

Draft Westmeath County **Development Plan** **2021 - 2027**

SEA Screening of Proposed
Material Amendments

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

FOR
PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS
TO THE
**DRAFT WESTMEATH
COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027**

for: Westmeath County Council

Áras an Chontae
Mount Street
Mullingar
County Westmeath



by: CAAS Ltd.

1st Floor
24-26 Ormond Quay Upper
Dublin 7



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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 Westmeath County Development Plan (CDP) 2021-2027.

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 Westmeath CDP. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations to CDPs are provided under Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

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

- Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Westmeath CDP 2021-2027;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Draft Westmeath CDP 2021-2027; and
- AA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Westmeath CDP 2021-2027.

1.2 Process so far

The CDP has been progressed to date in compliance with Section 12 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

SEA² was undertaken on and informed the CDP in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the CDP on public display contains the findings of the assessment.

AA³ was also undertaken on the CDP (informing both the CDP 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.

The CDP 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 CDP 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 (February 2020)

The SEA Environmental Report for the CDP 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 by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 201 of 2011). 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 County Development 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
I 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
I List 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	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 CDP 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

SFRA is being by Westmeath County Council to inform the preparation of the Draft Plan and the Proposed Material Alterations. The Council have confirmed that:

- The Proposed Material Alterations comply with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DEHLG/OPW, 2009); and
- Proposed changes to zoning do not require the Justification Test.

2.3 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 County Development Plan is being subject to Stage 2 AA and a Draft Natura Impact Report was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan. At adoption of the Plan, the 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 the Alterations would not affect the integrity of the Natura 2000 network of sites and therefore that Stage 2 AA for the Proposed Material Alterations is not necessary. An AA Screening Report contains the findings of this assessment, has informed this SEA Screening Report and accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations.

2.4 Screening Analysis of Individual Proposed Material Alterations

The analysis of individual Proposed Material Alteration 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:

- The likely significant effects of implementing the Proposed Material Alterations, if unmitigated;
- Key mitigation measure(s) that are already contained within the Proposed Material Alterations; and
- Residual non-significant adverse effects.

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

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

The examination takes 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"> To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function 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"> 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"> 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 the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive Ensure that economic growth of the marine resource and its ecosystems are managed sustainably 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 development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion 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"> Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals in the County Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels 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, 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.

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

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Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
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 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 places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage
Landscape	L	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention

Table 2.2 Screening Analysis of Individual Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
1	CH 11.1	This alteration would further contribute towards climate action related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Any future variations to the Plan resulting from this alteration will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
2	CH 11.2	This alteration – to set a target – would further contribute towards climate action related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Any future variations to the Plan resulting from this alteration will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
3	CH 16.2	This alteration would further contribute towards car parking and sustainable mobility related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. As identified in the Plan, the is a balance to be achieved between facilitating necessary parking in the short term, and the overall objective, of having improved public transport as a viable alternative and as that becomes available of discouraging use of private cars. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
4	CH 3.2	This alteration would further contribute towards housing related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Any future variations to the Plan resulting from this alteration will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
5	CH 3.4	This alteration would further contribute towards housing and Statutory obligation related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
6	CH 3.1	This alteration would further contribute towards housing, building height and Statutory obligation related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
7	CH 7.5	This alteration would further contribute towards building height and Statutory obligation related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. LAPs will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
8	CH 2.5	This alteration would further contribute towards urban development and sustainable transport related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Future Plans prepared by the Council will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
10	CH 7.4	This alteration would further contribute towards brownfield / infill and back land development related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
12	CH 11.3	A future assessment of how the implementation of the Plan will contribute to realising overall national targets on renewable energy and climate change would not result in different environmental outcomes or effects. Consequently, SEA is not required. Was such an assessment to be followed by recommendations, such as varying the Plan, such recommendations would have to be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate.
13	CH 10.39	The update to terminology would change the effects arising from the Plan. “To strictly direct” development to one location does not prohibit such development to be directed, encouraged, permitted or refused to the same locations or elsewhere. As such, this alteration would not be considered as being likely to result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
14	CH 2.10	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and 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.

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No.	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
15	CH 9.3	This amendment adds more detail to an existing CPO but would not have additional significant environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
16	C 9.1, CH 9.5 & CH 9.6	This is not considered to be an alteration as there is no change to the Draft Plan. Consequently, SEA is not required.
17	CH 9.2	This alteration would further contribute towards rural housing policy provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Any future variations to the Plan resulting from this alteration will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
18	BOM 34 & BOM 35	Lough Derravaragh - this is not considered to be an alteration as there is no change to the Draft Plan. Consequently, SEA is not required. As identified in the SEA Environmental Report, reducing the High Amenity Area to the north and east of Lough Derravaragh would reduce the protection of the overall landscape and undermine the long-term integrity of this important asset. This is already provided for by the Draft Plan. The inclusion of additional lands as part of Lough Lene High Amenity Area would increase the protection of the overall landscape and help to secure the long-term integrity of this important asset. This Alteration would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects and therefore is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
19	CH 7.5	This alteration would further contribute towards building height related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Future Plans prepared by the Council will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
20	BOM 30	This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
21	BOM 17	This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
22	BOM 31	This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
23	CH 8.18	This alteration does not affect other requirements to undertake site-specific FRA. Consequently, SEA is not required.
24	CH 10.18	This alteration would further contribute towards transport related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Future Plans prepared by the Council will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
25	CH 8.10	As identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, "There is no planning justification to make provision for a new link road in the absence of development on the associated lands...." and "... such a road would present unnecessary potential for likely significant adverse effects on various environmental components...". The omission of this CPO would remove the potential for these effects to occur; however, it would not result in any environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
26	CH 8.10	As identified in the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the Plan, "There is no planning justification to make provision for a new link road in the absence of development on the associated lands...." and "... such a road would present unnecessary potential for likely significant adverse effects on various environmental components...". The omission of this CPO would remove the potential for these effects to occur; however, it would not result in any environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
27	CH 8.21	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for the protection of ecology already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
28	BOM 21	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for the protection of ecology already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
29	CH 10.43	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency for the Plan text in question with other Plan text and the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
31	CH 2.3	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
32	CH 2.3	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.

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No.	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
33	CH 2.6	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
34	CH 2.7	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
35	CH 2.8	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
36	CH 2.11	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
37	CH 3.2	This alteration would further contribute towards housing related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Any future variations to the Plan resulting from this alteration will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
38	CH 5.2	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
39	CH 5.4	This alteration would further contribute towards enterprise and employment related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, SEA is not required. Future Council Plans will be subject to SEA and AA screening and other requirements as appropriate. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
40	CH 5.3	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
41	APDX 4.1	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
42	CH 8.1	This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with other parts of the Plan and with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
43	CH 9.2	This is not considered to be an alteration as there is no change to the Draft Plan. Consequently, SEA is not required.
44	-----	Refer to commentary under CE OPR 1.11 Superseded by WH-DCDP-MA-06 - WH-DCDP-MA-09
45	CH 11.4	This alteration would further contribute towards – and could potentially improve implementation of – climate action related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
46	CH 11.5	This alteration would further contribute towards – and could potentially improve implementation of – climate action related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
47	BOM 34 & BOM 35	See commentary under CE OPR 1.18 Superseded by BOM 34 AND BOM 35
48	OPW	See commentary elsewhere.
49	CH 1.1	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
50	CH 2.1	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
51	CH 2.2	This alteration would further contribute towards transport infrastructure related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
52	CH 2.9	This alteration would further contribute towards water services related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.

SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Reference Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
53	CH 3.3	This alteration would further contribute towards housing related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
54	CH 4.1	This Proposed Alteration adds a reference to an existing publication and does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
55	CH 4.3	This alteration would further contribute towards community and schools related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
56	CH 4.4	This alteration would further contribute towards education facilities related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
57	CH 4.2	This alteration would further contribute towards community related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
58	CH 5.5	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
59	CH 6.12	This alteration would further contribute towards tourism related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
60	CH 5.6	This alteration would further contribute towards community related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Furthermore, Fáilte Ireland's tourism planning is subject to environmental assessment requirements as appropriate. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
61	CH 6.10	This alteration would further contribute towards tourism related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
62	CH 6.1	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
63	CH 6.2	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
64	CH 6.3	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
65	CH 6.4	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
66	CH 6.4	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
67	CH 6.7	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
68	CH 6.11	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
69	CH 6.14	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
70	CH 6.5	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.

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No.	Reference Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
98	CH 8.9	<p>It is uncertain as to whether there is planning justification for a link road between the Boreen Bradach L-5014-0 and the Killucan Rd L1015-0. Accordingly, such a road may present unnecessary potential for significant adverse effects on various environmental components. Although this amendment would facilitate private car usage it could also facilitate improved services within the town, making the town more attractive. Mitigation of adverse effects would be achieved by adhering to measures relating to environmental protection and sustainable development that have been integrated into the Draft Plan. However, as identified in the planning authority's "Report in relation to consideration of Elected Members motions" the Draft Plan encourages future developments to provide for greater permeability and connectivity in association with the town and it is considered that the current policy facilitates the provision of increased permeability associated with the provision of a school at this location.</p> <p>Taking into account all of the above, SEA is not required; however, it is recommended that, if it is being adopted as part of the Plan, the new CPO after CPO 8.99 is modified as follows (SEA recommendation in blue text): Support, subject to reasoned planning justification for a road as opposed to other means of improving permeability, the construction of a link road between the Boreen Bradach L-5014-0 and the Killucan Rd L1015-0 to accommodate a secondary school and potential second primary school and allow the sharing of sporting facilities by the schools and Coralstown Kinnegad GAA. Any proposals to improve permeability shall facilitate safe pedestrian and cyclist access.</p>
99	CH 8.11	<p>This alteration to provide a nursing home, removed from the established settlement boundary, is not in the interests of proper planning. Such a development would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
100	CH 8.13	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards the settlement plan provisions for underutilised lands already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
101	CH 9.7	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards agriculture related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
102	CH 9.9	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards forestry and biodiversity related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
103	CH 9.8	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards food related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
104	CH 9.9	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards forestry and biodiversity related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
105	CH 10.20	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards corridor and route selection provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
106	CH 10.10	<p>This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
107	CH 9.4	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards single housing and roads related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>
108	CH 10.14	<p>This Proposed Alteration provides consistency with the higher-level planning framework. It would not interact with Plan provisions to the extent that it would have environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.</p>
109	CH 10.21	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards national road scheme related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.</p>

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No.	Reference Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
125	CH 10.25	This alteration would further contribute towards cycle parking related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
126	CH 10.5	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
127	CH 10.8	This alteration would further contribute towards pedestrian and cycle facilities related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
128	CH 10.36	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
129	CH 10.37	The omission of this part of the CPO provides less detail; however, the requirement remains robust. Considering the other provisions contained in the Plan, the alteration would not result in any environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
130	CH 10.35	This alteration would further contribute towards wind energy related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
131	Ch 10.35	This alteration would further contribute towards wind energy related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
132	CH 10.27	This alteration would further contribute towards water related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
133	CH 10.29	This alteration would further contribute towards drainage related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
134	CH 10.28	This alteration would further contribute towards water services related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
135	CH 10.26	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
136	CH 10.40	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
137	CH 10.41	This alteration would further contribute towards bioenergy related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
138	CH 10.30	This alteration would further contribute towards waste management related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
139	CH 10.31	This alteration would further contribute towards waste management and environmental related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
140	CH 10.32	This alteration would further contribute towards waste management and environmental related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.

