



**Cavan County Council
Local Authority
Climate Action Plan
2024-2029**

SEA Statement



CONSULTANTS IN ENGINEERING,
ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE &
PLANNING

LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

Prepared for:
Cavan County Council



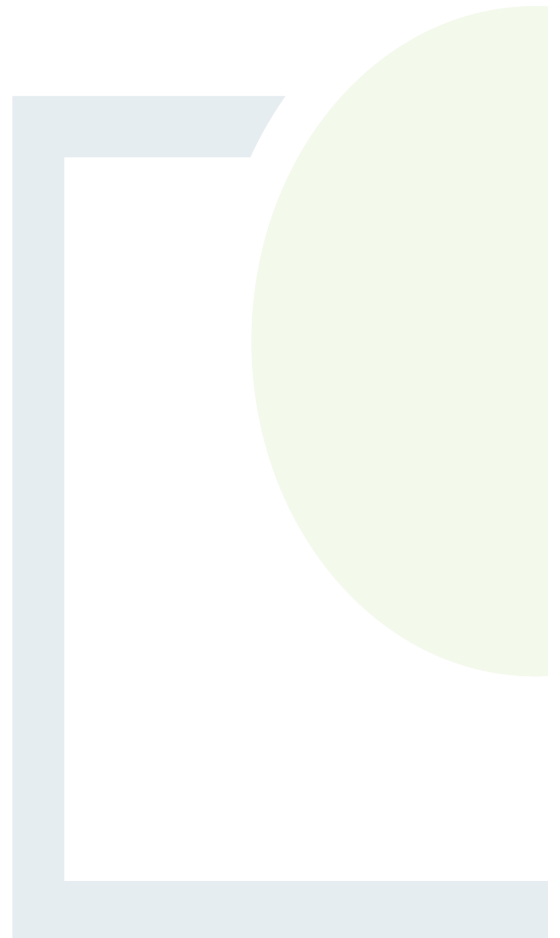
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Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement

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Abstract: Fehily Timoney and Company is pleased to submit this Strategic Environmental Assessment Statement for the Cavan Local Authority Climate Action Plan to Cavan for publication alongside the Plan. This Statement provided information on the decision in accordance with Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended).

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Cavan County Council (CCC) have adopted the Cavan Local Authority Climate Action Plan (LACAP) 2024 - 2029. This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement for the LACAP. This SEA Statement provides information on the following:

1. How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the LACAP.
2. How the SEA Environmental Report and consultation submissions and observations on it have been taken into account during the preparation of the LACAP
3. The reasons for choosing the LACAP as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.
4. The measures decided concerning monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the LACAP.

The EPA in their Guidance on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statements and Monitoring (2023) succinctly summarize the role SEA Statement have under the SEA process, as follows: *'SEA Statements have the potential to play a central role in summarising the effectiveness of the SEA process. They can capture how environmental considerations have shaped the plan/programme (e.g., through policy wordings, revisited zonings and other measures) and how the process has contributed to making the plan or programme more sustainable'*.

1.2 Legislative Context

SEA is required under the EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (the SEA Directive)¹. The SEA Directive requires that an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.

The overarching objective of the SEA Directive is *'to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans....with a view to promoting sustainable development'*²

SEA is described within the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government's (2004) Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities on the Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) as the *'formal systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before a decision is made to adopt the plan or programme'*.

¹ Transposing Irish Regulations: S.I. No. 435 of 2004 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011). S.I. No. 436 of 2004 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

² Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment – Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, 2004)



Article 16 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) requires that a competent authority provide information on the decision to approve a Plan that has been subject to SEA. Article 16(2)(b) requires that a statement is produced summarized, inter alia, how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan or programme subject to SEA.



2. HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS WERE INTEGRATED INTO LOCAL AUTHORITY CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2024 - 2029

2.1 SEA Scoping

The first stage of the SEA process was to carry out SEA Screening to determine the requirement for SEA of the LACAP. It was determined the LACAP was a statutory Plan and had the potential to give rise to likely significant environmental effects and therefore SEA is required for the Plan.

The second stage of the SEA process was carrying out SEA Scoping. The purpose of SEA Scoping is to establish the spatial and temporal scope of the SEA and a decision-making framework that can be used to evaluate impacts of the LACAP. A SEA Scoping Report was produced to document the scoping process. The SEA Scoping Report outlined information on the emerging LACAP, including the need for the LACAP, its temporal and geographical area and overall objectives. It facilitated scoping the Environmental Components and understanding the environmental issues to be considered under the SEA process.

A copy of this report was made available to the statutory Environmental Authorities. Environmental Authorities made scoping submissions on the SEA Scoping Report. The SEA Scoping Report was finalized in light of these submissions. The SEA Scoping Report, along with SEA scoping consultation submissions and consideration of these submissions by the SEA process, helped communicate and define the scope of the environmental issues which are to be dealt with by the SEA, the methods which will be used to address these issues, and the level of detail required to address these issues, as per the SEA Guidelines³. Summary detail on the scoping consultation submissions received from Environmental Authorities and how these were taken into account during the SEA process is presented in Table 2-1.

³ Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2004), Page 18: "It is recommended that at the end of the scoping procedure, the plan-making authority should prepare a brief scoping report of its conclusions as to what information is to be included in the environmental report, taking account of any recommendations from the environmental authorities."



Table 2-1: Summary Detail on Scoping Consultation Submissions Received from Environmental Authorities

Environmental Authority	Summary on the Scoping Consultation Submission	How was this submission taken into account during the SEA?
Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine	<p>An overview on how climate resilience could be promoted in agriculture setting was provided (e.g., maintaining a fodder reserve, measures to promote biodiversity and carbon sequestration, measures to improve soil structure and function). An overview on invasive species risk associated with climate change and the need to promote resilience in livestock was provided.</p>	<p>The content of this submission served to inform the focus of the environmental assessment of agriculture related action defined in the LACAP. It informed the nature and focus of mitigation measures defined for related climate mitigation and adaptation action defined in the LACAP. A number of Environmental Governance principles defined in the LACAP specifically reflect the recommendations contained in this submission.</p>
EPA	<p>An overview of the nature of climate change challenges was provided. The EPA acknowledged the nature, focus and goals of the emerging LACAP was made. It was advised the SEA should seek to maximize climate action co-benefits for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions).</p> <p>Other measures advised on which were relevant to the SEA included: the need to consider the Plan influence on Greenhouse Gas (GHG emissions) the need to manage climate change influenced invasive species spread, the need to have regard to the receiving water quality and air quality environment during the plan-making process.</p> <p>In relation to the SEA specifically, commentary was provided on the approach to mitigation, and on how the plan should consider impacts on air and water quality, water resources, soils/geology, landscape, material assets and cross-cutting issues.</p> <p>The EPA recommended integrating the environmental mitigation defined under the SEA into the Plan, and advised on other interrelated plans and programmes to consider during plan-making and SEA processes.</p>	<p>The recommendation to ensure climate action defined in the Plan created co-benefits underpinned the SEA process and the defined mitigation measures. Where relevant, mitigation measures ultimately defined serve to holistically maximize environmental benefits. The promotion of climate action co-benefits is embedded into the Environmental Governance Principle framework defined for the Plan.</p> <p>Appropriate regard was had to the need to consider the climate change influenced invasive species spread. This was considered when shaping defined climate action and also within the Environmental Governance principle framework defined under the Plan.</p> <p>The receiving water and air quality environmental were appropriately considered and evaluated during the SEA process, in light of the EPA's commentary on baseline water quality and air quality data and information.</p> <p>The nature, focus and level of mitigation measures defined in the SEA Environmental Report were informed by the EPA's commentary. All mitigation measures defined were integrated into the Plan itself. The wording of climate action defined in the Plan was shaped having regard to relevant environmental considerations. A set of Environmental Governance Principles were included in the Plan.</p>



2.2 Environmental Assessment and Mitigation

Taking into account the scope detailed in the SEA Scoping Report which was produced for the initial draft version on the LACAP, the environmental effects associated with the implementation of the LACAP were identified, evaluated and described in a SEA Environmental Report.

This report defined mitigation measures to prevent adverse environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. The following forms of mitigation have been adopted to ameliorate the negative environments of the LACAP and maximize potential positive effects of the plan:

- Mitigation through consideration of alternatives.
- Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP.
- Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP.

2.2.1 Mitigation through consideration of alternatives

A number of alternatives were considered at an early stage in the process. The environmental effects of these alternatives were evaluated during the SEA process. Detail on how Plan alternatives and their environmental effects were considered during plan-making is provided in Section 3.

2.2.2 Mitigation through integration of environmental considerations into the LACAP

The plan making process was carried out in parallel with the SEA and AA processes. Regular communication and interaction took place between the environmental assessment team and the plan making team. Environmental considerations that became known during the SEA and AA processes, including consultation processes, were regularly communicated to the plan making team during the plan making process. As necessary, environmental mitigation measures to ameliorate the potential negative environmental effects of implementing the LACAP were developed and then integrated into the LACAP. Much of the environmental mitigation was embedded in the plan early on in the process as a result of this. This process was carried out in an iterative manner to ensure optimal plan making and environmental outcomes. Environmental considerations were also integrated into the plan so as to facilitate maximizing identified positive environmental effects of the LACAP.

Mitigation measures were suggested that maximize the co-benefits of climate action for other environmental components such local air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e., win-win solutions).

Additional text clarifying environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities has been attached to a variety of defined actions in the plan. This text has been shaped to ensure that environmental considerations are appropriately taken into account during plan implementation. This text has also been shaped to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These text additions are presented in Table 2-2.

