economic growth of Edenderry’

1.1 Purpose of the SEA Statement

This document is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023. The main purpose of the SEA Statement, as set out in Section 13I(1) of S.I. No. 436/2004 - the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201/2011 - Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, is to show:

- (a) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan,
- (b) How
 - (i) the environmental report was prepared pursuant to article 14B,
 - (ii) submissions and observations made to the planning authority in response to a notice under section 20(3) of the Act, and
 - (iii) any consultations under article 14F, have been taken into account during the making of the Plan,
- (c) The reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and
- (d) The measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 14J, the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan.

Therefore the purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on and transparency for the decision-making process; to document how the views of statutory consultees and other submissions received during the consultation phases have been taken into account in the adopted plan, as well as what arrangements are in place for monitoring.

The SEA process thereby assists in and improves the quality of the plan-making process by:

- Facilitating the identification and appraisal of alternative plan strategies;
- Raising awareness of the environmental impacts of the Plan implementation; and
- Encouraging the inclusion of measurable targets and indicators to aid monitoring

1.2 Legislative Context

The requirement to undertake SEA derives from the 2001 European Community Directive 2001/42/EC (also known as the 'SEA Directive') on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Article 1 of the SEA Directive states:

"The objective of this directive is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment."

The SEA Directive was subsequently transposed into Irish law through:

- **S.I. No. 435 of 2004** (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by **S.I. No. 200 of 2011** (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011), and by
- **S.I. No. 436 of 2004** (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by **S.I. No. 201 of 2011** (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011))

The SEA process, including the preparation of the Environmental Report and this Statement for the LAP, has had regard to the above legislation and to a range of guidance documents on the implementation and practice of SEA, including:

Environmental Protection Agency

2016: GISEA Manual 2015.

2015: Development and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

2015: Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland – A Guidance Note.

2015: SEA Scoping Guidance Document.

2015: SEA Spatial Information Sources May 2015.

2013: SEA Pack.

2013: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment – Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual.

2013: SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Planning Authorities – Integration of SEA Legislation and Procedures for Landuse Plans (Draft).

2008: SEA Process Checklist – Consultation Draft.

2003: Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland.

Department of Environment, Community and Local Government

2011: Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011: Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government

2008: Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08: Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans.

2004: Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities.

European Commission

2003: Implementation of Directive 2001/42 on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

1.3 SEA Process

In accordance with Section 14A(1) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, SEA must be carried out on the likely significant effects on the environment for towns with a population or target population of 5,000 or more; therefore a Strategic Environmental Assessment was a mandatory requirement for the Edenderry LAP 2017-2023. A formal SEA Scoping Report was prepared and issued to the statutory Environmental Authorities. Submissions were considered in the preparation of the Draft LAP and in the preparation of the associated SEA Environmental Report which provided an assessment of the consequences on the environment of carrying out the Draft Plan. The Draft Edenderry LAP and the SEA Environmental Report, together with a copy of the AA Screening Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) were placed on public display and observations and submissions were invited.

Submissions received on the Draft Edenderry LAP and the Environmental Report were reviewed and considered prior to the finalisation of the Plan. This enabled a full assessment of the effects of proposed changes and amendments on the environment. The Elected Members of Offaly County Council are obliged to take the Environmental Report into account when making the Plan, which was formally adopted on September 18th 2017.

The legislation and guidelines governing the SEA process recommend that the preparation of the Plan, SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be integrated and iterative. **Figure 1.1** (below) provides a summary of the integrated nature of the LAP preparation and SEA process.