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No.	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
156	CH 12.8	This alteration would further contribute towards the management of ecology provided for by the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
157	CH 12.9	This alteration would further contribute towards the enhancement of ecology provided for by the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
158	CH 12.1	This alteration would further contribute towards consistency with the Habitats Directive already provided for by the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
159	CH 12.6	This alteration would further contribute towards the enhancement of ecology provided for by the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
160	CH 12.7	This alteration would further contribute towards the protection of ecology provided for by the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of ecology, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Consequently, SEA is not required. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
160	CH 12.13	This alteration would further contribute towards green infrastructure related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
161	CH 12.15	This alteration would further contribute towards public rights of way related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
162	CH 12.10	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with existing Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. Consequently, SEA is not required.
163	CH 13.5	This alteration would further contribute towards walking route related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
164	APDX 5.1	This alteration would further contribute towards protected view related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
165	CH 13.4	This alteration would further contribute towards community and biodiversity related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
166	CH 13.3	This alteration would further contribute towards walkway related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
167	CH 13.6	This alteration would further contribute towards landscape related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
168	CH 13.1	This alteration would further contribute towards landscape and protected views related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.

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No.	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
182	CH 10.23	This alteration would further contribute towards car parking related provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
184	Kilbeggan BOM 5	This is a minor amendment to align with the development boundary identified in grant of planning and to correct a digitising error. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
185	Kilbeggan BOM 5 & CH 8.5	This alteration relates to a relatively small area of lands at which the Chief Executive's Report noted the merits of having childcare facilities at this location. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
186	Kilbeggan BOM 6	These lands are located adjacent to an existing sporting and recreational club. This alteration was suggested in the Chief Executive's Report in order to provide greater certainty to any proposal for the expansion of that club or any other sporting organisation. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
187	Rochfortbridge BOM 17	This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
188	Castletown Geoghegan BOM 25	As identified in the Chief Executive's Report: "Mixed-use' zoning in or near village centres affords a diverse range of day and evening uses where there are high levels of accessibility, including pedestrian, cyclists and public transport. Having regard to the history of this site, and to allow usage flexibility and enhance the potential vitality and viability of the village settlement, a change to "Mixed Use" is considered acceptable." Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
189	Castletown Geoghegan BOM 26	As identified in the Chief Executive's Report: "'Mixed Use' zoning reflects the mixture of uses which have always co-existed in town/village centres and which offers the variety required to make them attractive and important places for community interaction. The zoning provides for a range of uses to sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of settlement centres, making provision where appropriate, for primary and secondary uses. It is considered that the expansion of the existing "Mixed Use" to include the subject lands represents a logical and natural extension and will not deter from the residential amenities of neighbouring properties." Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
190	Milltownpass BOM 31	This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
191	Multyfarnham BOM 32	This alteration relates to a relatively small area of lands. Only zoning of lands that have been built upon is proposed to change. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
192	Glasson BOM 30	This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.
194	Loughnavalley BOM 33	As identified in the Chief Executive's Report: "it is noted that there is a cartographic discrepancy between the extent of the Node as illustrated on the Consultation Portal and the published Book of Maps. Accordingly, in the interest of transparency, the extent of the Node as previously agreed under the current Plan and as set out under the published Book of Maps should be updated as part of the final Plan". Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.

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No.	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
195	Delvin BOM 19	As identified in the Chief Executive's Report: "sewer arrangement will not provide for the viable development of the adjacent lands, it is considered rational that a reduction in zoning associated with the existing residentially zoned site can facilitate the zoning of the remainder of the site in question thereby providing for a development proposal having regard to the natural boundaries of these lands." Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
196	Moate BOM 11	As identified in the Chief Executive's Report: "the subject lands consist of a relatively small plot which has convenient proximity to the town centre and local services and provide the potential for self-build plots in accordance with RPO 4.78 of the EMRA RSES, which provides for the development of serviced sites to create 'build your own home' opportunities and thus provide a viable alternative to housing in the open countryside". Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft 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; 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.
197	BOM 1 & BOM 2	<p>This alteration is to zone for development greenfield sites in Castlepollard, removed from the established settlement boundary, and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed zoning changes having regard to the quantum of land zoned for residential in Castlepollard, opportunities for infill development inside the current development boundary, its position in the county settlement hierarchy, its projected growth to 2027.</p>
198	BOM 3	<p>It is considered that there is no justification for rezoning the subject lands in Castlepollard "Proposed Residential" as it would impact on the residential amenity of existing properties in the vicinity.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
199	BOM 13	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site in Killucan-Rathwire, removed from the established settlement boundary, and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed additional residential zoning to be included as part of the Plan at this time.</p>
200	BOM 14	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site between the settlements of Killucan and Rathwire, removed from the established built settlement boundary, on lands zoned "Open Space", as part of a larger area of tree planted open landscape providing an important visual break between Killucan and Rathwire, and is not in the interests of proper planning. These lands provide an attractive landscape feature that adds character to this self-sustaining town. Policy objective CPO 8.164 supports the maintenance of this "Open Space" as seeks to "Ensure that the landscape setting between Killucan and Rathwire is maintained in order to protect the distinct identity, character and form of both settlements". As such, it is considered important to retain the Open Space zoning on these lands.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed additional residential zoning to be included as part of the Plan at this time.</p>

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No.	Reference Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
201	BOM 16	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site, removed from the established built settlement boundary of Rochfortbridge, and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed additional residential zoning to be included as part of the Plan at this time.</p>
202	BOM 23	<p>This alteration is to zone for development an additional greenfield site in Ballymore and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, Ballymore is a picturesque elongated settlement that extends to 1.7km in length. The village is characterised by a number of visual breaks in the streetscape primarily located to the north of the Main Street. The site in question comprises a greenfield plot and as such constitutes a break in the streetscape. In addition, the land is located within an Archaeological Zone of Potential.</p>
203	BOM 29	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site removed from the established settlement boundary of Glasson and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>Glasson is a quaint rural village occupying a picturesque setting near Lough Ree. The Draft Plan promotes the consolidation of the village and protection of its architectural heritage, including form and character. This alteration would constitute a piecemeal extension to the settlement and accordingly would detract from its attractive form and setting, thereby <u>undermining the unique character of the village.</u></p>
204	BOM 36	<p>The Wind Energy Capacity Map was generated using the landscape character assessment together with wind speed data provided by SEAI. In terms of the request for a change of the classification of Area 7 from "medium capacity" to "low capacity" for wind energy development, it is considered that such an amendment is not justified given the landscape character of the area in question.</p> <p>This Alteration is not consistent with the approach in the Draft Statutory Guidelines on Wind Energy Development and would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development. This amendment has the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undermine and negate practical measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions climate change in compliance with high-level climate action policy; and • Restrict the potential for wind energy development in the County, which is contrary to national energy policy that supports reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources including wind energy infrastructure. <p>In combination with Alteration "CE OPR 1.11 Superseded by WH-DCDP-MA-06 - WH-DCDP-MA-09" this Alteration would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>

Table 2.3 Detail of effects⁶, 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	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
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 County's settlements) 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 County 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), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna. Sustains existing sustainable rural management practices – and the communities who support them – to ensure the continuation of long-established managed landscapes and the flora 	<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 and bats. 	<p>CPO 10.47 and subsection 10.5.3 Corridor and Route Selection Process Natural Heritage Policy Objectives CPO 12.1 Contribute as appropriate towards the protection of designated sites in compliance with relevant EU Directives and applicable national legislation. CPO 12.2 Support the implementation of any relevant recommendations contained in the National Biodiversity Plan, the All Ireland Pollinator Plan and the National Peatlands Strategy. CPO 12.3 Support the implementation of the Westmeath Biodiversity Action Plan 2014-2020 and any revisions made thereto. Natura 2000 Sites Policy Objectives CPO 12.4 Protect and conserve Special Areas of Conservation, candidate Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas and candidate Special Protection Areas, designated under the EU Birds and Habitats Directives respectively. CPO 12.5 Ensure that no plans, programmes, etc. or projects giving rise to significant cumulative, direct, indirect or secondary impacts on European Sites arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall be permitted on the basis of this Plan (either individually or in combination with other plans, programmes, etc. or projects). CPO 12.6 Ensure that any plan or project that could have a significant adverse impact (either by themselves or in combination with other plans and projects) upon the conservation objectives of any Natura 2000 Site or would result in the deterioration of any habitat or any species reliant on that habitat will not be permitted. CPO 12.7 Assess any plan or project in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive to determine whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on the site either individually or cumulatively upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interest of any Natura 2000 Site. CPO 12.8 Require an ecological appraisal for development not directly connected with or necessary to the management of Natura Sites, or a proposed Natura Site and which are likely to have significant effects on that site either individually or cumulatively. CPO 12.9 Identify and provide appropriate buffer zones between Designated Sites and local biodiversity features and areas zoned for development. CPO 12.10 Prepare Strategic Habitat Management Plans for Natura 2000 Sites in Council ownership in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service and relevant stakeholders. CPO 12.11 Promote the maintenance and as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species and to improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network, by maintaining and where appropriate, developing features in the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. CPO 12.12 Require that new development proposals affecting designated sites have regard to the sensitivities identified in the SEA Environmental Report prepared in respect of this plan. Rare and Protected Sites Policy Objectives CPO 12.13 Protect, manage and enhance the natural heritage, biodiversity, landscape and environment of County Westmeath, in recognition of its importance as both a non-renewable resource and a natural asset. CPO 12.14 Require all new developments in the early pre-planning stage of the planning process to identify, protect and enhance ecological features by making provision for local biodiversity (e.g. through provision of swift boxes, bat roost sites, green roofs, etc.) and provide links to the wider Green Infrastructure network as an essential part of the design process. CPO 12.15 Support the protection of all native woodlands listed in the National Survey of Native Woodlands 2003 to 2008. CPO 12.16 Apply the precautionary principle in relation to development proposals in areas identified as being of national nature conservation interest, by requiring a Scientific/ Ecological Risk Assessment to ensure that the development will not impact on the integrity and habitat value of the site. CPO 12.17 Support and cooperate with Statutory Authorities and other relevant bodies in support of measures taken to manage designated nature conservation sites, in order to achieve their conservation objectives. Specific regard shall be had to Conservation Management Plans and their conservation objectives/ management practices, where they exist. CPO 12.18 Consult with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS) in regard to any developments (those requiring permission and those not requiring planning permission) which the Council proposes to carry out within pNHAs, NHAs, SACs, SPAs, and other important ecological sites. CPO 12.19 Maintain the conservation value of Council owned land within NHAs and pNHAs and promote the conservation value of Council owned lands adjoining NHAs. CPO 12.20 Protect and conserve NHAs and pNHAs including NHAs that become designated and notified to the Local Authority during the lifetime of the Plan. CPO 12.21 Lighting fixtures should provide only the amount of light necessary for personal safety and should be designed so as to avoid creating glare or emitting light above a horizontal plane. Lighting fixtures should have minimum environmental impact, thereby contributing towards the protection of amenity and the protection of light sensitive species such as bats. Sites of Biodiversity Value and Non-designated Sites Policy Objectives CPO 12.22 Seek to create and enhance ecological linkages and buffer zones from development. CPO 12.23 Protect and where possible enhance biodiversity and ecological connectivity, including woodlands, trees, hedgerows, semi-natural grasslands, rivers, streams, natural springs, wetlands, geological and geo-morphological systems, other landscape features, natural lighting conditions, and associated wildlife where these form part of the ecological network and/or may be considered as ecological corridors or stepping stones in the context of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. Appropriate mitigation and/or compensation to conserve biodiversity, landscape character and green infrastructure networks will be required where habitats are at risk or lost as part of a development. CPO 12.24 Recognise that nature conservation is not just confined to designated sites and acknowledge the need to protect non-designated habitats and landscapes and to conserve the biological diversity. Invasive Species Policy Objectives CPO 12.25 Prevent the spread of invasive species within the plan area, including requiring landowners and developers to adhere to best practice guidance in relation to the control of invasive species.</p>	<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). 	BFF