Several environmental governance principles were established to ensure plan implementation generates the minimum level of negative environmental effects and the maximum level of positive environmental effects. These environmental governance principles shall underpin and guide plan implementation and shall apply to and be integrated into all actions/activities which result due to the implementation of the plan. These principles are defined in Table 2-3. The principles were incorporated into the plan itself.



These environmental mitigation measures were integrated into the LACAP and will prevent negative effects and maximize positive effects associated with the LACAP.

Table 2-2: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Additional text included in Plan actions relating to environmental protection related obligations and environmental enhancement opportunities

LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
G20	Enhancement of emphasis on development of social housing on sites near town centres and local facilities	Attach the following text to the action: Ensure any supported development is planned in a manner that has due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites and cultural heritage.
G21	Inform Industry, Business and Enterprise of applicable funding sources available to them to assist with GHG reduction or implementation of energy upgrades	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity, and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations.
G23	To input to a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change, and at risk of not meeting the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive.	Attach the following text to the action: with a focus on follow-up and protective/remedial action.
G26	Adapt a cloud technology first approach to reduce the volume of energy used by physical servers and ancillary infrastructure such as cooling systems	Attach the following text to the action: Steps will be taken to ensure the cloud provider chosen has sustainability- and carbon-goals that align with the overall objective of this plan.
G27	Replacement of technology in council chamber to facilitate hybrid meetings going forward	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed.
G28	Continue reduction of printers across organisation	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring WEEE generated as a result of this action is appropriately managed.
BE5	Deliver the Cavan's Pathfinder Programme by 2025 and pursue other national and regional funding sources for retrofitting and improving energy efficiency and reducing emissions. Pursue additional similar funding programmes for further emission reduction works	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure that all retrofitting works will prioritise energy efficiencies and renewable energy generation (solar PV, geothermal and micro wind generation where feasible); having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.
BE6	Deliver the Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project in Cavan as part of PLEEP Scheme to reduce GHG emissions and energy usage of Public Lighting.	Attach the following text to the action: while ensuring potential actions maintain/control or reduce existing lumen levels and spectral range to avoid effects on biodiversity.
BE7	Develop and implement a formalised retrofitting housing strategy for energy efficiency for our housing stock with an initial focus in Cavan Town as the DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
BE8	Ensure that all new council public buildings are built to Net Zero Standards	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development forming part of this project will not have any significant negative environmental effect.
BE9	Use Gap to Target tool to inform decisions and continue Retrofitting council owned buildings to reduce emissions and improve energy efficiency)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
BE10	Facilitate and support the upgrade of existing vacant & derelict residential and commercial properties in Cavan Town and County through schemes such as Town Centre First.	Attach the following text to the action: having regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity and the need to appropriately protect and conserve structures.
BE11	Investigate potential for application of solar PV on council owned car parks and investigate feasibility of installing on all appropriate Council/ Public buildings	Attach the following text to the action: where it is confirmed through a glint and glare assessment that such solar development will not have any potential impact on sensitive receptors.
BE12	Establish a program to prepare a full Building Energy Rating (BER) inventory for all publicly owned social housing within its functional area, GDPR permitting. Revise and update list annually	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
BE13	Ensure water efficiency and water conservation in new LA buildings and housing by including water saving technologies in public housing and buildings, training plumbers and building contractors in water efficiency measures, and including water efficiency measure in Green Procurement	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
BE14	Ensure all new build social housing by Cavan County Council met minimum A2 Building Energy Rating standard to reduce GHG emissions and Energy consumption.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to ensure renewable energy development forming part of this project will not have any significant negative environmental effect.
BE15	Continue retrofitting and upgrading works of existing social housing units to BER B2 rating to reduce GHG emissions, energy consumption.	Attach the following text to the action: having regard to environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity and the need to appropriately protect and conserve structures.
BE17	Resolve local flooding issues utilising OPW and Department of Transport funding (Drainage programme, Climate Adaptation and Resilience Works, OPW Minor Works Scheme	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the protection of biodiversity and European sites and avoidance of habitat fragmentation.
TR1	Continue to roll-out Active Travel Infrastructure maximising available funding from the National Transport Authority (NTA). Priority projects include cycle lane from Cavan Hospital to Cavan Bus Station, Virginia footbridge,	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as European sites and biodiversity.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
	Pedestrian/Cyclist Safety Improvements Station Road, Cootehill.	
TR3	Progress the delivery of Greenway Infrastructure in line with the National Cycle Network (NCN) Priority projects at present include: 40km Greenway (Cavan to Ballyconnell, Cavan to Ulster Canal) and Cavan Town Urban Greenway Phase 2. Implement phase 2 of Cavan Town fully segregated greenway	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to opportunities to enhance tourism, recreation and cultural heritage value associated with the route, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.
TR4	Work with and support the National Transport Authority, Rural Link, Bus Eireann and Cavan Transport Co-ordination Unit in the delivery and expansion of public transport initiatives the county. Including Routes and collection locations.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to ensure such projects promote climate action co-benefits and do not contravene relevant environmental protection criteria or cause significant negative environmental effects.
TR5	Increase the number of safe routes to school schemes in county. Promotion of schemes and engagement with Boards of Management.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
TR7	Become a partner to the National Transport Authority administered Smarter Travel Programme and partake with associated initiatives such as the Smarter Travel Mark	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
TR8	Develop an EV strategy for County Cavan & implement actions/recommendation as identified	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to ensuring disabled access to EV charging, and environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, cultural heritage.
TR9	Develop a fleet management strategy ensuring alignment to the CAP	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.
TR14	Purchase EV's as replacement fleet vehicles where suitable and available on the market in line with decarbonisation strategy	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority alternative vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for Electric Vehicles.
TR15	Replacement of fuel type for HGV fleet with HVO's when technology and product becomes available, with alternatives such as HVO or biomethane.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring energy/fuel used to power local authority vehicles is sustainably sourced, and appropriate end-of-life management practices are in place for HGVs.
TR20	Develop, adopt & implement Local Transport Plans for additional towns with an emphasis on the promotion of sustainable transport modes and modal shift.	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring these plans are: - Designed to mitigate potential environmental and ecological impacts associated with supported active travel infrastructure. - Support the carrying out of environmental/biodiversity enhancement during the active travel development process.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
TR21	Update cycling strategy for Cavan town and all of County Cavan and promotion of same. Identify deficiencies in the network for each town.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
TR22	Design and implement a transportation/mobility plan for Virginia and Bailieborough	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage, whilst ensuring prioritising sustainable transport.
TR23	Finalise land use transportation plan for Cavan Town	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage, whilst ensuring prioritising sustainable transport.
N3	Develop and implement a policy for the use of chemical pesticides and herbicides for areas managed by Cavan County Council	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring these substances are only used to a degree that does not cause significant effects on the receiving environment, such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity or European sites.
N4	Prepare guidelines for Invasive Alien Species Management	Attach the following text to the action: These guidelines shall be developed by a competent ecology team, and shall have due regard to the need to appropriately manage and prevent the spread of invasive species.
N5	Develop Green Infrastructure Plan including a green infrastructure network for the County that incorporates ecology, climate change mitigation and adaptation, to increase climate resilience.	Attach the following text to the action: climate action co-benefits and environmental protection requirements.
N8	Assist with a feasibility assessment to determine if it is possible to identify waterbodies that are both particularly vulnerable to extreme water events associated with climate change	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, local air quality, biodiversity, European sites, and cultural heritage related sensitivities.
N9	Development and Implementation of a SUDS policy and continue the prioritisation of SUDS measures in local authority projects	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the plan takes nature-based solutions/ protection of biodiversity and avoidance of habitat fragmentation into consideration.
N10	Prepare a roadside hedgerow management tool kit that informs staff on the value of hedgerows, particularly heritage hedgerows and outlines best practise in their management, having due regard to native hedgerows	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to native hedgerows.
N11	Cavan County Council will seek to prioritise the delivery of Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Programme identified flood schemes in the county and promote nature-based solutions and integral to these schemes	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
N13	Pilot a biodiversity-inclusive design for a social housing estate with green roofs, green walls, wetland & pond SUDS, green car parking, nest boxes in facades,	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to relevant planning and environmental protection criteria.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
	grasslands, and wildlife-friendly shrubs and trees in open space.	
C1	Implement an awareness campaign to educate the public on climate change mitigation and adaptation measures including the circular economy, promoting biodiversity, food production in community gardens, water conservation and carbon reduction initiatives. Promote various funding streams and grants to assist homes, communities and businesses to implement positive climate actions.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as protected species, European sites and biodiversity.
C9	Investigate and utilise funds that provide for cycle routes within 1.5km of all schools, community facilities, sports and youth clubs.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, cultural heritage.
S4	Run a pilot scheme to implement water fountains or water refilling stations in the parks within the DZ and measure usage.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.
S15	Promotion of diversification in food production through the economic and enterprise remit. Highlight positive benefits of Locally Grown Food.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.
S19	Provide technical supports to farming enterprises in the development of biomethane from Anaerobic Digestion, including guidance on planning and environmental protection requirements.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities that may be affected by any built development such as the receiving water environment and local air quality.
S20	Support and promote the Signpost Advisory Programme to support climate and sustainability actions on farms	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities in the area such as European Sites, water quality, air quality, and biodiversity related sensitivities.
Cavan Town DZ		
DZ-BE1	Continue to retrofit all social housing and local authority buildings in the Cavan Town DZ to achieve a minimum Building Energy Rating of B2,	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
DZ-BE2	Assess the feasibility and where feasible install rooftop solar PV on social housing and local authority property across the Cavan Town DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to local human receptors, protected species, biodiversity, European sites and the need to appropriately conserve protected structures.
DZ-BE4	Promote retrofit to Building Energy Rating B2 for private and commercial properties across the Cavan Town DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ-BE6	Develop exemplar retrofitting projects to promote adaptive reuse of historic structures	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures in accordance with relevant protected structures regulations, and the need to not negatively impinge on any protected species.
DZ-BE9	Utilise available funding to carry out flood protection works	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to the need to promote nature-based solutions and Sustainable Drainage Systems, and environmental sensitivities at these locations, including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ-TR1	Undertake an Active Travel study to identify and prioritise the most effective measures	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring the study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.
DZ-TR5	Identify suitable locations for EV charging points at across the Cavan Town DZ	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality, and cultural heritage.
DZ-TR7	Engage with the relevant authorities to support the electrification of Local Link	Attach the following text to the action: whilst advocating and exerting influence to support sustainability and environmental protection considerations being embedded into the project.
DZ-TR8	Promote, support & incentivize safe cycling/walking routes for schools within DZ area.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities such as the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites local air quality, and cultural heritage.
DZ-TR9	Increase pedestrianized space in Cavan Town	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to environmental sensitivities such as traffic and transport constraints and aspects, the receiving water environment, biodiversity, European sites, local air quality and cultural heritage.
DZ-TR10	Implement phase two of the Cavan Town fully segregated greenway	Attach the following text to the action: whilst having appropriate regard to planning and environmental considerations.
DZ-TR11	Support a private service provider in carrying out a feasibility to assess the potential for a Park and Ride facility within the DZ.	Attach the following text to the action: having appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.
DZ-N1	Develop a green infrastructure masterplan for Cavan Town to coordinate planning for and enhancement of the natural environment, biodiversity and green areas	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental protection considerations and opportunities for climate action co-benefits.
DZ-N4	Support the creation of public and connected green spaces in Cavan Town to enhance health and wellbeing and biodiversity (e.g. pocket parks)	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for planning and development policy and environmental protection considerations during the masterplanning and development process.