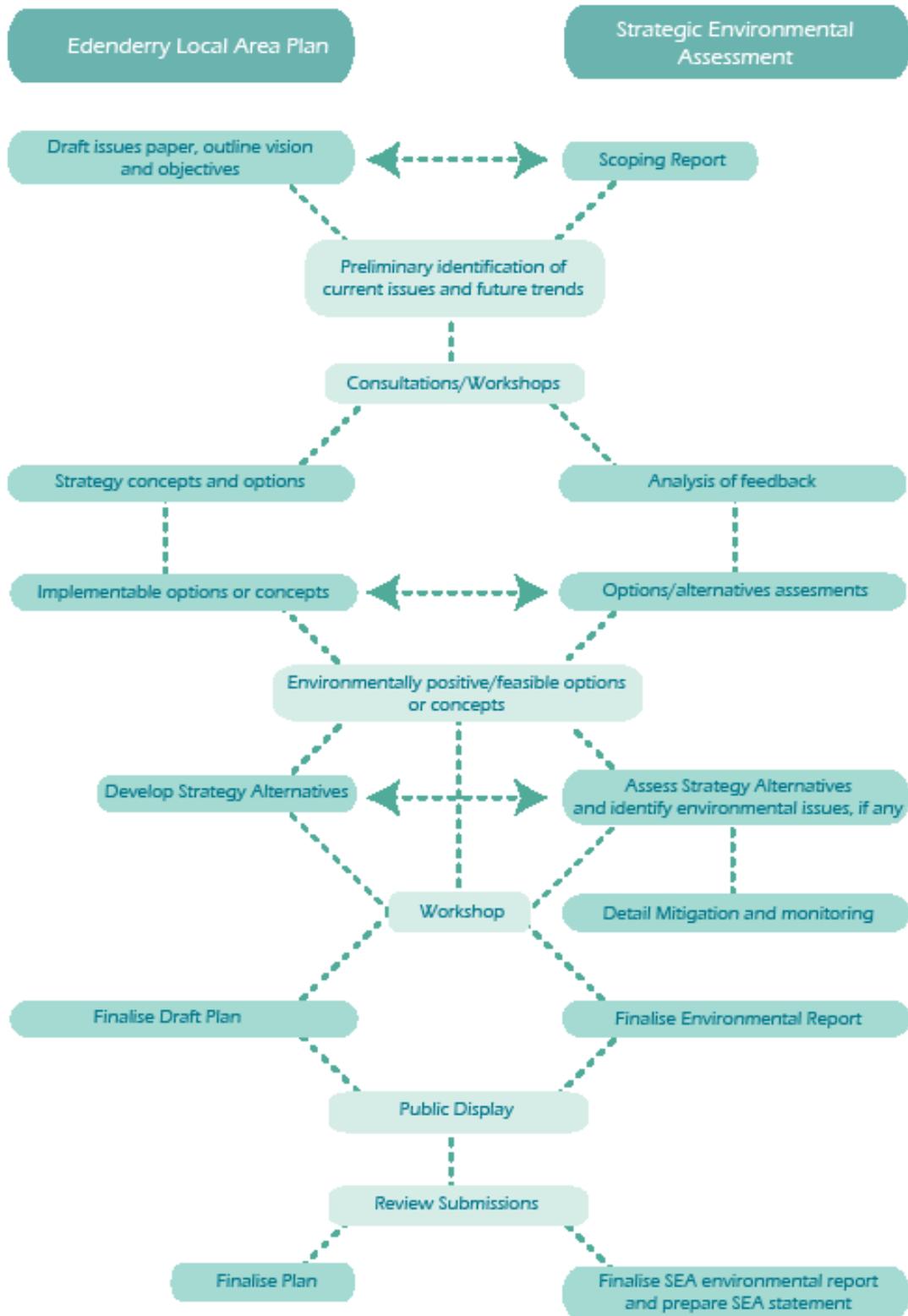


Figure 1.1 Outline of Edenderry Local Area Plan and integration with SEA Process

The Environmental Report (ER) also outlines how the SEA process was carried out in tandem with the preparation of the Edenderry LAP and its accompanying AA Screening Report. The SEA process ensured that the Plan was informed by environmental considerations from the outset. The SEA team were fully involved in the analysis of development options and were in a position to make suggestions throughout the process of the Plan preparation

to ensure that environmental considerations and environmental effects were considered in the formulation of strategic goals and development objectives.