⁶ Environmental effects of implementing the Plan, including in combination with the wider planning framework e.g. the National Planning Framework and associated National Development Plan 2018, the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
	<p>and fauna that they contain.</p>		<p>CPO 12.26 Ensure that proposals for development do not lead to the spread or introduction of invasive species. If developments are proposed on sites where invasive species are or were previously present, the applicant will be required to submit a control and management program for the particular invasive species as part of the planning process and to comply with the provisions of the European Communities Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 (S.I. 477/2011).</p> <p>CPO 12.27 Support, as appropriate, the National Parks and Wildlife Service's efforts to seek to control and manage the spread of non-native invasive species on land and water. Where the presence of non-native invasive species is identified at the site of any proposed development or where the proposed activity has an elevated risk of resulting in the presence of these species, details of how these species will be managed and controlled will be required.</p> <p>Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 12.35 Preserve and enhance the amenity and biodiversity value of the County, by promoting the protection of trees, groups of trees and ancient woodlands, of significant amenity value, especially native and broadleaf species.</p> <p>CPO 12.36 Protect trees subject to Tree Preservation Orders and seek to designate additional Tree Preservation Orders, where appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 12.37 Discourage the felling of mature trees and hedgerow, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows to facilitate development and seek Tree Management Plans to ensure that trees are adequately protected during development and incorporated into the design of new developments.</p> <p>CPO 12.38 Protect and preserve existing hedgerows in new developments, particularly species rich roadside and townland boundary hedgerows, and where their removal is necessary during the course of road works or other works seek their replacement with new hedgerows of native species indigenous to the area.</p> <p>CPO 12.39 Encourage the development of proposals for new woodlands and community woodlands in urban/urban fringe areas utilising funding available through schemes such as the NeighbourWood and Native Woodland Schemes.</p> <p>CPO 12.40 Encourage the protection of the trees which are considered an important component of demesne landscapes.</p> <p>Wetlands Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 12.41 Resist development that would destroy, fragment or degrade any wetland in the County.</p> <p>CPO 12.42 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Westmeath Wetlands Survey 2019 and subsequent versions thereof.</p> <p>CPO 12.43 Require an Ecological Impact Assessment where it is proposed to fill or reclaim a wetland area.</p> <p>CPO 12.44 Protect floodplains, wetlands and watercourses, for their biodiversity and flood protection value.</p> <p>CPO 12.45 Ensure that all proposed land zonings take cognisance of appropriate riparian setback distances that support the attainment of high ecological status for water bodies, the conservation of biodiversity and good ecosystem health, and buffer zones from flood plains.</p> <p>CPO 12.46 Implement the relevant parts of the Planning and Development (Amendment) (No. 2) Regulations 2011 and the European Communities (Amendment to Planning and Development) Regulations 2011, which require planning permission to be applied for where the area impacted by works relating to the drainage or reclamation of a wetland exceeds 0.1 hectares or where such works may have a significant effect on the environment. Such applications for permission would need to be supported by an Appropriate Assessment where necessary.</p> <p>Lighting</p> <p>CPO 10.124 Control lighting in urban and rural areas and in particular in sensitive locations, in order to minimise impacts on residential amenity, habitats and species of importance.</p> <p>Habitat and Visitor Management</p> <p>CPO 6.2 Promote the development and strengthening of the overall value of Westmeath as a tourist destination by encouraging the enhancement and development of sustainable and high-quality visitor attractions, activities and infrastructure, enabling an increase in the overall capacity and long-term development of the county's tourism industry, subject to appropriate siting and design criteria and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas.</p> <p>CPO 6.15 Monitor and manage any increase in visitor numbers and/or any change in visitor behaviour in order to avoid significant effects, including loss of habitat and disturbance. Visitor/Habitat Management Plans will be required for proposed projects as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 6.24 Promote tourism-related developments in existing settlements within the Settlement Hierarchy, subject to existing carrying capacity.</p> <p>CPO 6.29 Ensure that the development of visitor infrastructure linked to natural and heritage environments, does not detract from the quality and value of these environments</p> <p>CPO 6.54 Prepare Habitat Management Plans for Westmeath's lakes and Visitor Management Plans for particular areas most used by visitors and where particular sensitivities occur, to support the protection and conservation of our natural resources into the long term.</p> <p>Lakes</p> <p>CPO 6.45 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Westmeath's lakes, including boating, canoeing and angling while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Forestry Policy Objective</p> <p>CPO 9.47 Encourage the development of a well-managed sustainable forestry sector, which is compatible with the protection of the environment including the avoidance of likely significant effects on Natura 2000 sites (SACs and SPAs) and is planted, managed and harvested in accordance with the Forest Service Guidelines for Landscape, Forest Harvesting and Environmental, Archaeology, Biodiversity and Water Quality.</p> <p>CPO 9.53 Promote in co-operation with the Forest service, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine the preparation and adoption of an Indicative Forest Strategy for the County, as an important means of contributing to the protection and enhancement of the county's biodiversity, natural resources and landscape, as resources permit.</p> <p>Extractive Industry Policy Objective</p> <p>CPO 9.58 Ensure that development for aggregate extraction, processing and associated concrete production does not significantly impact the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of Geological interest as identified in the County Esker Survey • Existing and Candidate Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) • Special Protection Areas (SPAs) • Existing and proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs) • Other areas of importance for the conservation of flora and fauna • High Amenity Areas • Zones of archaeological potential, • Important aquifers and sensitive groundwater resources • The vicinity of a recorded monument • Sensitive landscape areas • Established rights of way and walking routes. 		

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			<p>Extractive Industry Policy Objective CPO 9.63 Ensure that all extractions shall be subjected to landscaping requirements and that worked out quarries should be rehabilitated to a use agreed with the Planning Authority which could include recreational, biodiversity, amenity or other end-of-life uses. The use of these rehabilitated sites shall be limited to inert waste and sites shall be authorised under the appropriate waste regulations. CPO 9.62 Ensure that extractive developments do not adversely impact on environmental quality, including water quality, tourism value, existing infrastructure, residential amenity or the amenity value of neighbouring lands.</p>		
<p>Population and Human Health</p>	<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 County's settlements) 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 County and beyond Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands (including those within and adjacent to the County's settlements) 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 County 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>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors.</p> <p>Noise Policy Objectives CPO 10.121 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006. CPO 10.122 Support the Implementation of the Westmeath Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 (and any revision made thereto) CPO 10.123 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels.</p> <p>Human Health and Energy Development CPO 10.136 Ensure that proposals for energy development demonstrate that human health has been considered, including those relating to the topics of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Noise (including consistency with the World Health Organisation's 2018 Environmental Noise Guidelines for the European Region); Shadow Flicker (for wind turbine developments, including detailed Shadow Flicker Study); Ground Conditions/Geology (including landslide and slope stability risk assessment); Air Quality; and Water Quality; Assessment of impacts on collision risk species (bird and bats). <p>Seveso Policy Objectives CPO 10.126 To have regard to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive, relating to the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances, and the recommendations of the Health and Safety Authority in the assessment of all planning applications located within the consultation distance of such sites. CPO 10.127 Require developers to submit a detailed consequence and risk assessment with all Environmental Impact Statements and/or legislative licence applications for all Seveso sites.</p> <p>Subsection 10.13.1 Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses In unserviced areas and outside the main towns and villages, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary systems. In order to protect human health and water quality from the risks posed by domestic waste water treatment systems the EPA's National Inspection Plan for Domestic Waste Water Treatment Systems 2018-2021 now requires each local authority to develop a local site selection plan, which documents the application of the site selection methodology and outlines the justification for the selection of priority areas and individual sites. The Local Authority should retain the associated documents to facilitate future auditing by the EPA.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under "Soil", "Water" and "Air and Climatic Factors" below. 	<p>PHH</p>
<p>Soil</p>	<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 County's settlements) that have relatively low levels of 	<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. 	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water.</p> <p>Peatlands Policy Objectives CPO 12.56 Protect the county's designated peatland areas and landscapes, including any ancient walkways through bogs and to conserve their ecological, archaeological, cultural, and educational heritage. CPO 12.57 Require the preparation of Hydrological Reports for significant developments within and in close proximity to peatlands, and to take account of same in the assessment of impacts on the integrity of peatland ecosystems. CPO 12.58 Exercise control of peat extraction, both individually and cumulatively, which would have significant impacts on the environment. CPO 12.59 Work in partnership with relevant stakeholders on suitable peatland site(s) to demonstrate best practice in sustainable peatland conservation, management and restoration techniques and to promote their heritage and educational value subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, where relevant.</p>	<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. 	<p>S</p>

