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**Part 1: Final Determination of the Screening Report**

1. **Introduction & Background**

Cavan County Council is responsible for preparing a Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP), in accordance with Section 66C of the Local Government Reform Act (2014). The purpose of the LECP is to identify objectives and implement actions to strengthen and develop the economic and community dimensions of County Cavan over a six year period. The plan was prepared in 2015 and was made available for public consultation in October and November 2015. The Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening report was prepared and referred to the Environmental Authorities in January 2016.

 This reportcomprises of the SEA Screening Determination report of the LECP following on from the preparation of a SEA Screening Statement (January 2016) which was prepared in order to assist the Environmental Authorities, in the preparation of submissions/observations, on whether or not the Cavan LECP would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

1. **Initial determination and recommendation under Article 9(2) of the SI No. 435/2004 EC Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended by SI No. 200/2011).**

 The Screening Assessment of the LECP was considered in terms of the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations and the Screening Statement which concluded that a full SEA report was not necessary as it was considered that there were no significant environmental implications for the implementation of the plan.

 During the process of preparing the SEA Screening report, it was noted that the LECP must be consistent with the Spatial Planning policy documents, this is expressly stated in the Guidelines on Local Economic and Community Plans which states that: ‘*Each LECP must be consistent, in the first instance, with the existing Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and subsequently with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSESs) to be prepared by the Regional Assemblies and a new National Planning Framework which, it is envisaged, will replace the National Spatial Strategy.* The LECP must also be consistent with the statutory City/County Development Plan, ........’(pg. 3)

 In addition, section 21 of the Guidelines states that: ‘It is the responsibility of the local authority preparing the LECP to take account of the SEA Directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and ensure compliance as appropriate’.

 The findings of the Screening report were based on the premise that the policies, objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan (CDP) has undergone a full Strategic Environmental Assessment and that the LECP Objectives, Goals and Actions were consistent with the CDP.

 The Screening Report forms Part 21 of this report.

**4. Statutory Consultation**

In terms of Article 9(5) of SI 435 EC Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004 (as amended by SI No. 200/2011) the SEA screening Statement was forwarded to the following Environmental Authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Department of Environment, Community and Local Government (DoECLG)

- Department of Agriculture, Marine and Food (DoAMF)

- Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)

The above bodies were invited to make submissions or observations on or before the 4th February 2016, on whether or not the LECP would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

One submission was received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), dated the 15th January 2016.

The key considerations for the LECP are outlined as follows:

**Point 1: SEA Determination:**

There are opportunities to support the ongoing development of the green economy, promote the benefits of ecosystems services and encourage the protection and value of management of local/regional/national environmental resources.

It is recommended that the inclusion of an additional high level goal for the LECP, relating to “protecting the receiving environment” in implementing the LECP.

It is recommended that a commitment be included to ensure consistency with the Core Strategy and objectives of the County Development Plan (CDP). In particular, it would also be useful to include a commitment that the environmental-related policies and objectives of the CDP be complied with in implementing the LECP.

The LECP could consider encouraging community level activities in areas such as energy conservation, river clean-ups, riparian zone protection measures, awareness and appropriate control of invasive species etc., which would be beneficial for both local communities as well as the environment. Supporting measures which promote and encourage local eco-tourism ventures, fishing/angling, bird-watching, agri-tourism, supporting and encouraging citizen science activities such as local heritage mapping, supporting habitat restoration would also be beneficial in forming a closer link between social participation and involvement in and environmental protection at a local level.

**Point 2: Future Amendments to the Draft LECP:**

Cavan County Council should determine whether or not any future proposed variations/amendments would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. This assessment should take account of the SEA Regulations.

**Point 3: Infrastructure Planning:**

In proposing the LECP and any related amendments, variations etc. of the LECP and in implementing the LECP, adequate and appropriate infrastructure should be in place, or required to be put in place **,**  to service any development proposed and authorised during the lifetime of the LECP.

**Point 4: Appropriate Assessment**

The National Parks and Wildlife Service(NPWS) should be consulted, as relevant and appropriate with regard to screening of the Plan for Appropriate Assessment. Where appropriate Assessment is required, any findings or recommendations should be incorporated into the SEA and LECP.

**Point 5: SEA Screening Determination:**

A copy of the decision regarding the determination should be made available for public inspection at your offices, local authority website and should also be notified to any Environmental Authorities already consulted.