LACAP Action Reference	LACAP Action	Mitigation Measure
DZ-N5	Support green infrastructure and nature based solutions such as sustainable urban drainage systems to improve climate resilience	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard to environmental sensitivities including water quality, biodiversity, European sites, riparian corridors and aquatic ecology, visual amenity and recreation and amenity value.
DZ-N6	Promote rainwater harvesting, reuse of grey water and green roofs and walls.	Attach the following text to the action: having due regard for environmental sensitivities such as local human receptors, European sites and biodiversity; and the need to appropriately protect and conserve protected structures, during any retrofitting works.
DZ-C7	Hold a one-stop-shop event to promote appropriate retrofitting of private buildings and increase community understanding of climate action	Reword the action to the following: Hold a one-stop-shop event to promote appropriate retrofitting of private buildings and increase community understanding of climate action
DZ-S4	Support the development of sustainable and circular economy infrastructure	Attach the following text to the action: whilst ensuring such infrastructure is appropriately located and designed and operates in accordance with the provisions of the Waste Management Act and in a manner that does not cause negative environmental impacts or localize nuisance.
DZ-S6	Partake in any such feasibility study of the potential for district heating for Cavan Town	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring this study has appropriate regard to planning and environmental protection considerations.
DZ-S9	To maximise the development potential of the Corranure Landbank as a renewable energy hub	Attach the following text to the action: ensuring environmental considerations are integrated into the design phase to promote win-win outcomes for aspects such as biodiversity.



Table 2-3: Proposed Environmental Mitigation Measures - Environmental Governance Principles included in the plan

Promote climate action projects that support and maximise environmental co-benefits, such as biodiversity protection and enhancement; improved air, water or soil quality; or enhanced recreation, amenity and cultural heritage value, to ensure win-win benefits are gained.
Support or facilitate climate action related projects and initiatives which seek to make improvements in soil structure, management and health by increasing soil organic carbon - which will create the environmental co-benefits of improving flood resilience by enhancing water holding capacity of soils and increasing the level of GHG sequestration associated with land use functions.
Ensure all development underpinned or supported by climate action is planned and implemented in a manner that appropriately considers the potential for environmental co-benefits, potential environmental impacts and environmental protection requirements. No climate action related development project that is likely to have a significant negative effect on the receiving environment shall be supported.
Flood defence projects or related maintenance works supported by plan actions shall be carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-biodiversity related co-benefits, and shall have due regard for the protection and enhancement of rare, protected or important habitats and species.
Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action-cultural heritage co-benefits, and do not result in unauthorised physical damage to cultural, archaeological or architectural features, or unauthorised or inappropriate alteration of the context of sensitive cultural heritage features.
Ensure climate action related projects are carried out in a manner that promotes climate action water quality co-benefits, and align with the provisions of the Water Framework Directive and relevant River Basin Management Plan.
Promote climate action projects that support protected trees, hedgerows and other habitats such as wetlands, floodzones which contribute to green infrastructure.
Support opportunities to improve ecological connectivity of non-designated habitats and sites to improve overall ecosystem resilience and functioning while supporting climate action within the county.
Ensure all projects supported by the council have taken the necessary precautions to identify and manage invasives species, particularly with regard to Schedule III species. No climate action related development project that is likely to cause the spread of invasives species listed in Schedule III shall be supported.
Support opportunities to support peatland restoration, rehabilitation and maintenance while achieving climate targets through the implementation of the climate actions within the plan.

2.2.3 Mitigation through consideration of development management standards/environmental protection objectives contained in the CDP

In addition to the environmental mitigation measures integrated into the LACAP, the development management standards and environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will serve to mitigate the environmental effects of any development proposals supported by the LACAP. These development management standards/environmental protection measures have been defined for the express purpose of ensuring proper planning and sustainable development in the County. The CDP has been subject to its own SEA and AA. The LACAP has been prepared having appropriate regard to the policies and objectives contained in the County Development Plan.



2.3 Appropriate Assessment

The environmental assessment for the Plan undertaken was carried out in accordance with an Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment based methodology in accordance with EPA's guidance document entitled '*Final Report: Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment, Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes. Best Practice Guidance.*' (2012).

The methodology employed facilitated the integration of SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) processes relating to biodiversity impact assessment to ensure the effective and streamlined assessment of biodiversity impacts. The plan-making, SEA and AA processes - including scoping, baseline evaluation, impact assessment and mitigation/monitoring measure development processes - were carried out concurrently to facilitate holistic and complete assessment of biodiversity impacts. The effective communication and integration of scientific knowledge and analysis between assessments took place. The SEA was suitably informed by the analysis and conclusions in AA.

2.4 Consultation on SEA Environmental Report

A draft version of the SEA Environmental Report accompanied a draft version of the LACAP on public display as part of the statutory public consultation required under Article 13 of S.I. No. 435/2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004. A draft version of the Natura Impact Report (NIR) produced under the AA process for the Draft LACAP also accompanied the Draft LACAP on public display. Environmental Authorities, relevant interested stakeholder and members of the public were notified of the Draft LACAP being placed on display and the opportunity to make consultation submissions in relation to the Draft LACAP. Members of public were made aware of the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports through a notification published by the local authority on its website. Environmental Authorities and interested stakeholders were notified through notification correspondence.

Various parties made consultation submissions and observations on the Draft LACAP and associated environmental reports. Detail on submissions received relevant to SEA and AA issues and documentation, responses to these submissions, and any changes made to SEA Environmental Report (ER) and NIR documents on foot of these submissions, is provided in Table 2-4. Updates were made to the SEA and AA documentation where relevant following on from receipt and consideration of the consultation submissions.