2 Integration of the Environmental Considerations into the Plan

2.1 Screening for Environmental Considerations

Screening assesses the need to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment. Under the Planning and Development Act 2000-2013, full Strategic Environmental Assessment is mandatory for the Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023. Therefore, an initial screening was not required.

2.2 Scoping

The Scoping of the Edenderry Local Area Plan 2017-2023 was carried out in accordance with Article 5 (4) of the SEA Directive (2001/42/EC).

The principal purpose of the scoping stage is to decide upon the range of issues and level of detail to be included in the Environmental Report. An overview of the relevant environmental issues requiring further analysis are given and consideration in the Environmental Report and ultimately in the LAP itself. By highlighting some of the significant issues at an early stage, it ensures that the issues are firmly to the forefront when considering each of the policies and objectives of the Plan and reduces the possibility of relevant issues not being addressed.

The scoping aspect involved consultation with the statutory consultees, providing an opportunity to comment on the highlighted issues and the proposed methodology. Under the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 the list of statutory consultees included:

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- The Minister of the Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government;
- The Minister of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- The Minister of Agriculture, Food and the Marine
- The Minister of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, and
- The Seven adjoining planning authorities of Meath County Council, Kildare County Council, Laois County Council, Tipperary County Council, Galway County Council, Roscommon and Westmeath County Council.

In compliance with the SEA (Amendment) Regulations 2011, Offaly County Council gave notice to the aforementioned Environmental Authorities of its intention to prepare a new LAP for the area. A Scoping Report was prepared in order to facilitate consultation with statutory consultees and consultees were requested to review the content of the report and to comment on aspects they believe may require particular emphasis in the Local Area Plan and associated SEA Environmental Report and Appropriate Assessment documentation.

2.3 Statutory Consultations

Submissions were received from the following statutory consultees:

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- Inland Fisheries Ireland

Table 2.1 below outlines the issues raised in submissions and the response and how these issues have been addressed within the preparation of the Environmental Report.

Table 2.1 – Summary of Scoping Submissions

CONSULTEE AND COMMENTS	RESPONSE
Environmental Protection Agency	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Acknowledged receipt of Scoping Report 	Comments and suggestions have been considered in the

CONSULTEE AND COMMENTS	RESPONSE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended Ireland's Environment – An Assessment (EPA, 2016) should be taken into account, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan area, in preparing the Draft Plan and associated SEA. Guidance for integration of environmental considerations were also attached to the response. 	preparation of the Environmental Report
Inland Fisheries Ireland	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Acknowledged receipt of Scoping Report and recommended the Environmental Report address not only water quality but also include the protection of the aquatic environment/habitat not only requires the protection of water quality but also necessitates the protection and maintenance of physical habitat and hydrological processes/regimes. 	Comments and suggestions have been considered in the preparation of the Environmental Report

2.4 Appropriate Assessment Screening

The need for 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) arises out of Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) (on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora).

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening was carried out in accordance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive and as required under the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The AA Screening was a separate but parallel process that influenced the SEA process in the drafting of the Local Area Plan. The Appropriate Assessment Screening specifically assesses the potential impact on Natura 2000 sites (and their conservation objectives) arising from the implementation of the plan based on the AA Screening Report and other supplementary information with the ultimate aim to avoid significant adverse impacts on these sites. The Screening Report determined that there was no requirement to proceed to Stage 2 of the AA as there would be no significant detrimental effect identified as the result of implementation of the plan to the integrity of any European Site. The Appropriate Assessment Screening was published parallel to the Draft LAP and Environmental Report.

2.5 Public Consultations and Submissions or Observations on the Draft LAP.

During the preparation of the Edenderry Local Area Plan, an opportunity was provided to members of the public and interested parties to make a written submission on the Draft Edenderry LAP and associated documents.