**Response by the Community & Enterprise Unit of Cavan County Council:**

***Point 1: SEA Determination*** *- “In relation to including an additional high level relating to “Protecting the receiving environment”, I would suggest that it may be more appropriate that this be included as a cross-cutting theme. With this in mind we will include a commitment to “protecting the receiving environment” in the introduction to the plan alongside our other cross cutting commitments. I should also point out that any specific plan or proposal developed under the LECP will be examined to ensure that it also meets this requirement.*

*In respect of the recommendation to include a commitment that the environmental-related policies and objectives of the CDP will be complied with in implementing the LECP, we will include this as a specific commitment.*

*The suggestion in relating to encouraging community level activities is welcomed and is very much to the forefront of our thinking in terms of specific measures under the LECP and the LCDC will work to encourage measures such as those set out. However, given the high level nature of the plan, it was felt that this level of detail would not be appropriate for inclusion in the LECP. The activities suggested by the EPA are envisaged as actions under the LECP plan and in particular under the LEADER LDS. With this in mind, this detail is included in the LDS that has been submitted to the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.  We will also look at opportunities under initiatives such as the EU LIFE programme over the life of the LECP.*

*We will also monitor the LECP the relevant environmental topics over the lifetime of the LECP as suggested and this will be part of the workplan of the LECP Advisory Group. In addition to the ongoing monitoring of the plan to take account of environmental issues on an ongoing basis by the Advisory Group and to ensure consistency with environmental considerations set out in the County Development Plan, individual proposals or projects developed over the life time of the plan will be subject to individual assessment against these considerations.”*

**Point 2: Future Amendments to the Draft LECP:**

Any future Amendments to the LECP shall be subject to the requirements of Section 9. (2) of the S.I. No. 435 of 2004- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended.

**Point 3: Infrastructure Planning:**

Noted.

**Point 4: Appropriate Assessment**

 The preparation of the Statement of Screening for Appropriate Assessment of the LECP, in line with the requirements of Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive, identified that the Plan should be screened out and should not proceed to Stage II. The NWPS were notified that the Screening Report was being prepared. There were no major issues of concern in this regard.

**Point 5: SEA Screening Determination:**

In accordance with Article 9, sub-section (7), the Planning Authority shall make a copy of its decision, including, as appropriate, the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, available for public inspection at the offices of the competent authority during office hours, and

Notify its decision to any environmental authority which was notified under sub-article (5).

**5. Final Determination Subsequent to Consultation with the Environmental Authorities - Determination in Terms of Article 9 (2) of the Regulations**

Having regard to the requirements of SI No. 435/2004 EC Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes Regulations 2004(as amended by SI No. 200/2001) and having consulted with the Environmental Authorities and considered the Submission received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), it is the final determination of the Planning Authority that a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is not required in respect of the Cavan LECP.

**Part 2: Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Statement for the *draft* local Economic and Community Plan – Cavan County Council**

1. **Introduction and Background**

Cavan County Council is responsible for preparing a Local Economic and Community Plan in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Reform Act (2014). To this end, a *Draft* Cavan Local Economic and Community Plan (2016 – 2021) has been prepared in accordance with Section 66C of the Local Government Reform Act, 2014. The plan provides a strategic framework for guiding local economic and community development in County Cavan for the next six years. It is the central strategy that will set the agenda for statutory agencies, elected representatives, community and voluntary groups and business interests to work collaboratively over the life of the plan for the betterment of County Cavan.

The main features of the LECP will be high level goals for the integrated plan. These will be supported by specific objectives under the two main themes:

* Economic
* Community

This report constitutes the SEA Screening Statement which is prepared in order to inform the Environmental Authorities, as part of the statutory requirements as set out in the national regulations, S.I. No. 435 of 2004 for consultation and submissions or observations, on whether or not the plan will have a significant impact on the environment.

* 1. **What is SEA?** *“SEA is a systematic, on-going process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage of publicly accountable decision-making, the environmental quality, and consequences, of alternative visions and development intentions incorporated in policy, planning or programme initiatives, ensuring full integration of relevant biophysical, economic, social and political considerations.” (Partidário, 1998).*

The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government Guidance on preparing Local Economic and Community Plans (January, 2015) advised that, when preparing an LECP must take account of the SEA Directive along with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to ensure compliance, as appropriate.

In line with the relevant EU Directive - Article 1 of the SEA Directive states:

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

**1.2 Requirement for an SEA Screening Report**

Under the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 to 2011, Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive, a Screening Assessment is required to determine whether the policies and objectives of the LECP would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. To complete this assessment, criteria set out in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) is applied.

A final determination will not be made until the specified environmental authorities have been consulted and their view of this draft Screening Statement ascertained.