Table 2-4: Responses to Consultation Submissions

Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
EPA	<p>You should also consider taking into account the EPA's 'Climate Change in the Irish Mind.' project in finalising the Plan. This research is part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action.</p> <p>We suggest that the Plan include a specific action to carry out "implementation monitoring" to ensure that progress achieving the actions and measures across the Plan is being monitored and reported on. The SEA should also assist in identifying ways to maximise the potential co-benefits of climate-related measures for air quality, human health, biodiversity, water quality and other interrelated areas (i.e. win-win solutions)</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. It was noted that the SEA Environmental Report (ER) has defined Environmental Governance Principles and action amendment suggestions to ensure climate action co-benefit opportunities are maximized. Various defined mitigation measures serve to promote win-win solutions.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>We recommend that the findings of the SEA ER and NIS are fully reflected in the Plan, to ensure that the relevant recommendations are fully considered and integrated as appropriate.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. Environmental mitigation measures in the form of Environmental Governance Principles and climate action amendment suggestions have been fully integrated into the Plan itself.</p>	None	None
	<p>Environmental Authorities Under the SEA Regulations, you should consult with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Protection Agency; • Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage; • Minister for Environment, Climate and Communications; • Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine. <p>If you have any queries or need further information in relation to this submission, please contact me directly at c.omahony@epa.ie. I would be grateful if you could send an email confirming receipt of this submission to: sea@epa.ie.</p>	<p>Noted. All listed Environmental Authorities have been consulted with as part of the SEA process.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council confirm receipt of this submission with Cian O' Mahony if this hasn't been done already.</p>	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Non-Technical Summary</p> <p>You should ensure that the Non Technical Summary includes the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of S.I No. 434 Of 2004, as amended.</p>	<p>It was assumed that SI No. 434 is a typo and SI No. 435 is what was intended to be addressed with this statement.</p> <p>The requirements of Schedule 2 of SI No 435 have been noted and amendments to the NTS will be made as appropriate.</p>	None	Updated the NTS to reflect the relevant information as required under Schedule 2 of SI No 435 of 2004 as amended.
	<p>Relationship with other plans and programmes</p> <p>We acknowledge that the Plan has been prepared taking account of the key National plans including the National Climate Action Plan 2023. We also acknowledge that the Plan sets out the key plans, programmes and policies considered in preparing the SEA.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes, Guidelines, and legislation over its lifetime. The Climate Action Plan 2024 is currently being prepared and work will be commencing on the review of the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies also. Any relevant updates of these plans/strategies should be integrated as appropriate into the Plan as relevant and appropriate.</p> <p>The Plan should include a commitment to consider any relevant updated actions, measures or recommendations that may arise in updates to the National Climate Action Plan (or the National Planning Framework) over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	<p>Noted and agreed. It was noted that this is in reference to the LACAP and not the SEA ER or AA NIR documentation.</p> <p>It was recommended the Council includes a commitment in the Plan to remain aligned with high level plans and programmes if this isn't the case already.</p> <p>It was recommended the plan includes a commitment in the Plan to consider and appropriately integrate relevant updates to the national Climate Action Plan and National Planning Framework over the lifetime of the Plan.</p>	None	None
	<p>Strategic Environmental Objectives</p> <p>We recommend that in considering strategic environmental objectives, they should where possible reflect the plan being prepared, rather than use more generic environmental objectives. This will help both in considering more specific monitoring and mitigation measures, when required.</p>	<p>Noted. The Strategic Environmental Objectives defined have been very specifically defined to reflect the themes, goals, objectives and climate action contained in the plan and in light of the potential environmental effects associated with Plan implementation.</p>	None	None
	<p>Alternatives</p> <p>We note the alternatives considered in the SEA and acknowledge the preferred option selected.</p>	Noted.	None	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Mitigation Measures</p> <p>Where the potential for likely significant effects has been identified, you should provide appropriate mitigation measures to avoid or minimise these. You should also ensure that the Plan includes clear commitments to implement the relevant mitigation measures.</p>	<p>The SEA produced recommended a suite of mitigation measures in response to climate actions considered to have potentially significant environmental effects.</p> <p>Environmental Governance Principles have been defined for the purpose of underpinning and framing the defined climate actions. All activities and development supported by the defined climate actions shall be undertaken or influenced by the local authority, as appropriate, in accordance with these Environmental Governance Principles.</p> <p>Mitigation has also been achieved by the integration of environmental considerations into the defined LACAP climate actions.</p> <p>These mitigation measures have been wholly integrated into the LACAPs.</p> <p>Section 8 of the SEA ER provides full detail of these environmental mitigation measures.</p> <p>It was recommended the Plan provides a clear commitment to implement these mitigation measures if this isn't the case already.</p>	None	None.
	<p>Monitoring, Implementation & Reporting</p> <p>The Monitoring Programme should be flexible to take account of specific environmental issues and unforeseen adverse impacts should they arise. It should consider and deal with the possibility of cumulative effects. Monitoring of both positive and negative effects should be considered. The monitoring programme should set out the various data sources, monitoring frequencies and responsibilities. If the monitoring identifies adverse impacts during the implementation of the Plan, then you should ensure that suitable and effective remedial action is taken. Guidance on SEA-related monitoring is available on the EPA website at https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/assessment/strategicenvironmental-</p>	<p>The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the Draft LACAP is contained in the SEA ER. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled '<i>Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring</i>' (2020).</p> <p>The monitoring programme is multi-faceted, broad in scope and has been designed to allow for a flexible and adaptive approach to SEA monitoring during Plan implementation.</p> <p>The monitoring programme has been designed to inherently measure cumulative effects that may arise due to the implementation of the Plan.</p> <p>This plan considers both positive and negative effects, as per the following statement from the SEA text:</p>	None	<p>Updated the SEA monitoring programme to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation, where appropriate.</p> <p>Provided additional detail on monitoring programme data sources.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	assessment/06695-EPA-SEA-Statements-and-Monitoring-Report.pdf	<p><i>'Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.'</i></p> <p>It is noted however that additional opportunities exist in relation to monitoring the positive environmental effects of defined climate action – in connection with SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1. The SEA monitoring programme will be updated to ensure SEOs PHH1, L1, AQN2, TR1 accommodate the monitoring of positive effects arising due to plan implementation, where appropriate.</p> <p>The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources to be used to monitor and measure progress. Some additional detail on data sources has however been provided to better guide the SEA monitoring to be carried out across plan implementation.</p> <p>A commitment to remedial action in the event SEA monitoring shows the implementation of the Plan is having adverse environmental effects has been made in the SEA.</p>		
	EPA State of the Environment Report	Noted.	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>Our State of Environment Report, Ireland’s Environment - An Integrated Assessment 2020 (SOER2020) identifies thirteen ‘Key Messages for Ireland’. Delivering Ireland’s long term sustainable development and environmental objectives will involve many different stakeholders to address these key actions. The report recognises the need for full implementation of existing environmental legislation and review of governance/coordination on environmental protection across public bodies. The EPA are currently preparing the next iteration of the SOER report, which will be published in 2024. We recommend that a commitment is made in the Plan, to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>	<p>It is recommended the Council make a commitment to take account of any relevant recommendations in the SOER 2024 report, once published, in implementing the Plan over its lifetime.</p>		
	<p>SEA Statement – “Information on the Decision”</p> <p>Once the Plan is adopted, you should prepare an SEA Statement that summarises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; • How the Environmental Report, submissions, observations and consultations have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan; • The reasons for choosing the Plan adopted in the light of other reasonable alternatives dealt with; and, • The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan. <p>You should send a copy of the SEA Statement with the above information to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	<p>Noted. An SEA statement will be produced and circulated to any environmental authority consulted during the SEA process.</p>	None	None
	Future Amendments to the Plan	Noted.	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	You should screen any future amendments to the Plan for likely significant effects, using the same method of assessment applied in the “environmental assessment” of the Plan.			
Northern Ireland Environment Agency, DAERA	DAERA are largely content with the conclusions of the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. However, we note that DAERA was not consulted at the SEA Scoping Stage of the Plan. Within Section 7.2 of the environmental report, it states that the evaluation considers transboundary effects. However, the report does not include any environmental baseline information or detailed transboundary considerations in relation to Northern Ireland, we therefore assume all mitigation and monitoring measures outlined in the report will also apply to Northern Ireland. However, if this is not the case then a clear assessment of transboundary issues is required. We encourage continued engagement and co-ordination with NI.	It is noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source.	The NIR was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.	The SEA ER was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.
	We welcome the proposed monitoring and mitigation to prevent, reduce and offset significant environmental impacts and provided it will be applied to transboundary cases and engagement with NI continues we are content. DAERA would however recommend that the monitoring programme detailed within Section 9 and Table 9-1 would benefit from the inclusion of Northern Irish data sources, indicators and targets to ensure that the environment within Northern Ireland is also protected. Useful sources of data for this are located at the following hyperlinks: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/state-environment-report-2013 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-environmental-statistics-report-2023	Noted and agreed.	None.	Northern Irish data sources, indicators and targets were consulted and included in the report.
	DAERA would have preferred the SEA environmental report to contain a clear statement indicating the opinion about whether the implementation of the plan is likely to have a significant effect on Northern Ireland, in combination with	It is noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the	None.	The SEA ER was updated to include a clear statement on transboundary effects, explaining how they are