On the 26th April 2017, the Draft Edenderry LAP 2017-2023, the Environmental Report and the AA Screening Report were published and placed on public display until the 9th June 2017. In total, forty one (41) submissions were received during the public consultation period, two of which were from prescribed bodies and two of which were from environmental authorities. The remaining thirty-seven (37) were received from members of the public. These were reviewed by the plan-making team and Chief Executive within Offaly County Council.

A report summarising the issues raised and the Chief Executive's recommendation was presented to the Elected Members. The contents of each submission were considered in the preparation of the Chief Executive's Report. The report listed the persons that made submissions or observations during the public consultation period, summarised the issues raised in the submissions or observations and responded to each submission.

Having considered the responses and recommendations set out in the Chief Executive's Report, a range of amendments to the text and maps of the Draft LAP were proposed. It was resolved by the Members of Offaly County Council to alter the Draft Edenderry LAP and that these alterations would constitute a Material Alteration to the Draft LAP.

In accordance with Section 20 (3) (e) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), the Proposed Material Alterations were published for public consultation on the 9th August 2017 for a period of not less than 4 weeks. A SEA Screening Report, an AA Screening Report were also placed on public display alongside the Proposed

Material Alterations. Copies of the Proposed Material Alterations were sent to prescribed bodies, including government departments and other agencies, as required by the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Further SEA Screening and AA Screening determined that the Proposed Material Alterations were appropriate and acceptable in terms of SEA and AA requirements.

In total, nine (9) submissions were received on the Proposed Material Alterations, including two (2) from prescribed bodies. Having reviewed the submissions arising from public consultation, a Chief Executive’s Report was prepared which listed the persons that made submissions or observations, summarised the issues raised in the submissions or observations and responded to each submission. The Chief Executive’s Report on submissions dated recommended 4 no. modifications to the Proposed Material Alterations. These modifications were also subject to SEA and AA screening and were considered to be appropriate and acceptable in terms of SEA requirements. Therefore, the Material Alterations to the Draft LAP did not give rise to adverse environmental impacts.

2.6 Public Consultations and Submissions and Observations on the SEA Environmental Report and Screening of Proposed Material Alterations

Only two submissions, provided by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Irish Water, made specific reference to the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the Draft Edenderry LAP on public display. Table 2.2 below notes the issues raised in the EPA submission and outlines how these issues would be addressed in the final Environmental Report.

Table 2.2 Review of EPA Submission and Irish Water

	Summary of Issues Raised in EPA Submission	Response
1.	There is merit in establishing a green infrastructure strategy for the plan area.	Noted. A number of green infrastructure policies and objectives are demonstrated in the Draft LAP
2.	Invasive species management and control (terrestrial and aquatic) measures should also be considered (where appropriate). In particular, aspects such as biosecurity considerations for water-based leisure craft brought into the plan area may assist in avoiding/minimising the potential spread of aquatic based invasive species.	Noted and addressed in Objective GIO1.7 of the Draft LAP.
3.	Monitoring: Consideration should also be given to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inclusion of monitoring frequencies. • Monitoring of both positive and negative effects, where they occur. • Inclusion of the on-going review of environmental targets and indicators in the monitoring programme. Responsibility for this role should be clearly defined. 	Noted and included in final Environmental report
4.	The Monitoring Programme to be prepared should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues as they arise. The programme must be able to deal with the possibility of cumulative effects.	Full SEA Screening was carried out for all proposed Amendments
5.	Following adoption of the Plan, a SEA Statement, should summarise the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; 2. How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; 	We confirm that the considerations listed will be included in the final SEA Statement.

	<p>3. The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and,</p> <p>4. The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.</p>	
	Summary of Issues Raised in Irish Water Submission	Response
	The Edenderry Treatment Plant has sufficient capacity to deal with the current load while the expansion is required to effectively treat the wastewater generated by already permitted and future development.	Noted and ensured that Treatment Plant has adequate capacity to service future housing requirements.