**1.3 Screening Methodology:**

EU Directive 2001/42/EC as transposed into Irish Law by SI No. 435 – European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended by SI No. 200/2011), provides under Article 9 (2) that a determination needs to be made as to whether certain plans or programmes are required to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

Making such a determination is the first stage of the SEA, known as Screening. Screening is required under the abovementioned regulations to determine whether the policies or objectives of any plan or programme would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. The aim of the Screening Report would be to determine if the LECP requires a SEA.

To complete the screening exercise, the following is required to be undertaken as part of the report:-

* To set out and consider the characteristics of the LECP;
* To set out and consider the characteristics of the environmental effects of the plan and the area to be most likely affected; and
* To inform all prescribed environmental authorities of the initial screening determination.

Articles 2 and 3 of the SEA Directive set out the criteria to be used to determine the need for a SEA. Article 3 provides for a determination on a case by case basis as to whether plans are likely to have a significant environmental effects taking into account the criteria of Annex II of the Directive, transposed into Irish Law this refers to Schedule 1, SI No. 435/2004 European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans & Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended by SI No. 200/2011).

The criteria used in Schedule 1 of the 2004 Regulations (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) has been used to evaluate how likely the LECP is to have significant effects on the environment.

Pre-Screening is the first step in determining whether the proposed Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) would require and SEA involves a pre-screening check. This allows a rapid screening out of plans and policies that are clearly not going to have any environmental impact.

**2. Screening for SEA**

**2.1 Application of the Screening Criteria**

The Screening criteria was applied with guidance from Development of Strategic *Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland*, Synthesis Report for the EPA, by Paul Scott and Peter Marsden 2003, *Implementation of the SEA Directive – Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, DoEHLG, 2004.

**Task 1.1. Apply pre-screening check using decision tree.**

**Figure 1: Pre-screening check**

*Is the plan/programme subject to preparation and or adoption by a National, Regional or Local Authority?*

**YES**

*Is the P/P required by legislative, regulatory or administrative provisions?*

**YES**

*Does the P/P provides a framework for development consent for projects*

**YES, indirectly**

indirectly

SEA may be Required – Go to task 1.2

**Task 1.2 Screening Applying environmental significance criteria**

**Output 1: Screening Statement:** The SEA Directive requires that the results of the screening process as required by Article 3(5) and including the reasons for not requiring an environmental assessment, are made available to the public.

It is suggested that the Screening Statement, which presents the results of the tasks described above includes:

1. Introduction
2. Purpose of the Plan or Programme
3. Results of pre-screening check and results of environmental significance screening, if required.
4. Proposed timetable and approach for the SEA process (if an SEA is deemed to be applicable).
	1. **Establish whether the LECP must undergo an SEA**

The degree to which the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions, or by allocating resources:

It is a requirement of the Local Government Reform Act (2014), that the LECP is consistent with the core objectives of the County Development Plan (CDP) and with the objectives of the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs). The RPG’s is a higher level spatial plan which guides the preparation of the CDP. The CDP in turn must be consistent with the RPG and demonstrate such consistency. Both of these plans have been subject to full SEA. , as indicated in Figure 2 below:

The LECP in turn effectively sits under the CDP and again must be consistent with same.

**Figure 2: Hierarchy of Spatial and Strategic Development Plans impacting on the County & the role of the LECP**

**National Spatial Strategy (NSS)**

**Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)**

**2016 -2022**

**Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Regional RPG’s**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 2010**

**Cavan County Development Plan 2014 – 2020**

**Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 2014**

**All full screening of the Goals and Objectives and Actions was in relation to the policies and objectives of the CDP. (See Annex C: Screening of the Objectives & Actions of the LECP.)**

**3.1 Purpose of the Local Economic & Community Plan**

**LECP- General**

As stated in the introduction to this report, the LECP is a central component of the Local Authority’s role in economic and community development. It is recognised that local authorities’ already perform many functions in relation to economic and community development, however, the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 are seeking to provide a clearer and more defined role for local government in these two areas. The expansion and the strengthening of local authority functions is considered to be an important means to advance the over-arching purpose of local government. The LECP is charged as the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant action arising from varying measures included in government policy.

Section 66B of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides that the LECP shall be for –

1. The promotion of economic development in its functional areas, and
2. The promotion of local and community development in its functional area.

**3.1 LECP Legislative Framework**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Section 66B) sets out the details of what is required to be included in the LECP. Guidelines issued by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local government (January, 2015) elaborate and supplement the required provisions of the Act further. For the purposes of this report, the provisions of the Local Government Reform Act (2014) as they are required and as they apply to the LECP will be assessed. (See Appendix C: Section 66B (1)).