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
	<p>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 County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 		<p>CPO 12.60 Work with relevant agencies such as Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly, Bord na Mona, NPWS, Coillte and adjacent Local Authorities to prepare an aftercare framework plan for the peatlands and related infrastructure, to provide for the future sustainable and environmentally sensitive use of large industrial peatlands sites when peat harvesting finishes. Such plans should have regard to both National and Regional frameworks concerning the future use of peatlands, including cutaway bogs.</p> <p>CPO 12.61 Support collaboration between Local Authorities, the Bord na Mona Transition Team and relevant stakeholders in the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition having regard to relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 12.62 Consider designating peatlands at Coolnagun, Corlanna, Lower Coole, Mayne, Ballinealoe and Clonsura as archaeological heritage areas, where it is considered ancient trackways or road may have been constructed.</p> <p>CPO 12.63 Support the preparation of a Sustainable Holistic Management Plan for the future use of the Industrial Peatlands in the County, which recognises the role of peatlands in carbon sequestration.</p> <p>CPO 12.64 Support the designation of a National Park for the peatlands area in the Midlands in conjunction with adjoining Local Authorities.</p> <p>CPO 12.65 Undertake a feasibility study to identify peatways, where appropriate and examine the tourist potential of same.</p> <p>Geological Heritage Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 12.28 Contribute towards the appropriate protection and maintenance of the character, integrity and conservation value of features or areas of geological interest listed in Table 12.3.</p> <p>CPO 12.29 Support the implementation of recommendations made in the County Westmeath Geological Audit.</p> <p>CPO 12.30 Consult with the Geological Survey of Ireland when undertaking, approving or authorising developments which are likely to impact on County Geological Sites or involve significant ground excavations.</p> <p>CPO 12.31 Protect geological NHA's as they become designated during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>CPO 12.32 Encourage and promote, where appropriate, public access to geological and geomorphological sites and avoid inappropriate development through consultation with the Geological Survey of Ireland, subject to environmental and habitats assessment.</p> <p>CPO 12.33 Favour the retention of new rock exposures created as a result of major new carriageways or in other major infrastructural work, where feasible and safe to do so.</p> <p>CPO 12.34 Consider in consultation with the NPWS, Offaly County Council and the Geological Survey of Ireland the potential designation of the south Westmeath esker landscape as a UNESCO geo-park, to promote the unique geological heritage of the area.</p> <p>Identification and registration of closed landfills</p> <p>CPO 10.119 Ensure that the Council fulfills its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Wind Farms on Peatlands</p> <p>CPO 10.135 Encourage large-scale energy production projects, in the form of Wind Farms, onto cutover cutaway peatlands in the County, subject to environmental, landscape, habitats and wildlife protection requirements being addressed.</p> <p>In the context of this policy, industrial scale/large-scale energy production projects are defined as follows:</p> <p>Projects that meet or exceed any of the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Height: over 100m to blade tip, or - Scale: More than five turbines - Output: Having a total output of greater than 5MW <p>Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses. Proposals for such development should demonstrate that the following has been considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Peatland stability; and - Carbon emissions balance. 		
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 County's settlements) 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 County and beyond. Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations. 	<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. 	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p>Core Strategy Objective</p> <p>CPO 2.13 In the assessment of development proposals, to take account of transport corridors, environmental carrying capacity, availability and/or capacity to provide waste water and water supply services, potential to conflict with Water Framework Directive objectives, potential to impact on the integrity of European sites and Annexed Habitats and species, features of biodiversity value including ecological networks, impact on landscape and visual characteristics, education and other socioeconomic objectives</p> <p>Waterways Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 12.47 Seek the continued improvement of water quality, bathing facilities and other recreational opportunities in waterways and to protect the ecology and wildlife thereof.</p> <p>CPO 12.48 Provide for public access to waterways where feasible and appropriate, in partnership with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), Waterways Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, whilst maintaining them free from inappropriate development, subject to Ecological Impact Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, as appropriate.</p> <p>CPO 12.49 Protect the biodiversity of rivers, streams and other water courses and maintain them in an open state and discourage culverting and realignment.</p> <p>CPO 12.50 Consult with Waterways Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service, Government, Inland Waterways Association of Ireland and local communities on development proposals that may affect inland waterways, rivers, lakes, canals or water courses.</p> <p>CPO 12.51 Ensure that the County's watercourses are retained for their biodiversity and flood protection values and to conserve and enhance where possible, the wildlife habitats of the County's rivers and riparian zones, lakes, canals and streams which occur outside of designated areas to provide a network of habitats and biodiversity corridors throughout the county.</p> <p>CPO 12.52 Consult, as appropriate, with Inland Fisheries Ireland in relation to any development that could potentially impact on the aquatic ecosystems and associated riparian habitats.</p> <p>CPO 12.53 Ensure that run off from a proposed development does not result in a deterioration of downstream watercourses or habitats.</p> <p>CPO 12.54 Seek to manage any increase in visitor numbers in order to avoid significant effects including loss of habitat and disturbance, including ensuring that any new projects, such as greenways, are a suitable distance from ecological sensitivities, such as riparian zones.</p>	<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. 	W

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage. 		<p>CPO 12.55 Protect waterbodies and watercourses from inappropriate development, including rivers, streams, associated undeveloped riparian strips, wetlands and natural floodplains. This will include the preservation habitat features/structure, such as treeline density, and protection buffers in riverine and wetland areas, as appropriate.</p> <p>Water Quality and Groundwater Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 10.76 Support the implementation of the relevant recommendations and measures as outlined in the relevant River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021, and associated Programme of Measures, or any such plan that may supersede same during the lifetime of the plan. Development proposals shall not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface waters, groundwater quality and quantity, river corridors and associated woodlands.</p> <p>CPO 10.77 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations Drinking Water Regulations 2014 (as amended) and compliance of water supplies with the parameters identified in these Regulations.</p> <p>CPO 10.78 Contribute towards, as appropriate, the protection of existing and potential water resources, and their use by humans and wildlife, including rivers, streams, wetlands, groundwater and associated habitats and species in accordance with the requirements and guidance in the EU Water Framework Directive 2000 (2000/60/EC), the European Union (Water Policy) Regulations 2003 (as amended), the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (as amended), the Groundwater Directive 2006/118/EC and the European Communities Environmental Objectives (groundwater) Regulations 2010 (as amended) and other relevant EU Directives, including associated national legislation and policy guidance (including any superseding versions of same).</p> <p>CPO 10.79 In conjunction with Irish Water, have regard to the EPA 2019 publication "Drinking Water Report for Public Water Supplies 2018" (and any subsequent update) in the establishment and maintenance of water sources in the County.</p> <p>CPO 10.80 In conjunction with Irish Water, support recommendations made by the EPA arising from any failure to meet drinking water standards and any enlistment on the EPA's Remedial Action List.</p> <p>CPO 10.81 Ensure that in assessing applications for developments, that consideration is had to the impact on the quality of surface waters having regard to targets and measures set out in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 and any subsequent local or regional plans.</p> <p>CPO 10.82 Ensure that development would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality and quantity including surface water, ground water, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands.</p> <p>CPO 10.83 Discourage the over-concentration of individual septic tanks and treatment plants to minimise the risk of groundwater pollution.</p> <p>CPO 10.84 Support the preparation of Drinking Water Protection Plans and Source Protection Plans to protect sources of public water supply, in accordance with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Flood Risk Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 10.96 Implement and comply fully with the recommendations of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment prepared as part of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.</p> <p>CPO 10.97 Have regard to the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW 2009) and Circular PL2/2014, through the use of the sequential approach and application of the Justification Tests in Development Management.</p> <p>CPO 10.98 Ensure that a flood risk assessment is carried out for any development proposal, in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management (DoEHLG/OPW 2009). This assessment shall be appropriate to the scale and nature of risk to the potential development.</p> <p>CPO 10.99 Support the implementation of recommendations in the CFRAM Programme to ensure that flood risk management policies and infrastructure are progressively implemented.</p> <p>CPO 10.100 Support the implementation of recommendations in the Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMP's), including planned investment measures for managing and reducing flood risk.</p> <p>CPO 10.101 Consult with the OPW in relation to proposed developments in the vicinity of drainage channels and rivers for which the OPW are responsible, and to retain a strip on either side of such channels where required, to facilitate maintenance access thereto.</p> <p>CPO 10.102 Assist the OPW in developing catchment-based Flood Risk Management Plans for rivers in County Westmeath and have regard to their provisions/recommendations.</p> <p>CPO 10.103 Protect and enhance the County's floodplains and wetlands as 'green infrastructure' which provides space for storage and conveyance of floodwater, enabling flood risk to be more effectively managed and reducing the need to provide flood defenses in the future, subject to normal planning and environmental criteria.</p> <p>CPO 10.104 Protect the integrity of any formal (OPW or Westmeath County Council) flood risk management infrastructure, thereby ensuring that any new development does not negatively impact any existing defense infrastructure or compromise any proposed new infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 10.105 Ensure that where flood risk management works take place that the natural and cultural heritage, rivers, streams and watercourses are protected and enhanced.</p> <p>CPO 10.106 Ensure each flood risk management activity is examined to determine actions required to embed and provide for effective climate change adaptation as set out in the OPW Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan Flood Risk Management applicable at the time.</p> <p>CPO 10.107 Consult, where necessary, with Inland Fisheries Ireland, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and other relevant agencies in the provision of flood alleviation measures in the County.</p> <p>Stormwater Management Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 10.108 Support in conjunction with Irish Water the improvement of storm water infrastructure to improve sustainable drainage and reduce the risk of flooding in urban environments.</p> <p>CPO 10.109 Implement policies contained in the Greater Dublin Strategic Drainage Study (GSDSDS) in relation to SUDS and climate change.</p> <p>CPO 10.110 Ensure new development is adequately serviced with surface water drainage infrastructure which meets the requirements of the Water Framework Directive, associated River Basin Management Plans and CFRAM Management Plans.</p> <p>CPO 10.111 Require that planning applications are accompanied by a comprehensive SUDs assessment that addresses run-off quantity, run-off quality and its impact on the existing habitat and water quality.</p> <p>CPO 10.112 Ensure that in public and private developments in urban areas, both within developments and within the public realm, seek to minimise and limit the extent of hard surfacing and paving and require the use of sustainable drainage techniques for new development or for extensions to existing developments, in order to reduce the potential impact of existing and predicted flooding risks.</p> <p>CPO 10.113 Ensure appropriate maintenance of surface water drainage infrastructure to avoid flood risk.</p> <p>Blue Flag</p>		