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	any identified measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment.	environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source.		considered and mitigated.
	<p>Natural Environment Division (NED) Comments</p> <p>NIEA Natural Environment Division works to ensure that Northern Ireland's special natural environment, including its flora and fauna and landscapes, is conserved, enhanced and managed for the benefit of this and future generations, thereby contributing to sustainable development.</p>	Noted.	None.	None.
	<p><u>SEA Environmental Report</u></p> <p>While the plan is confined to Ireland NED welcome that transboundary issues for the natural environment / heritage has been recognised within the SEA and NIS. NED note that in Section 7.2 of the environmental report it states that the evaluation considers transboundary effects. NED notes that the environmental report does not contain a specific section on the consideration of transboundary effects on Northern Ireland. Therefore, the ER would benefit from specific consideration of transboundary issues although we assume that the report has assessed transboundary issues within the assessment for the Cavan area and the same conclusions apply. However, if this is not the case then a clear assessment of transboundary issues is required. We encourage continued engagement and co-ordination with NI.</p>	It was noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source.	The NIR was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.	The SEA ER was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.
	We recommend further engagement with relevant Departments/Bodies within NI and when required assessment of transboundary impacts and possibly further Environmental assessment and /or HRA at planning/project level.	Noted.	None	None.
	<p>NED notes from Appendix 1 that a number of pieces of legislation and policy documents have not been included, the Environmental Report may benefit from the inclusion of these. Please see list below:</p> <p>It may be worth including in your considerations the following:</p>	Noted	Northern Irish plans and programmes were reviewed and included in the NIR.	Northern Irish plans and programmes were reviewed and included in the SEA ER.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended) • Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 • The Conservation (Natural Habitats, etc.) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1995 (as amended) • The Environment (NI) Order 2002 • The Planning (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 • The Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) for Northern Ireland • Planning Policy Statements (PPS – in particular PPS2 and PPS18). It should be noted that the PPS’s will be superseded by Local Development Plans when they are adopted. • Biodiversity Strategy for NI to 2020 https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/biodiversity-strategy-northern-ireland-2020-0 • Draft Environment Strategy https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/esni-public-discussion-document • The Draft NI peatland policy: https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/ni-peatland-strategy-consultation. • The Draft Green Growth Strategy Consultation on the draft Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk) • Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 Northern Ireland Energy Strategy 2050 Department for the Economy (economy-ni.gov.uk) 			
	<p>NED acknowledges receipt of the Natura Impact Statement (NIS). NED notes that a number of UK National Site Network sites have not been included within the NIS. A list of those NI</p>	<p>The NIR produced considered all environmental effects including transboundary effects on protected sites in Northern Ireland. Mitigation measures have been</p>	<p>The NIR was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects</p>	<p>The SEA ER was updated to demonstrate more expressly how</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>sites which were not contained within the NIS but which are located within 15km of the county Cavan border are below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cuilcagh Mountain SAC (UK0016603) • Moninea Bog SAC (UK0030212) • Magheraveely Marl Loughs SAC (UK0016621) • West Fermanagh Scarplands SAC (UK0030300) • Monawilkin SAC (UK0016619) • Largalunny SAC (UK030045) • Slieve Beagh- Mullaghfad – Lisnaskea SPA (UK9020302) 	<p>adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source.</p>	<p>were considered and mitigated.</p>	<p>transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.</p>
	<p>It is unclear if the above sites would have been screened into Stage 2 of the NIS. However, provided the mitigation contained within the NIS including that all lower tier plans and projects are subject to an Appropriate Assessment (AA) is applied to UK National Site Network sites which would have been screened into the assessment NED is content. We welcome the recognition that further Appropriate Assessment will be required at project level and advise continued and early engagement with the relevant bodies in NI as appropriate should there be any potential transboundary effects on NI. NED notes from Section 6 that the AA process is ongoing and will inform and be concluded at adoption of the plan, NED would suggest that the NIS is amended to include the sites which have been omitted above. NED advises that should the NIS change in respect to impacts upon UK National Site Network sites then NED should be re-consulted.</p>	<p>Noted with thanks.</p>	<p>The NIR was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.</p>	<p>The SEA ER was updated to demonstrate more expressly how transboundary effects were considered and mitigated.</p>
	<p>Air Quality NIEA Natural Environment Division's Air Quality and Biodiversity Unit (AQB) have the following comments;</p>	<p>The SEA found the Plan does not support any development or activities that may generate air agricultural ammonia or nitrogen oxides.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AQBU acknowledge the objectives to reduce air pollution within County Cavan. Consideration should be given as to the potential impact of the Plan on other air pollutants such as agricultural ammonia, nitrogen oxides and resulting nitrogen deposition at both sites in the Republic of Ireland and NI (transboundary impacts). Consideration of any co-benefits should be included. E.g. protecting and restoring of peatlands can help to increase resilience to other threats and pressures, including the impacts of ammonia and nitrogen deposition on the vegetation and habitat. Ireland is now included in the Air Pollution Information System (APIS) which provides information on the impacts of air pollutants, such as Nox, ammonia emissions and the associated N deposition on sensitive habitats and species. The map feature within APIS enables detailed information to be provided on the Critical Levels/Loads for each qualifying feature and background levels of these pollutants: APIS app Air Pollution Information System 			
	<p>Drinking Water Inspectorate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Figure 4-17 shows Drinking-water Source Protection Areas but the text of the SEA ER does not relate to this figure at any point plus there is insufficient information on how drinking water sources are to be protected. No consideration seems to have been given to private water supplies and how they will be protected in the changing environment. Some shallow private water supplies could be subject to sufficiency issues. It is suspected Figure 4-14 is related to this issue but there is no discussion within the report. 	<p>In this instance, GIS data was considered to be the best vehicle for displaying baseline environmental information in connection with Drinking Water Source Protection areas.</p> <p>All environmental effects associated with Plan action have been considered, evaluated and mitigated against. Environmental considerations have been integrated into the text of Plan actions that would have potentially given rise to emissions and environmental impacts. A set of Environmental Governance Principles have been defined under the Plan. These principles promote climate action, climate action co-benefits and environmental protection. The principles are expressly supportive of water quality maintenance and</p>	None.	None.



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Northern Ireland's statutory water undertaker, Northern Ireland Water Ltd, should be consulted to allow relevant alteration to their drinking water safety plans. 	<p>improvement. All activities and development supported by Plan action shall accord with these principles. There is a robust level of environmental mitigation already integrated into the Plan to prevent all emissions and environmental impacts that may arise due to the implementation of Plan action, that could directly or indirectly impact on any drinking water sources.</p>		
	<p>Water Management Unit Water Management Unit notes the SEA Environmental Report for the Local Authority Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 for Cavan County Council states:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water quality data is collected by the EPA. Most of the County is situated within the Erne catchment (an area drained by the River Erne and all streams entering tidal water between Aughrus Point and Kildoney Point). The County is also partially drained by the catchments: Upper Shannon; Newry/Fane/Glyde/Dee; and Boyne. (Section 4.9) Key Issues Relating to the Draft LACAP: Potential pressures and impacts on water body status from the construction of renewable energy and blueway projects i.e. increased sedimentation, groundwater recharge and accidental spillages. (Section 4.9.2) Evaluation of the Environmental Effects of Plan Implementation: The evaluation considers potential transboundary effects. (Section 7.2) 	<p>All environmental effects associated with Plan action have been considered, evaluated and mitigated against.</p>	None.	None.
	<p>Water Management Unit cannot find any direct evidence in the report that the potential for transboundary impacts to the aquatic environment in Northern Ireland has been considered, including assessment of relevant baseline conditions, impacts and pressures, or cognisance taken of Northern Ireland's River Basin Management Plans. Water Management Unit would as a minimum like to have seen an unambiguous statement as to whether, or not, there is the</p>	<p>All environmental effects associated with Plan action have been considered, evaluated and mitigated against. Environmental considerations have been integrated into the text of Plan actions that would have potentially given rise to emissions and environmental impacts. A set of Environmental Governance Principles have been defined under the Plan. These principles promote climate action, climate action co-benefits and</p>	None.	<p>The SEA ER was updated to include a clear statement on transboundary effects, explaining how they are considered and mitigated.</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	potential for impacts to arise to Northern Irelands aquatic environment through implementation of the plan.	environmental protection. The principles are expressly supportive of water quality maintenance and improvement. All activities and development supported by Plan action shall accord with these principles. There is a robust level of environmental mitigation already integrated into the Plan to prevent all emissions and environmental impacts that may arising due to the implementation of Plan action, that could directly or indirectly impact on any drinking water sources.		
DAFM Division	Seafood Ireland's seafood industry (fishing and aquaculture) is one of the key stakeholders operating in the marine area and plays a vital role in the sustainability of our coastal communities. Over 15,000 people are employed around our coast both directly and indirectly. Many of these communities have very limited alternative employment and economic activity options. It is therefore essential that the socio-economic reliance on the seafood sector is fully recognised and is factored into any Climate Change Action plan. Fishing and food security is key a part of Government Policy. Food Vision 2030 recognises and values the role of primary food producers.	Noted. It was noted that Cavan is a non-coastal county.	None	None
	The Seafood industry is experiencing a period of difficult change, arising from the ongoing consequences of the EU UK Trade and Co-operation agreement which are specific and impactful on Ireland's seafood sector. There is now ever-increasing demand for marine space from Offshore Renewable Energy (ORE), Marine Spatial Planning, Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), and other environmental measures.	Noted. It was noted that defined Climate Action in Cavan's LACAP does not promote or support marine development. The county is non-coastal.	None	None
	Our coastal communities and maritime sectors will continue to play a significant role in contributing to our climate goals and will continue to be consulted and supported in the transition to carbon neutrality. The seafood industry, through both the Sectoral Adaptation Plan (Agriculture, Forest and Seafood Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan)	The National Climate Action Plan (2023) and Sectoral Adaptation Plans have been considered in the SEA Process. The relationship of the Plan with other relevant Plans and Programmes has been defined in Appendix 1 of the SEA. Inter-plan cumulative effects have been evaluated in Section 7 of the SEA ER.	None	None



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>) and the annual Climate Action Plan (CAP23) continue to support initiatives to improve understanding of our marine area and ensure sustainable resource use, including through bio and circular economy initiatives. These plans require consideration in the SEA process.</p>			
	<p>Also for consideration in the SEA process is the European Commission's Communication on the energy transition of the fisheries and aquaculture sector as part of its Fisheries Policy Package. This proposes the establishment of an Energy Transition Partnership (ETP) to develop a roadmap for the energy transition of the sector towards climate neutrality by 2050. The roadmap will set out investment needs, sector initiatives and inform policy decisions to help achieve this transition. The ETP is a multi-stakeholder platform intended to promote co-operation, knowledge sharing and dialogue between private and public stakeholders in order to accelerate the energy transition in the fisheries and aquaculture sector. This Partnership will help to shape the development of future transitional actions for Ireland's seafood sector. Local authorities should include relevant steps to support a Just Transition for the sea fisheries and aquaculture sectors in their Climate Action Plans.</p>	<p>It was noted that Cavan is a non-coastal county which does not have a seafood sector.</p>	<p>None</p>	<p>None</p>
Historic Environment Division	<p>DfC Historic Environment Division (HED) operate via a Service Level Agreement with colleagues in DAERA in relation to SEA, whereby we provide authoritative comment and advice in relation to matters of Cultural Heritage including archaeological and architectural heritage. We make the following comments in respect of the documentation received by our office on 18/10/2023.</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>
	<p>Given the intertwined nature of the historic environment with landscape and the natural environment, HED advise that consideration of the potential for transboundary</p>	<p>It was noted that all effects of the plan have been evaluated, including transboundary effects. Mitigation</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>The SEA ER was updated to include a clear statement on transboundary effects,</p>