**3.2 The LECP and the County Development Plan**

The LECP does not sit directly in the spatial planning policy, rather it sits as an entity which takes into consideration the spatial planning framework of the Cavan County Development Plan (2014 – 2020) and as a strategy in its own right that must – ‘*be consistent with the core strategy and the objectives of the development plan.........’*.

Section 20 on the Guidelines on Local Economic & Community Plans, explains as follows: Spatial Planning Dimension: ‘ *The LECP is an important implementation vehicle for national and regional policy on economic development and local/community development. It is required to complement the County Development Plans that set important statutory frameworks in relation to, for example, appropriate locations for new development such as business parks, retail development and Industry. The LECP needs to be consistent with the broad locational policies of the Development Plan and not present alternate or competing proposals that would lead to inconsistency. The review role of Regional Assemblies and Municipal Districts set out in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is important in this regard. An important part of the rationale for the enhanced local government role in economic development and ensure that the planning and economic development is to forge a stronger link between spatial planning and economic development is to forge a stronger link between spatial planning and economic development and ensure that the planning development role is focussed strongly towards pro-actively supporting and promoting economic activity rather than being excessively regulatory in emphasis or concentrated primarily on building rather than other aspects of development.’*

The Cavan County Development Plans a strategic development plan which is a 6 year plan and contains strategic land use objectives and policies for the for the overall development of the county up to 2020. The Plan sets out a vision and Strategy for the proper planning and sustainability of the entire county. The plan acts as a guide for those interested in pursuing development proposals and to inform the general public as to how development proposals are likely to be assessed. The plans also informs decisions of the Planning Authority in deciding the suitability of different types of development in the County.

The Cavan County Development Plan (2014 – 2020), was subject to an SEA in 2014 which assessed all the policies and objectives to established if they ‘*are* *likely to have significant environmental effects*’. This process provided for the inclusion and integration of relevant and important environmental considerations in order to promote and encourage sustainable development. The methodology for the SEA included using a set of Environmental Protection Objectives(EPO’s) which were drawn-up based on International, European Union or National level strategies and documents which are relevant to the County’s development. The development objectives and policies on the environment were measured and cross-checked against the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPO’s).

The Cavan County Development Plan (2014-2020) also includes a Settlement Framework and Core Strategy which sets out a clear spatial framework for the development and growth of the County over the next six years. The Core Strategy also considers the location of economic and commercial development and how transport and other infrastructure (including social infrastructure) can be provided, maintained and enhanced, in order to support the projected population growth. (See Annex A: Core Strategy Policies.)

The LECP is prescribed to be consistent with the Core Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines.

**3.3. Assessment in terms of Schedule 1, S.I. No. 435/2004 EC (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended by S.I.200/2011).**

This assessment takes into account all of the legislatively required content of the LECP in accordance with Section 66B of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 to determine whether elements of the plan would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, LECP is carried out in terms of the criteria set out in Schedule 1 (Appendix B) of the Regulations as set out below:

**3.3.1.** **The Characteristics of the Plan** **having regard to:**

1. The degree to which the (LECP) sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources;

The LECP is primarily the culmination of Economic and Community aspects, which is essentially a multi-sectoral plan. The LECP will consist of high level goals which are supported by specific objectives under each section. Each Objective is supported by Actions which have a projected time-frame for delivery and include the identification of The LECP will lead and support partners for the delivery of these actions. The LECP will establish and co-ordinate funding sources from public, private, community and voluntary sector in order to stimulate and support local development and sustainability. The LECP will not deal with explicitly with the application or allocation of specific resources as this is largely an unknown variable and is subject to and reliant on various budgetary constraints by various groups, funding organisations and government departments etc.

The LECP is recognised as an important implementation vehicle for national and regional policy on economic and community development. It relies on the County Development Plan to define the overall statutory framework and set out the most appropriate locations for new developments, projects and activities.

The LECP is legislatively required to be under Section 66B (4) of the Local Government Reform Act (2014) to be consistent with:

1. The core strategy and the objectives of the Development Plan.......and;
2. Any regional spatial and economic strategy, or as appropriate, Regional Planning Guidelines.