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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 County's settlements) 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 County 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 growth. Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart buildings, cities and grids. 	<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 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>CPO 6.53 Seek to acquire and maintain Blue Flag status for water amenity areas throughout the county as an accolade for use in promoting the quality of these facilities.</p> <p>Waste Management Policy Objectives CPO 10.114 Support the implementation of the Eastern Midlands Region Waste Management Plan 2015-2021 and any updates made thereto. CPO 10.115 Encourage and support waste prevention, minimisation, reuse, recycling and recovery as methods of managing waste. CPO 10.116 Facilitate the transition from a waste management economy to a green circular economy to increase the value recovery and recirculation of resources. CPO 10.117 Encourage and support the provision of separate collection of waste in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Food Waste) Regulations 2009, the Waste Framework Directive Regulations, 2011 and other relevant legislation. CPO 10.118 Promote and facilitate communities to become involved in environmental awareness activities and community based recycling initiatives or environmental management initiatives that will lead to local sustainable waste management practices. CPO 10.119 Ensure that the Council fulfills its duties under the Waste Management (certification of historic unlicensed waste disposal and recovery activity) Regulations 2008 (S.I. No 524 of 2008), including those in relation to the identification and registration of closed landfills.</p> <p>Wastewater Policy Objectives CPO 10.85 Collaborate with Irish Water in contributing towards compliance with the relevant provisions of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations 2001 and 2004 and the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 as amended. CPO 10.86 Ensure that development will only be permitted in instances where there is sufficient capacity for appropriate collection, treatment and disposal (in compliance with the Water Framework Directive and River Basin Management Plan) of waste water. CPO 10.87 Liaise with and work in conjunction with Irish Water during the lifetime of the plan for the provision, extension and upgrading of waste water collection and treatment systems in all towns and villages of the County to serve existing populations and facilitate sustainable development of the County, in accordance with the requirements of the Settlement Strategy and associated Core Strategy. CPO 10.88 Support strategic wastewater treatment infrastructure investment and provide for the separation of foul and surface water networks to accommodate future growth in the County. CPO 10.89 Resist the discharge of additional surface water to combined sewers and promote Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) and solutions to maximise the capacity of towns with combined drainage systems. CPO 10.90 Promote the changeover from septic tanks to collection networks in all cases where this is feasible (subject to connection agreements with Irish Water) and that all new developments utilise and connect to the public wastewater infrastructure. CPO 10.91 Protect against development proposals, involving individual treatment systems, which would increase effluent loading within existing housing clusters located within areas of high groundwater vulnerability. CPO 10.92 Ensure that private wastewater treatment plants, where permitted, are operated in compliance with EPA's Code of Practice Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (PE. ≤10) (EPA 2009), as may be amended. CPO 10.93 Support the implementation of the Athlone Main Drainage Project subject to appropriate environmental assessment. CPO 10.94 Support appropriate options for the extraction of energy and other resources from sewerage sludge in the County. CPO 10.95 Support the servicing of rural villages (serviced sites) to provide an alternative to one-off housing in the countryside, in line with RPO 4.78 of the Eastern and Midland Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>Water Supply Policy Objectives CPO 10.65 Support Irish Water in the implementation of their capital investment programme to ensure the timely delivery of water and waste-water infrastructure for the County. CPO 10.66 Collaborate with Irish Water in relation to the preparation of their Investment Plans in order to align the supply of water services with the County Settlement Hierarchy. CPO 10.67 Ensure the efficient and sustainable use and development of water resources and water services infrastructure, in order to manage and conserve water resources in a manner that supports a healthy society, economic development requirements and a cleaner environment. CPO 10.68 Assist Irish Water in their commitment to water conservation and support efforts to tackle leakage through find and fix (active leakage control) and water mains rehabilitation. CPO 10.69 Support Irish Water in the implementation of Capital Projects to strengthen the Regional Water Supply Scheme, subject to environmental assessment. CPO 10.70 Support the implementation of the Water Supply Project for the Eastern and Midland Region, subject to environmental assessment. CPO 10.71 Support the implementation of the Rural Water Programme. CPO 10.72 Minimise wastage of water supply and promote water conservation measures by requiring, where appropriate, water conservation measures and the installation of water meters in all new developments. CPO 10.73 Ensure that delivery and phasing of water services are subject to the required appraisal, planning and environmental assessment processes and avoid adverse impacts on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network. CPO 10.74 Protect, safeguard and strictly control development within the water catchment areas of Lough Owel and Lough Lene, and other major sources of public water supply that would give rise to pollution of these water sources. CPO 10.75 Ensure that new development proposals connect into the existing public water mains, where available.</p> <p>Agricultural Waste Policy Objectives CPO 9.35 Assess agricultural developments and associated agricultural waste matters within the County in accordance with the European Union (Good Agricultural Practice for Protection of Waters) Regulations 2017 and Westmeath County Council Water Pollution (Agricultural) Bye-Laws for the purpose of preventing or eliminating the entry of polluting matters to waters.</p> <p>Horticulture Policy Objectives CPO 9.37 Protect agricultural or agri-business uses from incompatible urban development.</p> <p>Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning and sustainability provided by the Plan and Table 8.4 from this SEA Environmental Report "How Climate Action has been integrated into the Draft Plan". Climate Action CPO 11.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk</p>	<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 to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework. 	MA
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 	<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 	<p>Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning and sustainability provided by the Plan and Table 8.4 from this SEA Environmental Report "How Climate Action has been integrated into the Draft Plan". Climate Action CPO 11.1 Support the implementation and achievement of European, national, regional and local objectives for climate adaptation and mitigation as detailed in the following documents, taking into account other provisions of the Plan (including those relating to land use planning, energy, sustainable mobility, flood risk</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by 	AC

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	<p>County's settlements) 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 County and beyond.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 levels, including through measures relating to: <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 infrastructure design solutions including energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure). 	<p>European environmental objectives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	<p>management and drainage) and having regard to the Climate mitigation and adaptation measures which have been outlined through the policy objectives in this Development Plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate Action Plan (2019 and any subsequent versions); National Mitigation Plan (2017 and any subsequent versions); National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (2018 and any subsequent versions); Any Regional Decarbonisation Plan prepared on foot of commitments included in the emerging Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Eastern and Midland Region; Relevant provisions of any Sectoral Adaptation Plans prepared to comply the requirements of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, including those seeking to contribute towards the National Transition Objective, to pursue, and achieve, the transition to a low carbon, climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy by the end of the year 2050; and Westmeath County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024. <p>CPO 11.2 Provide for a reduction in energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by providing for consolidated future development which supports sustainable travel patterns in line with the County Core Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 11.3 Promote the benefits to quality of life, public health and biodiversity arising from implementation of policies promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation.</p> <p>CPO 11.4 Encourage innovation and facilitate the development of pilot schemes that support climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p> <p>CPO 11.5 Provide training on climate mitigation measures.</p> <p>CPO 11.6 Support collaboration between local authorities, the Bord na Móna Transition Team and relevant stakeholders and the development of partnership approaches to integrated peatland management for a just transition that incorporate any relevant policies and strategies such as the Bord na Móna Biodiversity Plan 2016-2021 and the national Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Plans. This shall include support for the rehabilitation and/or re-wetting of suitable peatland habitats.</p> <p>CPO 11.7 Work in collaboration with the Sustainable Energy Authority Ireland and relevant stakeholders to deliver a number of sustainable energy communities throughout the County.</p> <p>CPO 11.8 Consider the use of heat mapping to support developments which deliver energy efficiency and the recovery of energy that would otherwise be wasted. A feasibility assessment for district heating in Local Authority areas shall be carried out and statutory planning documents shall identify local waste heat sources.</p> <p>Air Quality and Noise Pollution Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 10.120 Promote the preservation of best ambient air quality compatible with sustainable development in accordance with the EU Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive (2008/50/EC) and ensure that all air emissions associated with new developments are within Environmental Quality Standards as set out in the Air Quality Standards Regulations 2011 (SI No. 180 of 2011) (or any updated/superseding documents).</p> <p>CPO 10.121 Support the implementation of the Noise Directive 2002/49/EC and associated Environmental Noise Regulations 2006.</p> <p>CPO 10.122 Support the Implementation of the Westmeath Noise Action Plan 2013-2018 (and any revision made thereto)</p> <p>CPO 10.123 Require all developments to be designed and operated in a manner that will minimise and contain noise levels.</p> <p>Energy efficient public lighting</p> <p>CPO 10.125 Require the use of energy efficient public lighting in all new development proposals.</p> <p>Greenways</p> <p>CPO 12.73 Support the development of an integrated Strategic Greenway Network of national and regional routes and maximise connectivity to existing greenways and link with cycling and walking infrastructure.</p> <p>CPO 12.74 Support the delivery of sustainable strategic greenways, blueways and peatways projects in the County in accordance with the Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways.</p> <p>CPO 12.75 Develop the Mullingar Greenway incorporating a pedestrian/cycle link connecting Mullingar to Lough Ennell and Belvedere subject to environmental and habitats requirements.</p> <p>CPO 12.76 Enhance and link the Westmeath Way through Mullingar via the Royal Canal Feeder and further along the waterside via Tullaghan and to the north eastern side of Lough Owel, consistent with Habitat Management Plan objectives for the lake.</p> <p>Green Infrastructure</p> <p>CPO 12.66 Identify, protect and enhance existing and planned Green Infrastructure assets and to facilitate, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, the development of Green Infrastructure that recognises the benefits that can be achieved with regards to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provision of open space amenities Sustainable management of water Protection and management of biodiversity Protection of cultural heritage Protection of protected landscape sensitivities <p>CPO 12.67 Ensure green infrastructure responds to and reflects landscape character including historic landscape character, conserving and enhancing the existing landscapes and townscapes of Westmeath which contribute to a distinctive sense of place.</p> <p>CPO 12.68 Prepare and implement a 'Green Infrastructure Strategy' for the County, to raise awareness of the importance of environmentally designated sites, river and canal corridors, and green spaces to adapting to climate change and enhancing opportunities for recreation and tourism.</p> <p>CPO 12.69 Facilitate and promote the provision of a green infrastructure network serving the settlement hierarchy and its environs in tandem with projected population growth.</p> <p>CPO 12.70 Prepare specific Green Infrastructure Strategies for the designated settlements of Athlone and Mullingar and implement green infrastructure networks within these towns.</p> <p>CPO 12.71 Work collaboratively with other neighbouring Local Authorities in facilitating and supporting the development of green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>CPO 12.72 Support and increase investment in the provision and on-going maintenance of existing green infrastructure and support the provision of new public parks, greenway and blueway corridors and other public open spaces to create green, healthy settlements throughout Westmeath by accessing relevant EU funding mechanisms and national funding opportunities including tourism related funding.</p> <p>Wind Farms on Peatlands</p> <p>CPO 10.135 Encourage large-scale energy production projects, in the form of Wind Farms, onto cutover cutaway peatlands in the County, subject to environmental, landscape, habitats and wildlife protection requirements being addressed.</p>	<p>provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. 	