Arising from the period of public display for proposed material alterations, a copy of the Proposed Material Alterations was sent to the EPA and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government and following its receipt, submissions were received relating specifically to the proposed material alterations which are outlined below. These recommendations were noted and where implemented, were screened prior to their incorporation in the Draft LAP.

Table 2.5 Review of EPA Submission and Dept of Housing Planning and Local Government on Material Alterations

	Summary of Issues Raised in EPA Submission	Response
1.	Acknowledges the position regarding the need for SEA of the proposed Material Alterations.	Noted
2.	Alteration No. 9 should also consider traffic related noise and air quality related issues as appropriate.	Noted, incorporated into final LAP and assessed in final Environmental Report
3.	Alteration No. 10 MT01 could also consider how best to support the National Mitigation Plan and National Policy Framework for Alternative Fuels Infrastructure for Transport at a local level.	Noted and incorporated into final LAP and assessed in final Environmental Report
4.	Should further amendments be made to the draft plan consideration should be given to SEA Regulations and should be subject to the same methods of assessment as draft plan.	Noted
5.	States information to be contained in SEA Statement following adoption of plan. SEA Statement to be forwarded to environmental authorities consulted through process.	Noted
	Summary of Issues Raised in DoHPLG Submission	Response
1.	Material Alteration No. 8 – objective INFRA 1 should refer/name particular items of strategic infrastructure associated with particular locations as indicated elsewhere in the plan to ensure that particular lands are clearly associated with relevant infrastructural requirements.	Noted
2.	Material Alteration No. 10 – inclusion of additional significant road infrastructure as per objective MT02 (b) is not warranted in the absence of a strong and robust evidence base to justify the need on transportation grounds and clarity around its deliverability from a funding and investment perspective. Wording suggested for objective MT02.	Noted and incorporated into final LAP and assessed in final Environmental Report

2.7 Final Environmental Report

After the Edenderry LAP was adopted in September 2017, the Environmental Report was updated to take account of both public consultation stages, the SEA Screening of Material Alterations and the recommendations by the Environmental and prescribed bodies in their submissions.

3 Alternatives

SEA Statements are required to include information on the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.

Six alternatives were considered in the drafting of the SEA and the preparation of the Edenderry LAP. Options developed are not predictions or preferences; instead they offer a range of outcomes arising from different planning and development strategies. These six scenarios form the basis for comparative evaluation of the likely environmental effects of each as part of this study.

- **Alternative 1:** To retain the land use zonings as per the existing Edenderry 2011-2017 LAP
- **Alternative 2:** Design and development of green field area to the north of Edenderry Town Hall, west of Clonmullen Lane, as a masterplan area.
- **Alternative 3:** Development of Greenfield area to south east of the town on Tunnel Road/Rathangan Road.
- **Alternative 4:** Development of lands off Dublin Road for residential purposes.
- **Alternative 5:** Development of all lands proposing/requesting residential landuses across the town and environs area at pre-draft stage.
- **Alternative 6:** Planned approach towards consolidated and coherent growth of Edenderry

Following consideration and assessment of the six alternatives put forward, it was concluded that Alternative 6, which provides for the consolidation of Edenderry through town centre revitalization, in conjunction with the provision of key infrastructure and quality residential environments as most appropriate and environmentally protective to the future development of Edenderry.

This approach would meet a large number of objectives of the LAP as it supports the consolidation of the town centre by encouraging the development of vacant and underutilised sites whilst including infrastructural improvements.

The provision of appropriate employment and enterprise for the town and the wider hinterland in accordance with the role of the town as Key Service Town would reduce the commuting distances carried out by Edenderry inhabitants, improve quality of life and reduce negative impacts on air quality arising from car usage. Alternative 1 would support the intensification of the town centre of Edenderry and reinforce its urban core.

4 Monitoring Programme

4.1 Introduction

Monitoring of the Edenderry LAP and its implications on the environment is paramount to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected through its implementation. Under Article 10 of the SEA Directive, monitoring must be carried out of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan *“in order to, inter alia, identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.”* The SEA Guidelines state that monitoring should concentrate on likely significant environmental effects, which have been identified in the Environmental Report, and measures identified as necessary to avoid, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects.