Consultee	Submission Text	Detailed Response	Changes to NIR	Changes to SEA ER
	<p>impacts in the Cultural Heritage topic area, particularly with regard to potential impacts on setting of assets would be relevant. A large number of heritage assets predate the border itself and correlate to other assets in either jurisdiction, with interweaving views and settings, and some assets such as ancient earthworks, routeways and canals traverse it.</p> <p>In terms of consideration of potential measures and mitigation of such transboundary effects we advise that Northern Ireland’s historic environment digital datasets might be utilized during</p> <p>future assessments or at project specific level to further understand potential for impacts, including those on setting of heritage assets. Historic Environment Digital Datasets Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) We also attach a link to our historic environment map viewer Historic Environment Map Viewer Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)</p>	<p>measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects are controlled at the source.</p> <p>It was recommended the local authority consult Northern Ireland’s historic environment digital datasets when progressing development projects, as appropriate.</p>		<p>explaining how they are considered and mitigated.</p>
	<p>Datasets specific to Northern Ireland’s marine historic environment, including around wrecks and reported losses can be obtained through contacting colin.dunlop@daera-ni.gov.uk</p>	<p>Noted.</p>	<p>None.</p>	<p>None.</p>



2.5 SEA and Plan Modifications

CCC prepared a Chief Executive (CE) Report responding to consultation submissions from Environmental Authorities, interested stakeholders and members of the public.

The CE Report recommended Plan modifications in light of the consultations submissions received in relation to the Plan and associated environmental reports and subsequent consideration of these submissions. The CE Report was appropriately informed by recommendations made by the SEA (and AA) team on foot of their review of consultation submissions relating to SEA (and AA) issues and documentation. Recommendations were taken on board by the plan-making team as appropriate.

Plan modifications made were screened for SEA and AA. All Plan modifications made during the plan-making process were determined to be non-material and did not introduce any additional environmental effects not previously considered and mitigated during the SEA and AA processes.

An earlier draft version of the SEA Environmental Report was finalized having appropriate regard to the consultation submissions made during the SEA consultation period, recommendations made in the CE Report on consultation submissions, and the modifications made to the original draft version of the LACAP that was put on display for consultation. The updates made to the report were clerical or minor and non-material in nature and did not materially change the parameters of the environmental assessment undertaken or the environmental mitigation defined.

The CE Report on consultation submissions received on the Plan and associated environmental reports accompany the adopted Plan and this SEA Statement and provides exact detail on how consultation submissions were considered by the local authority during the plan-making process. This CE Report also documents the Plan modifications made by the local authority following its consideration of consultation submissions relating to both the content, focus and goals of the Plan and the environmental assessment of the Plan presented in the associated SEA and AA documentation. All Plan Action modifications are presented in Table 2-5. No further modifications affecting the SEA and AA processes were made upon Plan Adoption.

Table 2-5: Plan Action Modifications

Action	Summary of Modification
G5	The following Action has been added to the Plan: "Assist with the 2024 mid term review of the Cavan Cuilcagh Lakelands Geo Park Development Plan to ensure continuity of climate focused objectives with Climate Action Plan."
TR15	This action has been amended to add the following text: "with alternatives such as HVO or biomethane"
N10	The Action has been amended to add the text "particularly heritage hedgerows" as follows: "Prepare a roadside hedgerow management tool kit that informs staff on the value of hedgerows, particularly heritage hedgerows and outlines best practise in their management, having due regard to native hedgerows"
N12	The following new Action has been added to the Plan: "Develop a tree and woodland plan to increase tree cover on council owned land, using appropriate species to store carbon, support nature, improve soils and water quality, and aid in flood protection and urban design. Aim to increase areas of public land under forestry through schemes such as Forest Creation on public lands."
N16	The following text has been added to the Action: "Highlight the importance of cultivation and propagation of disease resistant plants e.g. plants resistant to diseases such as ash dieback"



Action	Summary of Modification
N17	The following new Action has been added to the Plan: "Promote not-for-profit tree planting programmes for targeted ecological improvements, ground stabilisation as a means of climate change mitigation, and carbon sequestration over the lifetime of the planted species"
N21	The following new action has been added to the Plan: "Promote public education to increase awareness of the importance of bogs as both hydrological and carbon sinks, explaining their ability to reduce the effects of surface water run off during rainfall events and their ability to provide a subsequent slow release of water to the receiving environment. Awareness should be increased of the benefits of rewetting bogs and how these actions can be taken by landowners"
C1	The action has been amended to include the following text: "Food production in community gardens"



3. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVES

3.1 Introduction

Article 5(1) of the SEA Directive states that: *'Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated.'*

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternative means of achieving the strategic goals of the LACAP (taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of a plan or programme) are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. Such reasonable alternative must be realistic and capable of implementation.

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were initially explored and examined during the SEA Scoping stage of the SEA process, having regard to the scope, function and strategic aims and main objectives of the LACAP, as defined in the Local Authority Climate Action Plan. This process facilitated the accurate identification of reasonable alternatives to the LACAP and also suitably informed the plan-making process, ensuring optimal environmental outcomes.

Reasonable alternatives were assessed against the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) established for the aspects of the baseline environment which are likely to be significantly affected by the LACAP.

3.2 Approach to Developing Reasonable Alternatives

A range of alternatives to the LACAP were considered during the plan-making process. The approach for identifying reasonable alternatives to the LACAP is defined below:

1. Iterative communication was held between the plan-making and environmental assessment teams to identify the various alternative approaches and options being considered to achieve the vision of the plan - the reduction of GHG emissions at Local Authority organizational level and within the Community in support of Climate Action policy. This communication commenced early on during the plan-making process.
2. Reasonable alternatives considered were identified. For an alternative to be considered reasonable, it must be practical/functional, realistic and implementable. An evaluation of whether each alternative was practical/functional, reasonable and implementable took place. This evaluation considered the following factors:
 - 2.1. The vision of high-level objectives of the LACAP.
 - 2.2. The geographic scope of the LACAP.
 - 2.3. The actual powers and functions of the Local Authority.
 - 2.4. The climate action merits of the alternative.
 - 2.5. The genuine ability of the alternative to achieve the plan vision and high-level objectives.
 - 2.6. The technical feasibility of the alternative.
 - 2.7. The availability of resources, including financial resources to deliver the plan within the required timeframe.
 - 2.8. The policy hierarchy and the parameters placed around the LACAP by higher-level policy.
 - 2.9. The legislative context and the parameters placed around the LACAP by climate action and environmental related legislation.



The toolkit contained in the EPA's guidelines entitled 'Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance' (2015) was utilized when identifying reasonable alternatives. The 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model defined in the guidelines were used when framing reasonable alternatives, as shown in Figure 3-1.

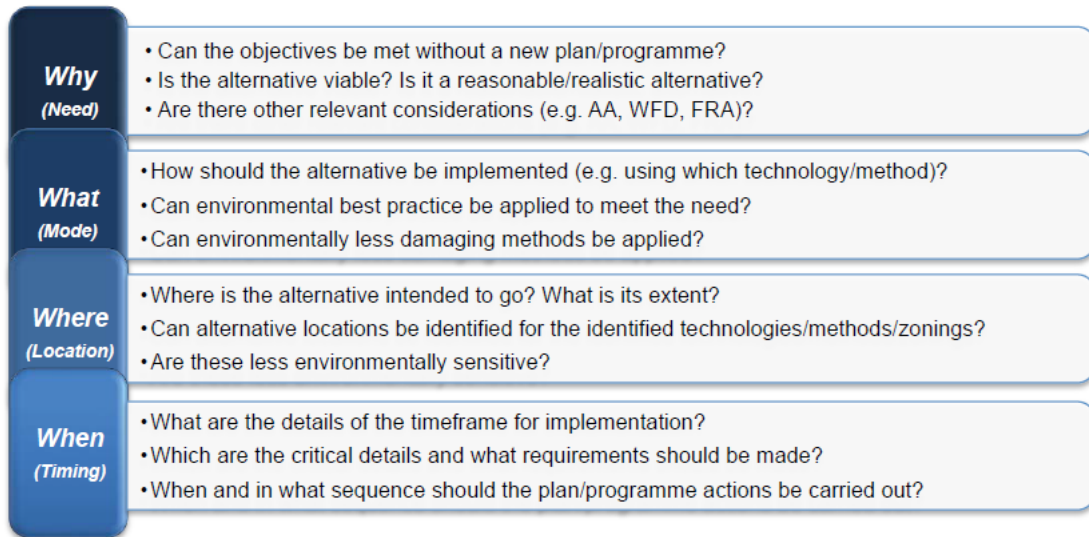


Figure 3-1: 'Why? What? Where? When?' Model for framing alternatives - Adapted from Figure 4.3 Developing and Assessing Alternatives in the Strategic Environmental Assessment Process (EPA, 2015).

3.3 Identification and Description of Reasonable Alternatives

Reasonable alternatives to the LACAP were identified. A description of these reasonable alternatives and the reasons for selecting these reasonable alternatives are presented in Table 3-1.

A 'Do Nothing' or 'Do Minimum' alternative was not a reasonable alternative in this instance as the preparation of an effective LACAP is a statutory requirement under Section 16 of the Climate Act.