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			<p>In the context of this policy, industrial scale/large-scale energy production projects are defined as follows: Projects that meet or exceed any of the following criteria: - Height: over 100m to blade tip, or - Scale: More than five turbines - Output: Having a total output of greater than 5MW Developments sited on peatlands have the potential to increase overall carbon losses. Proposals for such development should demonstrate that the following has been considered: - Peatland stability; and - Carbon emissions balance. Energy Policy Objectives (other Policy Objectives include those relating to Wind Energy, Solar Energy, Geothermal Energy, Renewable Energy and Sustainable Building and Design Policy Objectives) Support local, regional, national and international initiatives for limiting emissions of greenhouse gases through energy efficiency and the development of renewable energy sources which make use of the natural resources in an environmentally acceptable manner and having particular regard to the requirements of the Habitats Directive. Facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and support the implementation of actions identified in the Westmeath County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 and any future amendments. Promote and support the use of renewable forms of energy as a contribution to the energy demand of all new buildings where it is consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of an area. Transport Infrastructure and Energy– Transport Policies CPO 10.1 Promote and deliver a sustainable, integrated and low carbon transport system with ease of movement throughout County Westmeath by enhancing the existing transport infrastructure in terms of road, bus, rail, cycling and pedestrian facilities. CPO 10.2 Support the development of a low carbon transport system by continuing to promote modal shift from private car use towards increased use of more sustainable forms of transport such as cycling, walking and public transport. CPO 10.3 Support the implementation of the following national and regional transport policies as they apply to Westmeath: - The National Planning Framework - The RSES for the Eastern and Midland Region - Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future 2009 – 2020 - Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) 2019 - Spatial Planning and National Roads - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012 - National Cycling Policy Framework and National Cycle Manual - Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways, 2018 The Council also supports the implementation of sustainable transport solutions. CPO 10.4 Seek to ensure primacy for transport options that provide for unit reductions in carbon emissions. This can most effectively be done by promoting public transport, walking and cycling, and by actively seeking to reduce car use in circumstances where alternative options are available. Transport, Infrastructure and Energy Policy Objectives - Integration of Land Use Planning and Transportation Policy CPO 10.5 Encourage transition towards sustainable and low carbon transport modes, through the promotion of alternative modes of transport, and 'walkable communities' together with promotion of compact urban forms close to public transport corridors to encourage more sustainable patterns of movement. CPO 10.6 Support the enhancement of the County's existing transport infrastructure in order to ensure its optimal use and seek to undertake appropriate traffic management measures to reduce congestion and minimise travel times. CPO 10.7 Integrate the County's transport and tourism strategies to promote increasingly sustainable travel patterns and improved linkages between Athlone, Mullingar and other towns and villages. CPO 10.8 Prepare in conjunction with Roscommon County Council and relevant agencies, An Area Based Transport Plan for Athlone to facilitate the growth of Athlone as a regional economic driver. CPO 10.9 Prepare an Area based Transport Plan for Mullingar in conjunction with relevant agencies, to support the growth of Mullingar as a Key Town. Infrastructure and Mobility Policy Objectives - Walking and Cycling CPO 10.10 Promote walking and cycling as efficient, healthy and environmentally friendly modes of transport by securing the development of a network of direct, comfortable, convenient and safe cycle routes and footpaths, particularly in urban areas and in the vicinity of schools. CPO 10.11 Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity to stations and other public transport interchanges. CPO 10.12 Design pedestrian and cycling infrastructure in accordance with the principles, approaches and standards set out in the National Cycle Manual, the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets and international best practice. CPO 10.13 Encourage and seek sustainable transport movement at the earliest design stage of development proposals, to ensure accessibility by all modes of transport and all sections of society and promote the provision of parking space for bicycles in development schemes. CPO 10.14 Improve the streetscape environment for pedestrians, cyclists, and people with special mobility needs by providing facilities to enhance safety and convenience, including separation for pedestrian infrastructure from vehicular traffic. CPO 10.15 Provide better sign posting and public lighting where considered appropriate and ensure that the upgrading of roads will not impact negatively on the safety and perceived safety of cyclists. CPO 10.16 Work with the National Trails Office, Coillte, the Department of Planning, Housing and Local Government, the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport, and other relevant stakeholders, to improve on the existing level of infrastructure and facilities for walking and cycling. Transport and Infrastructure - Public Transport Policies CPO 10.25 Support the continued integration of national, regional and local bus and rail services to ensure the delivery of a seamless and fully integrated public transport service. CPO 10.26 Promote the use of and facilitate improvements to existing public transport services to support initiatives designed to improve bus/coach/rail interchange facilities. CPO 10.27 Support public transport improvements by reserving corridors for any such improvements free of development, including provision of setbacks along public transport corridors.</p>		

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
			<p>CPO 10.28 Continue to work with the relevant transport providers, agencies and stakeholders to facilitate the integration of active travel (walking, cycling etc.) with public transport, thereby making it easier for people to access and use the public transport system.</p> <p>CPO 10.29 Support the improvement of existing rail transport infrastructure, including the provision of increased frequency of services on the Dublin to Sligo and Dublin to Galway Lines.</p> <p>CPO 10.30 Safeguard all existing rail infrastructure and encourage the re-opening of rail stations including Killucan and preserve disused stations/halts and track appropriate to future strategic and public transport needs.</p> <p>CPO 10.31 Support the reopening of the Mullingar to Athlone Rail Line and Moate Railway Station, thereby increasing connectivity between these Towns.</p> <p>CPO 10.32 Support the operation of existing bus services and facilitate the provision of improved facilities for bus users in towns and villages, including the provision, in collaboration with the relevant agencies, of set down areas for coaches and bus shelters for passengers. Such provision is particularly required in towns and villages bypassed by National Routes.</p> <p>CPO 10.33 Support bus priority measures on existing and planned road infrastructure, where appropriate, in collaboration with the National Transport Authority, Bus Éireann and the Transport Infrastructure Ireland.</p> <p>CPO 10.34 Support and encourage public transport providers and rural community transport initiatives to enhance the provision of public transportation services linking the rural villages to the main towns within Westmeath.</p> <p>CPO 10.35 Support the Rural Transport Initiative and the provision of an integrated rural community public transport system as a means of reducing social isolation and as a viable long-term sustainable public transport option.</p> <p>CPO 10.36 Investigate the potential of providing a number of 'Park and Ride' facilities in appropriate locations in the County, subject to environmental assessment of identified locations.</p> <p>CPO 10.37 Investigate the potential of providing a number of 'Park and Stride' facilities in appropriate locations in the County, subject to environmental assessment of identified locations.</p> <p>CPO 10.38 Investigate the feasibility of providing a 'Bike Sharing Scheme' for Athlone Town and Mullingar Town to facilitate and encourage Modal Shift.</p> <p>Transport and Infrastructure Policy Objectives – Electric Vehicles</p> <p>CPO 10.38 Facilitate the provision of electricity charging infrastructure for electric vehicles both on street and in new developments in accordance with car parking standards prescribed in Development Management Standards Chapter 16 of this plan.</p> <p>CPO 10.39 Support the growth of Electric Vehicles with support facilities, through a roll-out of additional electric charging points in collaboration with relevant agencies at appropriate locations.</p> <p>CPO 10.40 Support the prioritisation of parking for Electric Vehicles in town centre locations.</p> <p>Transport and Infrastructure Policy Objectives – Mobility Management Plans</p> <p>CPO 10.58 Require mobility management plans to be submitted with applications for trip intensive developments.</p> <p>Transport and Infrastructure Policy Objectives – Bicycle Parking Facilities</p> <p>CPO 10.64 Ensure the provision of appropriate Bicycle parking facilities as part of any new applications in urban areas to assist with supporting modal shift away from private cars to more sustainable modes of transport i.e. Cycling, Walking, Public Transport.</p> <p>Tourism Links</p> <p>CPO 6.45 Support the provision of infrastructure to enable increased tourism activity associated with Westmeath's lakes, including boating, canoeing and angling while ensuring that such provision does not negatively impact on sensitive environments and subject to the requirements of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>CPO 6.48 Support the provision of walking and cycling links between lakes and nearby villages, towns and visitor attractions, provided such developments do not negatively impact on sensitive environments.</p> <p>CPO 6.57 Continue to support the development of the Galway to Dublin Cycleway, completing the connection to the west of the River Shannon in Athlone and working with neighbouring counties and national bodies to complete and promote the entire route. The development of the cycleway shall comply with the provisions of the Habitats Directive and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's Dublin to Galway Greenway Plan 2017 and associated measures relating to environmental management and sustainable development.</p> <p>Placemaking for Climate Change Policy Objective</p> <p>CPO 7.14 Require the incorporation of adaptable multi-functional and sensitive design solutions that supports the transition to low carbon, carbon resilient, sustainable and attractive environments.</p> <p>Development Management Standards Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 16.59 Assess applications for development, having consideration to any national guidelines and criteria set out under the sub-headings below in respect of sustainable building practices and renewable energy that serve to reduce energy demand, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address the necessity of adaptation to climate change in accordance with national and regional policy.</p> <p>All new development proposals will be required to include measures that incorporate sustainable building practices in accordance with the following criteria:</p> <p>Low Energy Buildings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Include design measures which minimise energy use, including by passive solar design, energy-efficient building design and emission reduction measures; Design measures which promote renewable and low carbon energy; Is designed for flexible use throughout its lifetime; Promote the use of green roofs and natural ventilation; Promote the use of permeable surfaces to decrease runoff rates; Institute grey-water recycling schemes to decrease abstraction of potable surface water resources, thus reducing water stress during periods of low rainfall; Maximise water conservation; Avoids internal overheating and excessive heat generation; Supplies energy efficiently and incorporates decentralised energy systems such as District Heating and uses renewable energy where feasible; Procures materials sustainably using local suppliers wherever possible ensuring designs make the most of natural systems both within and around the building; Manages flood risk, including through sustainable drainage systems (SUDS) and flood resilient design for infrastructure and property; Enhance flood resilience of buildings, e.g. elevated work surfaces and storage facilities, raised sockets and electrical infrastructure, enhanced flood boards; Ensures developments are comfortable and secure for users; Conserves and enhances the natural environment, particularly in relation to biodiversity, and enables easy access to open spaces; Avoids the creation of adverse local climatic conditions; 		

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
			<p>Reduces air and water pollution; Promotes sustainable waste behaviour in new and existing developments.</p>		
<p>Cultural Heritage</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within existing settlements. Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities. 	<p>Cultural Heritage Policy Objectives CPO 14.1 Improve accessibility to our cultural heritage and maximise its potential as a learning resource. CPO 14.2 Promote the understanding of cultural heritage in terms of its inherent and unique character and to recognise what elements should be preserved, conserved or enhanced. CPO 14.3 Support the implementation of objectives and actions of the Westmeath County Heritage Plan 2018-2023 and update during the lifetime of the Plan. CPO 14.4 Support the growth of cultural tourism in the County, including the potential for niche heritage based tourism products by facilitating the development of heritage events, festivals and infrastructure in a sustainable manner.</p> <p>Archaeology Policy Objectives CPO 14.5 Seek to ensure the protection and sympathetic enhancement of archaeological heritage, and in this regard applications will be referred to the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht for comment. CPO 14.6 Seek to ensure the protection of archaeological sites and monuments and their settings and archaeological objects that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, in the ownership/guardianship of the State, or that are the subject of Preservation Orders or have been registered in the Register of Historic Monuments. Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of archaeological sites, which have been identified subsequent to the publication of the Record of Monuments and Places. CPO 14.7 Ensure that any development adjacent to an archaeological monument or site shall not be detrimental to the character of the archaeological site, or its setting and shall be sited in a manner which minimises the impact on the monument and its setting. Development which is likely to detract from the setting of such a monument or site will not be permitted. CPO 14.8 Seek to ensure the protection and preservation of underwater archaeological sites in riverine or lacustrine locations. CPO 14.9 Encourage and promote the appropriate management and maintenance of the County's archaeological heritage, including historical burial grounds, in accordance with conservation principles and best practice guidelines. CPO 14.10 Consult with the National Monuments Service in relation to proposed developments adjoining archaeological sites. CPO 14.11 Ensure that archaeological excavation is carried out according to best practice as outlined by the National Monuments Service, Department of Culture, Heritage, and the Gaeltacht, The National Museum of Ireland and the Institute of Archaeologists of Ireland. CPO 14.12 Prepare conservation plans for the management of archaeological sites and monuments in Council ownership. CPO 14.13 Encourage increased awareness of and public access to monuments within Council ownership.</p> <p>Fore Special Heritage Area Policy Objectives CPO 14.14 Continue to protect and enhance the Fore Special Heritage Area in accordance with the Fore Special Heritage Management Study adopted in 2010, and any update made thereto. CPO 14.15 Support the development of sustainable tourist initiatives in Fore subject to appropriate archaeological and ecological assessment. CPO 14.16 Ensure that new development proposals which have the potential to impact on Archaeological Heritage must be accompanied by an Archaeological Assessment in accordance with requirements of the National Monuments Service of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. CPO 14.17 Ensure that development proposals that would detrimentally impact upon the setting and interpretation of archaeological monuments, historic landscape or buildings of architectural value at Fore will not be permitted. CPO 14.18 Protect and sustain the established appearance and character of views over the surrounding countryside at Fore, while facilitating the continued development of uses that sustain the activities that give rise to the appearance and character of the landscape. CPO 14.19 Ensure that development and activities that are immediately adjacent to the scenic off-road walking routes of Fore, sustain the established appearance and character of views, that contribute to the distinctive quality of the landscape.</p> <p>Hill of Uisneach Policy Objectives CPO 14.20 Continue to support the promotion of Uisneach as one of the Royal Sites of Ireland under the proposal for its designation as a UNESCO World Heritage Site and/or other appropriate initiatives. CPO 14.21 Support the development of a greenway from the Old Rail Trail to the Hill of Uisneach, subject to the protection of the archaeological significance of the site. CPO 14.22 Endeavour to improve public access to the Hill of Uisneach, with the involvement of landowners and relevant stakeholders, in consultation with the National Monument Service. CPO 14.23 Seek funding to prepare and implement a Conservation Management Plan for Uisneach in consultation with landowners, the National Monument Service and the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht.</p> <p>Protected Structures Policy Objectives CPO 14.24 Protect and conserve buildings, structures and sites contained in the Record of Protected Structures and to encourage the sympathetic re-use and long-term viability of such structures without detracting from their special interest and character. CPO 14.25 Protect the architectural heritage of Westmeath through the identification of Protected Structures, the designation of Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), the safeguarding of designed landscapes and historic gardens, and the recognition of structures and elements that contribute positively to the vernacular and industrial heritage of the County. CPO 14.26 Applications for modifications, alterations, or extensions to a Protected Structure will be assessed in accordance with the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines 2011 and should be sensitively sited and designed, compatible with its special character, and appropriate in terms of the proposed scale, mass, height, density, layout, and materials so that the integrity of the structure and its curtilage is preserved. CPO 14.27 Seek that the form and structural integrity of Protected Structures is retained as part of any redevelopment proposal and that the relationship between the Protected Structure and any complex of adjoining buildings, designed landscape features, or designed views or vistas from or to the structure is considered. CPO 14.28 Encourage rehabilitation, renovation and re-use of existing Protected Structures for their own economic benefit and that of the area in which they are located.</p>	<p>Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</p>	<p>CH</p>