4.2 Monitoring Indicators

Baseline monitoring is proposed on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water or air pollution levels. These indicators aim to simplify complex interrelationships and provide information about environmental issues which is easy to understand. A list of environmental indicators is provided in Table 4.1. The indicators are based on the Strategic Environmental Objectives presented and have been derived from knowledge of the existing environmental issues within the plan area and also from legislation, guidelines and higher level plans.

It is considered that a monitoring report on the implementation of the policies and objectives within the LAP is important for the on-going and future implementation of the Plan. It is also considered appropriate that the monitoring programme for the implementation of the policies and objectives within the LAP is integrated with the monitoring programme for the statutory development plans for Offaly County.

Environmental indicator assessment during monitoring can show positive/neutral impacts or negative impacts on the environment. Where an indicator value highlights a positive/neutral impact on the environment, it is likely that the policies of the LAP are well defined with regard to the environment. Conversely, where the policies of the LAP have a negative impact on the environment, it may be necessary to review the policies or objectives of the plan or to take some other form of intervention. For example, if an objective or policy is having a significant adverse impact, a change should be considered during the lifetime of the Plan.

4.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by the relevant authorities including the National Transport Authority, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

The output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making – including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents – will also be utilised as part of the Monitoring Programme.

Where significant effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - have the potential to occur as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects, such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

4.4 Reporting

A monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing the Local Area Plan is to be prepared in advance of the beginning of the review of the Plan. This report should address the indicators set out overleaf. Indicators and targets will be reviewed during the preparation of the monitoring evaluation report.

4.5 Responsibility

Offaly County Council will have an overall responsibility for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action. In addition, a number of national organisations will also carry

monitoring. Monitoring of air and climate related considerations will also be carried out by the Environmental Protection Agency, whereas monitoring of impacts on biodiversity are carried out at a national level by the National Parks and Wildlife. In addition to Offaly County Council, the National Transport Authority and Transport Infrastructure Ireland will oversee changes relating to traffic and transport arising from the implementation of the Edenderry LAP.

Table 4.1 Monitoring Environmental Indicators

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Responsibility	Frequency / Timing
BIODIVERSITY, FLORA & FAUNA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number and extent of Protected Sites. • Areas actively managed for conservation. • Population and range of Protected Species. • Achievement of the Objectives of Biodiversity Plans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider siting of new development on non-sensitive sites. • Improve/conservate and protect all designated sites and species within and adjacent to the Plan area. • Deliver the requirement of the Habitats Directive (Article 4, Paragraph 4) for the maintenance or restoration of annexed habitats and species within SACs at a favourable conservation status. • Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species, in association with the NPWS and other stakeholders. • Improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 by encouraging the management of, maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species. • Protect NHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Refuges for Fauna or Flora and sites proposed for designation. 	<p>Offaly County Council, National Parks & Wildlife, Dept. of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.</p>	<p>Monitoring of environmental likely significant effects on a project by project basis as particular elements of the plan are developed and advanced.</p> <p>National Monitoring Report under Article 12 of the Birds Directive. (c. every 6 years).</p> <p>Monitoring of environmental likely significant effects on measure by measure basis as particular elements of the plan are developed and advanced.</p>