Table 3-1: Reasonable Alternatives to the LACAP

Reasonable Alternative	Description of Reasonable Alternative	Reasoning for selecting this Reasonable Alternative
<p>Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach: Prioritize reducing GHG emissions from largest GHG emitting sectors to mitigate against climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that primarily focusses on climate mitigation and reducing GHG emissions associated with the largest GHG emitting sectors in the County that a local authority can reasonable influence having regard to the functions of a local authority - the Residential and Transport sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that could achieve a significant reduction in GHG emissions by prioritizing and supporting climate mitigation related action for the Residential and Transport sectors. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach: Adopt a multi-pronged approach and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>
<p>Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach (Current LACAP): Adopt a multi-pronged approach - that has a strong community engagement emphasis - and focus on a range of priority areas to mitigate against and adapt to climate change impacts.</p>	<p>This alternative involved developing a LACAP that has a balanced focus on both climate mitigation and adaptation across several theme areas and all socio-economic sectors, and which has a strong community engagement emphasis, which underpins, supports and drives the climate action contained in the plan.</p>	<p>This was a viable alternative that would have enhanced potential to reduce GHG emissions across multiple sectors, potential to offset GHG emissions, and greater potential to protect the local community and the environment from climate change related risks. Climate mitigation and adaptation actions across a wide breath of theme areas would be supported by the LACAP. The range of climate mitigation and adaptation actions defined in the LACAP is likely to have better community level and organizational support given its strong community engagement emphasis. The alternative would cover the period from 2024 to 2029 (the duration of the prospective LACAP).</p>



3.4 Evaluation of Reasonable Alternatives and Reasons for Choosing the Preferred Plan

An evaluation of the potential effects of the reasonable alternatives on the baseline environment was carried out in accordance with the SEA Directive and best practice guidelines. This evaluation is documented in the SEA Environmental Report for the LACAP. A summary of this evaluation and the reason for choosing the preferred Plan is presented below.

Alternative 1 - The Pareto Approach - would lead to some positive environmental effects and would have resulted in the reduction of GHG emissions in the sectors that the local authority can control or exert substantial influence on that contribute most in terms of GHG emission in the County - the Residential and Transport sectors. It is less likely that this alternative would have delivered the wide-ranging climate mitigation and offsetting related action required to fully realize GHG emission reduction potential in the County. It is also less likely this alternative would have defined a wide range of climate adaptation measures that would fully protect biodiversity, heritage resources, environmental receptors and people from climate change risks. This alternative approach may have generated several negative environmental effects, which would not be counterbalanced by the positive environmental effects associated with Alternatives 2 and 3.

Alternative 2 - The Holistic Approach - and Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - would have both broadly delivered suitably wide ranging and effective climate action. These alternatives have the potential to generate multiple positive environmental effects, including a reduction in GHG emissions at organizational, community and sectoral levels, in addition to a variety of other environmental benefits. These alternatives would have placed a balanced emphasis on both climate mitigation and adaptation action, ensuring climate change related environmental risks are adequately understood and managed at community level.

Alternative 3 had the best potential to deliver effective climate action given its holistic, wide encompassing nature; and given its strong community engagement emphasis, which supports better participation in climate action at community level. Alternative 3 had better potential therefore to fully realize potential environmental effects than Alternative 2.

Reasonable Alternative 3 - The Holistic and Participatory Approach - therefore constituted the preferred alternative or preferred plan.



4. SEA CONCLUSION

The reasonable alternative evaluation presented in the preceding section resulted in the development of a LACAP that achieves the best environmental outcomes in comparison to other reasonable alternative considered.

The adoption of the mitigation measures to be integrated into the LACAP, in combination with the continued adoption of the development planning and control related environmental protection measures defined in the CDP will prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any potential negative environmental effects due to the implementation of the LACAP. No further mitigation measures are required for the LACAP.

With the adoption of the defined mitigation measures, the implementation of the adopted LACAP will not result in any likely, significant, adverse environmental effects.

All potential effects that may cause transboundary impacts will also be appropriately mitigated with the adoption of the defined mitigation. Mitigation measures have been adopted to ensure that the environmental effects of Plan Action are controlled at the source. Thus, it can be concluded that the LACAP will not have any likely, significant transboundary impacts.



5. SEA MONITORING

The SEA Directive requires that the environmental effects of the implementation of a plan are monitored in order 'to identify at an early stage unforeseen effects, and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.'

A series of indicators and targets were established for identified SEOs to enable ongoing monitoring and measurement of LACAP implementation performance, the environmental effects of the implementation of the LACAP and the efficacy of environmental mitigation measures. Such monitoring will be carried out regularly to support plan implementation.

SEO indicators are simple and effective quantifiable indicators used to measure the environmental effects of implementing the LACAP and the progress of SEO objectives and targets. SEO targets set focussed, measurable aims and thresholds that the LACAP can support the achievement of.

CCC are responsible for implementation of the SEA monitoring programme. The environmental effects (including positive, negative and cumulative effects) of LACAP implementation will be monitored once every year over the course of the plan's five-year lifetime. This monitoring will be carried out by the Environment and Climate Change section of Cavan County Council who will report on progress and performance to the relevant SPC annually. A monitoring report will be prepared to document monitoring outcomes. This report shall be made available for public inspection.

Where monitoring identifies that the implementation of the LACAP is having a significant negative environmental effect, an in-depth review of the LACAP should take place and the LACAP should be updated in a manner that satisfactorily mitigates these environmental effects (i.e., through the adoption of additional environmental mitigation measures.). Similarly, where monitoring indicates that potential positive environmental effects associated with LACAP implementation are not being adequately realized, the LACAP should be reviewed and updated in a manner that supports the realization of all potential positive environmental effects, having regard to the overall vision and high-level objectives of the plan.

The SEA Monitoring Programme established for the LACAP is contained in Table 5-1. This monitoring programme has been developed in accordance with EPA guidelines entitled 'Guidance on SEA Statements and Monitoring' (2020). The monitoring programme includes detail on the indicators, targets and data sources used to monitor and measure progress.

A stand-alone monitoring report on the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the Plan will be prepared in advance of the plan review process. The Council is responsible for the ongoing review of indicators and targets, collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of monitoring evaluation report(s), the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of remedial action.



Table 5-1: SEA Monitoring Programme

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Overall	O1	Ensure, where appropriate, that lower-level plans and projects contribute to overall environmental monitoring processes within the County.	Lower-level plan and project accordance with the plan.	Require all lower-level plans and projects have appropriate regard to and appropriately support all action and development proposals defined in the Plan. Ensure alignment between the Plan and the County Development Plan.	Review of Local Area Plans. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of lower-level plan SEA documentation.
Population & Human Health	PHH1	Avoid or minimise impacts to population and human health.	Number of spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan.	Consultation with the Health Service Executive (HSE)/Health Atlas Ireland and the EPA, and DAERA where appropriate).
	PHH2	Ensure the Decarbonising Zone avoids and minimises impacts to the existing economic activities within the area and does not compromise/conflict with existing land use objectives.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the County Development Plan (CDP) or County Local Area Plans.	No contravention of policies and land use objectives protective/supportive of economic development in the county defined in the CDP or County Local Area Plans. Consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development will be carried out in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
Biodiversity, Flora & Fauna	B1	Ensure Climate Action does not conflict with biodiversity protection, restoration and rehabilitation.	Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Condition of habitats impacted by climate change (Area km ² /length metres).	No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP. Ensure no habitats are impacted by the effects of climate change. Ensure there is no reduction in the number of geographic distribution of species as a result of climate change effects.	Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives. Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan. Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>Number and geographical distribution of Species or Species population trends impacted by climate change.</p> <p>Compliance of action and development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supporting biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	
	B2	Ensure compliance with Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to protection of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species ⁴ .	Condition of European Sites and annexed species.	No adverse impacts on the condition of European Sites and Annexed habitats and species as a result of plan implementation.	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Consultation with the NPWS and DAERA (where appropriate).</p> <p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage report on the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive.</p> <p>Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage's National Birds Directive Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12.</p> <p>Review of NPWS and DAERA publications regarding the status of designated sites.</p>

⁴ 'Annexed habitats and species' refer to those listed under Annex I, II & IV of the EU Habitats Directive and Annex I of the EU Birds Directive.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	B3	Support Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.	<p>Condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora.</p> <p>Linear meters of riparian corridors enhanced with native planting.</p> <p>Fragmentation or breaks in continuity of habitats and loss of wildlife corridors, stepping stones and connectivity (km²).</p> <p>Number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts on the condition of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their function as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora as a result of plan implementation.</p> <p>Increase linear metres of riparian corridor enhanced with native planting.</p> <p>Reduce habitat fragmentation or breaks.</p> <p>Increase number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
	B4	To avoid or minimize significant impacts on semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features, or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation; and to comply with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2012 with regard to listed species.	<p>Condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation.</p> <p>Status of listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012.</p>	<p>No adverse impacts on condition of semi-natural habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated national sites, non-designated locally important sites, and sites proposed for designation, as a result of plan implementation.</p> <p>No adverse impacts on listed species in the Wildlife Acts 1976 - 2012 as a result of plan implementation.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
	B5	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration in response to the biodiversity emergency.	Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.	<p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the CDP.</p> <p>Increase number of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of compliance with the County Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>No. of developments consented that have significant greenspace proposals.</p> <p>Improved biodiversity areas (Area km² /length metres).</p> <p>Compliance of development supported by the plan with policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p>	<p>Increase quantum of improved biodiversity areas.</p> <p>No contravention of policies providing for the protection and enhancement of Biodiversity and flora and fauna defined in the County's Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Consent for development proposals supported by the plan only to be granted where development complies with policy supportive of biodiversity protection and enhancement.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Mapping of LR important habitats and species as part of the County Biodiversity Plan.</p>
Landscape, Seascape & Visual Amenity	L1	Avoid or minimise impacts to statutory landscape designations, including seascape designations	<p>Status of Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects.</p> <p>A number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse impacts on Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects, or NI Areas of Outstanding Beauty.</p> <p>Number of areas in the local authority functional area designated for their landscape character or visual amenity.</p>	<p>All action and development proposals supported by the plan must comply with policy objectives relating to the protection of Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects defined in the CDP.</p> <p>No development supported by the plan should have an adverse impact on Landscape Character Areas, the Seascape, High Amenity Zones, Historic Landscape Character Areas and Views and Prospects, or NI Areas of Outstanding Beauty</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of compliance with CDP Policy Objectives.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>
	L2	Avoid or minimise adverse visual effects on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.	<p>Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.</p>	<p>No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse visual impact on residential receptors or other sensitive visual receptors.</p>	<p>Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.</p> <p>Review of future iterations of the Landscape Character Assessment.</p>