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
			<p>CPO 14.29 Carry out an audit and assess the condition of Protected Structures within the Council's ownership and devise a Conservation Management Plan/maintenance regime for these structures.</p> <p>CPO 14.30 Carry out an audit of Protected Structures within the Council's ownership to identify any Protected Structures that are under threat directly or indirectly due to climate change.</p> <p>CPO 14.31 Integrate climate change adaptation measures into future heritage management plans.</p> <p>CPO 14.32 Provide guidance for owners of protected structures or historic buildings on upgrading for energy efficiency and climate resilient measures and promote the principles of sustainable building design in conservation.</p> <p>CPO 14.33 Ensure a sustainable future for Protected Structures and buildings sited within ACAs by encouraging and supporting works to upgrade the environmental performance of such structures together with the implementation of measures to address the impacts of climate change. Such works should not adversely affect the special character of the structure including impact on historic fabric, traditional construction, visibility, siting and design. The installation of renewable energy measures and equipment will be acceptable where sited and designed to minimise the visual impact, where it does not result in any significant loss of historic fabric or otherwise affect the significance of the structure.</p> <p>CPO 14.34 Incentivise the restoration of Protected Structures in towns and villages.</p> <p>CPO 14.35 Facilitate contemporary and innovative designs providing that they are of a sufficient high quality and do not detract from the character of the historic fabric of the Protected Structure.</p> <p>Architectural Conservation Areas Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.35 Promote development that positively contributes to the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area. New development or alterations to existing building(s) in an ACA shall respect the special character of the ACA and reflect the historic architecture in terms of scale, design and materials used. Regard shall be had to any guidance contained in the Statement of Characters prepared for ACAs.</p> <p>CPO 14.36 Consider development proposals within ACAs in accordance with the Statements of Character prepared for ACAs in Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Moate, Tyrrellspass, Mullingar and Athlone.</p> <p>CPO 14.37 Prepare Statements of Character and guidance in relation to development within each of the identified Architectural Conservations Areas (ACAs) in the County.</p> <p>CPO 14.38 Ensure that Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs), including any associated public realm area, are protected and ensure that any new development or alteration of a building within or adjoining an ACA positively enhances the character of the area and is appropriate in terms of the plot size, proposed design, including: scale, mass, height, proportions, density, layout, materials, plot ratio, and building lines.</p> <p>CPO 14.39 Avoid the removal of structures and distinctive elements (such as boundary treatments, street furniture, paving and landscaping) that positively contribute to the character of Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Vernacular Building and Structures Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.41 Encourage the retention and appropriate re-use of vernacular buildings, including vacant traditional farm buildings, where appropriate and encourage the retention of the original fabric such as windows, doors and other significant features of historic buildings.</p> <p>CPO 14.42 Require that the size, scale, design, form, layout and materials of extensions to vernacular dwellings or conversions of historic outbuildings are in keeping and sympathetic with the existing structure.</p> <p>CPO 14.43 Ensure that works to existing buildings and structures of architectural merit maintain and enhance their character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>CPO 14.44 Ensure wherever possible that proposed infrastructural and public utility works within the County do not remove historic street furniture such as limestone kerbs, cobblestones, cast-iron post boxes, street lamps etc</p> <p>CPO 14.45 Promote, where feasible the retention of surviving historic plot sizes and street patterns in the villages and towns of Westmeath and have regard to ancient boundaries or layouts, such as burgage plots and townland boundaries in new development proposals.</p> <p>CPO 14.46 Ensure that works to existing buildings and structures of architectural merit maintain and enhance their character and distinctiveness.</p> <p>Historic Parks, Gardens and Demesnes Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.47 Support the economic viability of parks, gardens and demesnes by encouraging high quality development that does not lead to the loss of, or cause harm to the character, the principal components of, or the setting of parks, gardens and demesnes of special historic interest.</p> <p>CPO 14.48 Support the preparation and implementation of a Conservation Management Plan for Belvedere House, Gardens & Park.</p> <p>CPO 14.49 Require a masterplan to be prepared for development proposals within historic designed and demesne landscapes. Such a plan should include an appraisal of the designed landscape together with an architectural appraisal, in order to inform design proposals, which must be sensitive to and respect the built heritage elements and green space values of the site.</p> <p>Industrial Heritage Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.50 Protect, where appropriate, industrial heritage structures or elements of significance identified in the Inventory of Industrial Heritage and any subsequent surveys by adding them to the Record of Protected Structures.</p> <p>CPO 14.51 Utilise the information provided within the Inventory of Industrial Heritage Sites in Westmeath, and any subsequent surveys when assessing development proposals for industrial heritage sites.</p> <p>CPO 14.52 Support the retention and appropriate repair/maintenance of historic bridges and other significant industrial heritage features in the County.</p> <p>Language Heritage Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 14.53 Promote the naming of new residential developments in bi-lingual format. The naming of new estates should reflect local place names, townlands, history, folklore and/or cultural features in the area.</p> <p>CPO 14.54 Preserve historic place and street names and ensure that new street names should reflect appropriate local historical or cultural associations.</p> <p>CPO 14.55 Support the use of the Irish language on shopfronts.</p> <p>CPO 14.56 Support the establishment of a naming committee within one year of adoption of the Plan, to evaluate naming proposals for new residential and/or mixed-use developments.</p> <p>Development Management Standards Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 16.57 In the assessment of applications for development within an Architectural Conservation Area, the following considerations will be taken into account: Guidelines contained within the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2004) (DAHG).</p>		

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Environmental Component	Significant Positive Effect, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse Environmental Effects, if unmitigated	Mitigation Measures, including	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant Effects	SEO Code
			<p>Development Works within an ACA Proposals for development within an ACA that involves a new building, reuse or change of use and extensions will generally be required to: - Conserve and enhance the character and appearance of the ACA; - Respect the scale, massing, proportions, design and materials of existing structures; - Retain important exterior architectural features that contribute to the character and appearance of the ACA.</p> <p>Demolition Works within an ACA The demolition of a building within an ACA will generally not be permitted unless the Council is satisfied that the structure or building does not contribute positively to the character or appearance of the ACA or the building /structure is beyond viable renewal.</p> <p>CPO 16.58 In the assessment of any application for development which is sited within the designated zone of archaeological potential and/or on sites on or abutting monuments identified by the Sites and Monuments Record, any may affect archaeological remains due to ground and sub-surface works and disturbance., the following considerations will be taken into account: (i)Development proposed within designated Zones of Archaeological Potential and in sites on or abutting Monuments identified by the Sites and Monuments Record, the Council will refer applications for proposed developments to National Monuments Service of the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, to ascertain their requirements and consider their response to same. (ii) A preliminary archaeological investigation by a licensed archaeologist will normally be required where a proposed development would result in significant ground disturbance within a Zone of Archaeological Potential. (iii) A comprehensive archaeological report from a licensed archaeologist will normally be required to be submitted to the Council and to National Monuments Service of DoECLG, for their assessment, prior to the commencement of any development on site, or where considered appropriate prior to the decision by the Council on a Planning Application. (iv) Where a proposed development would result in significant ground disturbance leading to potentially significant archaeological implications in a Zone of Archaeological Potential or in sites on or abutting Monuments identified by the Sites and Monuments Record it will be a requirement that a licensed archaeologist be retained on site to monitor all site works, and in appropriate circumstances the preservation of all or part of any archaeological material so discovered will be required.</p>		
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within existing settlements. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape. 	<p>Landscape and Lake Amenities Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.1 Support the implementation of the National Landscape Strategy.</p> <p>CPO 13.2 Protect the distinctiveness, value and sensitivity of County Westmeath's landscapes and lakelands by recognising their capacity to sustainably integrate development.</p> <p>CPO 13.3 Support and implement objectives contained in any Regional Landscape Character Assessment.</p> <p>CPO 13.4 Conserve and enhance the high nature conservation value of the Landscape Character Areas in order to create/protect ecologically resilient and varied landscapes.</p> <p>CPO 13.5 Identify and integrate new green and blue infrastructure networks within the existing landscape character areas in the interests of biodiversity and climate change and in recognition of the tourism potential of these assets.</p> <p>CPO 13.6 Require that development is sensitively designed, so as to minimise its visual impact on the landscape, nature conservation, archaeology and groundwater quality.</p> <p>Landscape Character Assessment Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.7 Protect the landscapes and natural environments of the County by ensuring that any new developments do not detrimentally impact on the character, integrity, distinctiveness or scenic value of their area. Any development which could unduly impact upon such landscapes will not be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.8 Ensure the preservation of the uniqueness of a landscape character type by having regard to the character, value and sensitivity of a landscape in new development proposals.</p> <p>CPO 13.9 Ensure development reflects and, where possible, reinforces the distinctiveness and sense of place of the landscape character types, including the retention of important features or characteristics, taking into account the various elements which contribute to their distinctiveness.</p> <p>CPO 13.10 Explore the potential for natural resource tourism, such as fishing, boating, walking, cycling, nature trails, natural and cultural resource tourism etc., in conjunction with relevant tourism bodies such as Waterways Ireland, Fáilte Ireland, Community Development Agencies and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>CPO 13.11 Require a Visual Impact Assessment for proposed developments with the potential to impact on significant landscape features within the County.</p> <p>CPO 13.12 Landscape Character Area 1: Consider the provision of walkways around Lough Lene, subject to impacts on biodiversity being fully addressed and subject to screening for Appropriate Assessment.</p> <p>CPO 13.13 Landscape Character Area 2: Explore the potential for funding to examine the feasibility of developing the River Inny basin as a biodiversity heritage area.</p> <p>CPO 13.14 Landscape Character Area 5: Continue to work with Waterways Ireland to enhance and protect the visual corridor of the Royal Canal, by incorporating a visual buffer zone on each side of the bank of the canal.</p> <p>CPO 13.15 Landscape Character Area 6: Explore the feasibility of promoting Lough Ree and its islands as a model for a living Biodiversity Reserve.</p> <p>CPO 13.16 Minimise impact on the ecological, archaeological, biodiversity and visual amenity surrounding quarry sites and quarrying of sensitive sites within the Landscape Character Areas including the lake valley landscape, eskers and canal corridor.</p> <p>CPO 13.17 Protect and enhance the setting of the Hill of Uisneach and support increased public access to the site. Only sensitive development that does not undermine the archaeological and cultural significance of the site will be permitted.</p> <p>CPO 13.18 a. Protect and sustain the established appearance and character of views associated with the High Amenity Area around the Hill of Uisneach. b. Require any development proposals within the High Amenity Area around the Hill of Uisneach to demonstrate that no adverse effects will occur on the established appearance or character of this feature as viewed from either the Protected Panoramic Views or from surrounding public roads.</p> <p>High Amenity Areas Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.19 Protect High Amenity areas from inappropriate development and reinforce their character, distinctiveness and sense of place.</p> <p>CPO 13.20 Protect and preserve designated High Amenity Areas from inappropriate urban generated housing development or any other development which would be injurious to or detract from the natural amenity of Areas of High Amenity.</p> <p>CPO 13.21 Protect lakeshores from any inappropriate development which would detract from the natural amenity of the area.</p> <p>CPO 13.22 Protect and enhance the special landscape character and exceptional landscape value of the Lough Ree Islands, including their significant archaeological, cultural and natural heritage value. Support the preparation for a Plan for the Islands in conjunction with the National Monuments Service and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.</p> <p>CPO 13.23 Cooperate with adjoining Local Authorities in the preparation of Habitat Management Plans to guide future development in relation to Lough Ree and Lough Sheelin Areas of High Amenity.</p> <p>CPO 13.24 Promote, in association with Fáilte Ireland, the sustainable tourism potential of Areas of High Amenity centered around the Lakelands.</p> <p>CPO 13.25 Protect existing public rights of way in Areas of High Amenity.</p>	<p>Landscapes 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.</p>	L