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Responsibility	Frequency / Timing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve/maintain protection for important wildlife sites, particularly urban wildlife corridors and linear and stepping stone features for migration, dispersal and exchange of wildlife. Improve access for the appreciation and promotion of wildlife. 		
POPULATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Census population data Rates of Unemployment per area % increase in housing (number and type) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise population exposure to high levels of noise, vibration and air pollution. Increase modal shift to public transport. Co-ordinate land use and transportation policies. Improve access to recreation opportunities. 	Offaly County Council	On-going regular monitoring supplemented by data arising from the development and delivery of the plan (every c.2 years).
SOILS INCLUDING GEOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rates of re-use / recycling of construction waste. ☑ Rates of cement / concrete production. Rates of brownfield site and contaminated land reuse and development. Rates of Greenfield development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevent pollution of soil through adoption of appropriate environmental protection procedures during construction and maintenance works on site. Ensure polluting substances are appropriately stored and banded. Ensure appropriate management of existing contaminated soil in accordance with the requirements of current waste legislation. Re-use of brownfield lands, rather than developing Greenfield lands, where possible. Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits. Re-use of brownfield lands, rather than developing Greenfield lands, where possible. Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits. 	Offaly County Council, EPA	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects on a project by project basis where potential for interaction with historical landfill sites occur.</p> <p>Review of CORINE mapping (every c.5 years).</p> <p>Monitoring of environmental likely significant effects on a project by project basis as particular elements of the plan</p>

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Responsibility	Frequency / Timing
				are developed and advanced.
WATER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the achievement of “good” ecological and chemical status/potential of waterbodies in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. Minimise flood risk through appropriate management of flood vulnerable zones. Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance of potable water sources with water quality regulations. Compliance of surface waters with national and international standards. Potable and wastewater treatment capacities versus population. % of wastewater receiving tertiary treatment. Achievement of the Objectives of the River Basin Management Plans. Amount of new developments within flood plains. Annual costs of damage related to flood events. 	Offaly Council, EPA	<p>On-going regular monitoring supplemented by data arising from development and delivery of measures within the Plan.</p> <p>On-going regular monitoring on a project by project basis.</p>
AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE & NOISE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Traffic, Transport and Vehicular survey data. National and region specific emission data. Compliance with national standards. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Number and extent of emission licensed facilities. Number of energy / renewable energy production facilities. Rates of energy / renewable energy consumption 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise air and noise emissions during construction and operation of new developments. Promote minimisation of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. Limiting climate change and adapting to climate change. 	Offaly County Council, EPA	On-going regular monitoring supplemented by data arising from development and delivery of the measures within the plan (every c.2 years).

Environmental Component	Indicators	Targets	Responsibility	Frequency / Timing
MATERIAL ASSETS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Location / level of Infrastructure. Achievement of development plan objectives. Rates of deprivation. Rate of waste disposal to landfill statistics. Range and extent of recycling facilities and services. Rates of recycling. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve availability and accessibility of commercially provided facilities and public services. Increase local employment opportunities. Improve efficiencies of transport, energy and communication infrastructure. Promotion of sustainable transport infrastructure i.e. increased public transport. Reduce the generation of waste and adopt a sustainable approach to waste management. 	Offaly County Council, EPA.	On-going regular monitoring supplemented by data arising from development.
CULTURAL HERITAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updating of inventories to include new sites / features. Achieving the objectives of development plans regarding heritage protection. Range and extent of areas of heritage potential. Range and extent of areas of special planning controls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration of derelict and underutilised heritage sites. Improve appearance of areas with particular townscape character. Improve protection for protected archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, protected structures and conservation areas and areas of archaeological potential. Enhance access to sites of heritage interest. 	Offaly County Council, Dept of Arts Heritage, Regional and Rural Affairs	Monitoring of Statutory Consultee inputs on environmental effects as particular elements of the LAP are developed and advanced.
LANDSCAPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Range and extent of Amenity Landscapes. Rates of development within designated landscapes. Rates of urban expansion. Rates of deforestation. Rates of agricultural land re-development. % change of land use from rural to urban. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve protection for landscapes of recognised quality. Maintain clear urban/rural distinctions. Enhance provision of, and access to, green space in urban areas. Ensure development is sensitive to its surroundings. 	Offaly County Council, private Developers /landowners	Monitoring of Statutory Consultee inputs on environmental effects as particular elements of the LAP are developed and advanced.

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency
NPWS: National Parks and Wildlife Service

DAHRRGA: Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs
DHPCLG: Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government