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
				All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP, in particular standards defined in relation to physical and visual impacts.	
Cultural Heritage - Archaeology & Architectural	CH1	Avoid impacts upon archaeological heritage (including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP)) and architectural heritage (including entries to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAHs)).	Percentage of features contained in the RMP (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan. Percentage of features contained in the RPS and NIAH (and, where relevant, the associated surrounding context) protected from adverse effects due to action and development occurring as a result of this plan.	No features contained in the RMP (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan. No features contained in the RPS and NIAH (nor the associated surrounding context) should be significantly adversely affected as a result of the implementation of this plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Review of Heritage Plan environmental effect monitoring
Soils	S1	Avoid or minimise effects on mineral resources or soils.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring, including the pollution, loss or degradation of mineral resources or soils, as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on mineral resources or soils occurring as a result of action and development supported by the plan.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with Geological Survey of Ireland and review of published data on the soil's environment.
Land Use	LU1	Avoid or minimise effects on existing land use.	Number of instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	No instances of significant adverse impacts on existing land use as a result of plan implementation.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Review of Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry related Greenhouse Gas emissions calculated in the Baseline Emission Inventory.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
Air Quality and Noise	AQN1	Increase the number of people travelling to work or school via public transport or by non-mechanical means.	% change in modal split. Length of new sustainable transport routes developed.	Reduction in private car use. Extension and improvement of the sustainable transport network in the plan area.	Central Statistics Office (CSO) Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.
	AQN2	Avoid or minimise effects on local air quality.	Number of developments consented that result in avoidable adverse air quality impacts on sensitive receptors. Number of exceedances of ambient air quality standards in the County, as monitored under the EPA's National Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Network. Improvements in air quality status in the county.	No development supported by the plan should have a significant adverse air quality impact on sensitive receptors. All development supported by the plan should adhere to relevant Development Management Standards defined in the CDP relating to the protection of air quality. Minimise ambient air quality standard exceedances in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA. Review of EPA Air Quality Monitoring undertaken in the County. Review of EPA annual 'Air Quality in Ireland' Report
	AQN3	Avoid or minimise adverse noise impacts.	Number of sensitive receptors exposed to noise nuisance.	No sensitive receptors exposed to nuisance noise in the County.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Monitoring of internal noise complaint investigations undertaken. Consultation with the EPA and DAERA (where appropriate).
Water	W1	Maintain and/or improve, the quality and status of surface, transitional, bathing, and coastal waters.	Status of surface water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD) Status of bathing waters as monitored under the Bathing Water Directive. Number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life cycle of the Climate Action Plan.	Number of Pollution Incidents detected due to poor bathing water quality results. Not to cause deterioration in the status of any water or affect the ability of any water to achieve 'good status.' No deterioration in the status of any bathing waters, having appropriate regard to bathing water mandatory and guidelines values defined in the Bathing Water Directive.	EPA surface water monitoring data and reports. EPA bathing water monitoring data and reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application Review of DAERA water quality data.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
			<p>Status of transitional and coastal water bodies as reported by the EPA Water Monitoring Programme for the Water Framework Directive (WFD).</p> <p>Status of Northern Irish Waters, as reported by DAERA.</p>	<p>Implementation of the objectives of the second cycle of the national River Basin Management Plan.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	
	W2	Maintain and/or improve, the chemical and quantitative status of groundwaters.	Status of groundwater bodies as reported by the EPA National Groundwater Monitoring Programme for the WFD.	No deterioration in the status of groundwater quality, having appropriate regard to Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values defined under Directive 2006/118/EC.	<p>EPA groundwater monitoring data and reports.</p> <p>Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application</p>
	W3	Prevent impact upon the WFD status of surface waters and groundwater in line with the requirements of the WFD.	<p>Number of instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.</p> <p>Number of surface water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	<p>No instances of significant adverse impact on surface water or groundwater bodies resulting in a reduction in water quality or the ability of a water body to achieve 'good' water quality status.</p> <p>Increase in number of water bodies achieving High or Good Ecological Status as defined by the WFD within the life cycle of the Climate Action Plan.</p>	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects. Consultation with the EPA and DAERA.
	W4	Comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) consented within flood risk areas.	Minimise developments (supported by the plan) granted consent on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk, having appropriate regard to the Flood Risk Management guidelines.	Internal monitoring of development projects granted planning consent.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	W5	Prevent impact upon drinking water quality	Number of non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. Number of non-compliances with Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland).	No non-compliances with Drinking Water Quality Standards defined in the European Union (Drinking Water) Regulations 2023. No non-compliances with Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland)	EPA Drinking Water Quality Reports. Review of environmental quality data detailed in the EPA Maps Application. Review of DAERA Drinking Water Inspectorate reports on drinking water quality.
Material Assets	MAI1	Avoid or minimise effects on built/amenity assets and infrastructure	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting built/amenity assets and infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects.
	MAI2	Avoid or minimise effects upon existing and (where known) planned infrastructure.	Number of incompatible developments (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned infrastructure, including water supply, wastewater management, energy and transport infrastructure.	No incompatible development (supported by the plan) adversely affecting existing or planned material assets infrastructure.	Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of development projects, including monitoring of effects on other future planned or committed material asset infrastructure projects. Consultation with Irish Water, Gas Networks Ireland, ESB Networks and Transport Infrastructure Ireland.
	MAI3	Promote sustainable transportation.	% change in modal split. Kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Kilometres of permanent integrated cycling network. Number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives (m ²).	Percentage increase in the number of public transport users in the County Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase kilometres of permanent segregated cycling network. Increase number of Electric Vehicle charging points in the county. Increase Total Area of road reallocated for sustainable alternatives.	CSO Population data - Commuting in Ireland. Internal monitoring of length of new sustainable transport routes developed.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	MAI4	Promote sustainable waste management.	<p>Tonnes of hazardous waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of W.E.E.E. waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of Bulky waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p> <p>Tonnes of garden waste received at Council Waste Management Facilities annually.</p>	<p>Increase waste recycling in the County.</p> <p>Reduce waste generation in the County.</p>	EPA Waste Statistics. Consultation with the EPA.
	MAI5	Promote sustainable water use and drainage management.	<p>Level of water use in the County.</p> <p>Compliance with Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) related development management standards defined in the CDP.</p>	<p>Reduced water use in the county.</p> <p>All development (supported by the plan) must comply with SuDS related development management standards defined in the CDP.</p>	<p>CSO water consumption data.</p> <p>Internal monitoring of flood risk associated with development projects and development project compliance with relevant flood risk and management related development management standards.</p>
Tourism & Recreation	TR1	Avoid or minimise effects upon tourism and recreation amenities.	Visitor trips to local authority functional area	Stable or increasing number of visitor trips to local authority functional area	Fáilte Ireland Data on Tourism Performance
Climate Change	CF1	Delivery of the necessary action to support the national target of 80% electricity from renewable sources by 2030.	<p>Level of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions in the County.</p> <p>Level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.</p>	<p>Reduce GHG emissions associated with the Energy sector in the County.</p> <p>Increase the level of renewable energy infrastructure in the County.</p>	<p>EPA National Emission Inventory.</p> <p>Baseline Emission Inventory for the County.</p> <p>Megawatt hour (MWh) output from renewable energy infrastructure in the county.</p>
	CF2	Actively support the delivery of all national climate policy as appropriate to the county with the prioritisation and acceleration of evidence-based measures.	Level of GHG emissions in the County	Reduce GHG emissions for all sectors in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County.



Environmental Component	SEO Code	Strategic Environmental Objective	Indicators	Targets	Data Source
	CF3	Assist in the delivery of the climate neutrality objective at local and community levels.	Level of GHG emissions in the County. Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone. Net addition of tree cover added.	Reduce GHG emission in the County to Net Zero. Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero. Increase level of tree cover in the County.	EPA National Emission Inventory. Baseline Emission Inventory for the County. Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
	CF4	Deliver a Decarbonising Zone (DZ) within the local authority area to act as a test bed for a range of climate mitigation and adaptation measures in a specifically defined area through the identification of projects and outcomes that will assist in the delivery of the National Climate Objective.	Level of GHG emissions in the Decarbonising Zone.	Reduce Decarbonising Zone GHG emissions to Net Zero.	Baseline Emission Inventory for the Decarbonising Zone.
Inter-relationships	IR1	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes. Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement during adaptation to climate change.	Number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted consent.	Increase the number of blue and green infrastructure measures included as part of development projects that have been granted consent.	Review of granted planning consents.



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Comhairle Contae an Chabháin
Cavan County Council



Cavan County Council Leading on Climate Action

CLIMATE ACTION TEAM
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