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			<p>CPO 13.26 Cooperate with Coillte, Bord na Mona, Waterways Ireland and other state agencies in establishing access ways, nature trails, etc. with a view to opening up state lands for recreational use.</p> <p>CPO 13.27 Maintain existing navigation channels within Areas of High Amenity for the benefit of recreation and amenity related uses.</p> <p>Lake Amenities Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.28 Protect the County's lakes and their shorelines, islands, amenity and biodiversity from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO 13.29 Protect the scenic quality of lakes from any inappropriate development between public roads and lakeshores that would interrupt a view of the lake or adversely affect its setting or its wildlife habitat. Any development in such instance must be sensitively sited and designed and screened from the lake by existing topography or vegetation.</p> <p>CPO 13.30 Improve access to the lakes and around the lakeshore and increase public accessibility, subject to ecological sensitivities and constraints being addressed.</p> <p>CPO 13.31 Continue to develop, in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service (NPWS), the Westmeath Way to include the lakes of the County. Any proposed route in the vicinity of the White Lake will be subject to prior agreement with the NPWS and in connection with Irish Trails.</p> <p>CPO 13.32 Continue to develop a connected network of greenways to the principal lakes in the County and their respective lakeshores subject to ecological sensitivities and constraints being addressed.</p> <p>CPO 13.33 Continue to advance a network of navigable blueways within the County subject to ecological assessment.</p> <p>Protected Views Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 13.80 Protect and sustain the established appearance and character of views listed in Appendix 5 of this plan that contribute to the distinctive quality of the landscape from inappropriate development.</p> <p>CPO 13.81 Provide and maintain facilities, including safe pedestrian access and/or car parking, and where appropriate, associated seats and signs in the immediate vicinity of views that are identified in this plan</p> <p>CPO 13.82 Support the restoration of derelict sites and removal of derelict structures adjacent to scenic and tourist routes, using mechanisms such as the Derelict Sites Act 1990.</p> <p>Areas of High Amenity Policy Objectives</p> <p>CPO 9.22 Restrict development not related to farming practices and tourism in all High Amenity Areas, with the exception of housing for the immediate family (son/daughter) of established residents living on landholdings, who demonstrate a housing need and have long-term intrinsic links with the area. The entire landholding will be demonstrated to have been in the resident's ownership 5 years prior to the date of application.</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 Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Table 2.4 Proposed Material Alterations Requiring SEA

No. ⁷	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
18	BOM 34 & BOM 35	<p>Lough Derravaragh - this is not considered to be an alteration as there is no change to the Draft Plan. Consequently, SEA is not required. As identified in the SEA Environmental Report, reducing the High Amenity Area to the north and east of Lough Derravaragh would reduce the protection of the overall landscape and undermine the long-term integrity of this important asset. This is already provided for by the Draft Plan.</p> <p>The inclusion of additional lands as part of Lough Lene High Amenity Area would increase the protection of the overall landscape and help to secure the long-term integrity of this important asset. This Alteration would be likely to result in significant positive environmental effects and therefore is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
20	BOM 30	<p>This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
21	BOM 17	<p>This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
22	BOM 31	<p>This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
187	Rochfortbridge BOM 17	<p>This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
190	Milltownpass BOM 31	<p>This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
192	Glasson BOM 30	<p>This alteration is one of a number of alterations that would alone and in combination improve flood risk management and result in significant positive effects on the protection of the environment, including human health and material assets. As a result of these positive effects, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
197	BOM 1 & BOM 2	<p>This alteration is to zone for development greenfield sites in Castlepollard, removed from the established settlement boundary, and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed zoning changes having regard to the quantum of land zoned for residential in Castlepollard, opportunities for infill development inside the current development boundary, its position in the county settlement hierarchy, its projected growth to 2027.</p>

⁷ No. taken from Table 2.2.

SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

No. 7	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
198	BOM 3	<p>It is considered that there is no justification for rezoning the subject lands in Castlepollard "Proposed Residential" as it would impact on the residential amenity of existing properties in the vicinity.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>
199	BOM 13	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site in Killucan-Rathwire, removed from the established settlement boundary, and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed additional residential zoning to be included as part of the Plan at this time.</p>
200	BOM 14	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site between the settlements of Killucan and Rathwire, removed from the established built settlement boundary, on lands zoned "Open Space", as part of a larger area of tree planted open landscape providing an important visual break between Killucan and Rathwire, and is not in the interests of proper planning. These lands provide an attractive landscape feature that adds character to this self-sustaining town. Policy objective CPO 8.164 supports the maintenance of this "Open Space" as seeks to "Ensure that the landscape setting between Killucan and Rathwire is maintained in order to protect the distinct identity, character and form of both settlements". As such, it is considered important to retain the Open Space zoning on these lands.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed additional residential zoning to be included as part of the Plan at this time.</p>
201	BOM 16	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site, removed from the established built settlement boundary of Rochfortbridge, and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, it is considered that there is no evidence-based need or planning rationale for the proposed additional residential zoning to be included as part of the Plan at this time.</p>
202	BOM 23	<p>This alteration is to zone for development an additional greenfield site in Ballymore and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>As identified in the Chief Executive's Report, Ballymore is a picturesque elongated settlement that extends to 1.7km in length. The village is characterised by a number of visual breaks in the streetscape primarily located to the north of the Main Street. The site in question comprises a greenfield plot and as such constitutes a break in the streetscape. In addition, the land is located within an Archaeological Zone of Potential.</p>
203	BOM 29	<p>This alteration is to zone for development a greenfield site removed from the established settlement boundary of Glasson and is not in the interests of proper planning.</p> <p>The zoning as proposed would be premature and would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development. Cumulatively, in-combination with zonings proposed by other Material Alterations, additional potential adverse significant effects would be likely on various environmental components. Consequently, this alteration is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p> <p>Glasson is a quaint rural village occupying a picturesque setting near Lough Ree. The Draft Plan promotes the consolidation of the village and protection of its architectural heritage, including form and character. This alteration would constitute a piecemeal extension to the settlement and accordingly would detract from its attractive form and setting, thereby undermining the unique character of the village.</p>

No. 7	Reference – Proposed Amendments in Draft Plan	SEA Screening Consideration
204	BOM 36	<p>The Wind Energy Capacity Map was generated using the landscape character assessment together with wind speed data provided by SEAI. In terms of the request for a change of the classification of Area 7 from "medium capacity" to "low capacity" for wind energy development, it is considered that such an amendment is not justified given the landscape character of the area in question.</p> <p>This Alteration is not consistent with the approach in the Draft Statutory Guidelines on Wind Energy Development and would not provide the most evidence-based framework for development. This amendment has the potential to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Undermine and negate practical measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions climate change in compliance with high-level climate action policy; and • Restrict the potential for wind energy development in the County, which is contrary to national energy policy that supports reductions in the reliance on fossil fuels and the development of renewable energy resources including wind energy infrastructure. <p>In combination with Alteration "CE OPR 1.11 Superseded by WH-DCDP-MA-06 - WH-DCDP-MA-09" this Alteration would be likely to result in significant environmental effects and therefore is required to be considered further in an SEA Environmental Report.</p>

Taking the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the other 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 Material Alterations are being proposed to the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan relates to the proper planning and sustainable development of County Westmeath.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan influence other plans, the other 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 Plan - 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.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the other 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 Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, they contribute towards its amelioration.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan, the other 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 County Development Plan relates to the land use and town planning sector and have fulfilled requirements in relation to SEA. These processes integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 were determined to require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft County Development Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the other 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

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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)

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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)

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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;

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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;

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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.

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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

SEA is determined as being required for the Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 while other 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

Most Proposed Material Alterations are determined not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from most 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, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified on Table 2.4 are advised as requiring SEA and consideration in an SEA Environmental Report.

A recommendation is provided below regarding a Proposed Material Alteration that did not necessitate SEA:

It is recommended that, if it is being adopted as part of the Plan, the new CPO after CPO 8.99 is modified as follows (SEA recommendation in blue text):

Support, [subject to reasoned planning justification for a road as opposed to other means of improving permeability](#), the construction of a link road between the Boreen Bradach L-5014-0 and the Killucan Rd L1015-0 to accommodate a secondary school and potential second primary school and allow the sharing of sporting facilities by the schools and Coralstown Kinnegad GAA. [Any proposals to improve permeability shall facilitate safe pedestrian and cyclist access.](#)



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
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Westmeath County Council,
Áras an Chontae,
Mount Street,
Mullingar,
Co. Westmeath

Tel: 044-9332000
Email: info@westmeathcoco.ie
Web: www.westmeathcoco.ie