The LECP is required to ensure consistency with the policies and objectives of the core strategy of the Cavan County Development Plan and to include objectives for sustainable development. To ensure consistency with and in recognition of the SEA process undertaken for the Cavan County Development Plan (2014 – 2020), the LECP has ensured that: ‘*Any projects or initiatives that are developed under the LECP will have to demonstrate that, where appropriate and applicable, that they are consistent with the preferred county development scenario set out in the County Development Plan.* ‘ and;

‘ *The vision statement set out in the LECP mirror that in the County Development Plan (with the exception of the time-frame, whereas the CDP sets the timeframe as 2020, the LECP sets down 2021 in order to be consistent with the timeframe of the LECP*; and

*‘The Socio-Economic Statement set out in the LECP is consistent with that set out in the CDP and indeed in most parts is based on the data contained in the CDP (updated as appropriate)’; and*

*The LECP has been formulated, taking account of the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs). It is a requirement of the guidelines (i.e. the Guidelines on the preparation of Local Economic and Community Plans), that the Regional Assembly adopt a statement to the effect that the draft LECP is consistent with the RPGs.*

***Concluding comments:*** The LECP will not identify or set a framework for specific projects and other activities with regard to location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocation of resources. The Cavan County Development Plan provides the spatial framework for the guidance of specific projects and as included specific objectives for ensuring sustainable development and protection of the environment. Therefore, it is envisaged that there will be no direct impact on the environment as a result of the proposed actions. Rather, these actions become subject to the objectives and policies of the Development Plan.

It is acknowledged that, under EIA and Planning and Development Acts/Regulations, certain projects arising during the implementation of the LECP, may require and Environmental Impact Assessment, including sub-threshold developments – these will be addressed by the overriding policies and objectives contained in the Development Plans.

1. The degree to which the (LECP) influences other plans including those in a hierarchy;

 The LECP does not fall within hierarchy of EU, National, Regional and Local Spatial Planning policies and does not therefore have a direct influence on the policies contained therein. The LECP comprises a document which has identified a high level set of objectives for the delivery of actions. These objectives were formulated in the context of the spatial plans, which were subject to full SEA.

 The primary objective of the LECP is to set out a framework for the economic and community development within the local authority area of County Cavan. The plan will be developed and implemented within an evolving national policy context and has ensured that all relevant policies are reflected in the plan. The LECP has acknowledged that its link with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Border Region are consistent with them.

***Concluding comments:*** It is not anticipated that the LECP will have a significant environmental effect on any other Plans.

The plan identifies actions which in turn will deliver various projects and where applicable these projects will be subject to further environmental checks through the planning process.

1. The relevance of the (LECP) for the integration of environmental considerations in particular, with a view to promoting sustainable development;

The LECP is considered to be aligned with the objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan (2014 – 2020) in terms of the Economic and Community Goals which were identified and the Strategic Objectives and actions arising out of same. The Development Plan, which was subject to a full SEA process, was proofed in terms of each of the proposed policies and objectives which under the Chapters (Chapter 3: Economic Development and Chapter 6: Social Strategy and Community Facilities). The principle of sustainable development and environmental considerations which ensure the protection of the built and natural heritage (including designated natural heritage sites) has been included, where applicable, in the set of policy objectives in each of the respective chapters.

The 20 no. Core Strategy Policies contained in the Cavan County Development Plan (2014 -2020) are based on the principle of sustainable development and environmental protection therefore, and form the core policy for framing each of the sections in the plan.

***Concluding comments:*** The LECP is required, by legislation, to be prepared in a manner which is consistent with the County Development Plan and higher level plans. Therefore, the plan is considered to be consistent with overall policies and objectives which promote sustainable development and protection of the environment.

1. Environmental problems relevant to the plan

This screening process has not identified any environmental problems associated with the key actions of the LECP. Rather, it is noted that there are actions which will identify future projects, though at this level, no locality is identified. Therefore, it would be premature to state whether development would impact on the environment.

The LECP, by virtue of its objectives being consistent with the policies and objectives of the Cavan County Development Plan 2014 – 2020, which was subject to a full SEA, which were considered in the screening of the policies and objectives of the plan were tested against the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) as follows:

* Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
* Population and Human Health
* Landscape and Soil, including Minerals
* Water
* Air and Climate
* Material Assets
* Cultural Heritage

***Concluding comments:*** The LECP was developed with the County Development plan as a framework, therefore it is not in conflict with the policies or objectives of the Development Plan which seek to protect and conserve environmentally sensitive areas.

1. The relevance of the Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection.

The issues relating to European Union Legislation on the environment are addressed fully in the Cavan County Development Plan 2014 -2020. The LECP must be consistent with the policies and objectives of this development plan which was subject to a full SEA and an Appropriate Assessment Screening in 2014. Hence, the LECP and any development which will be identified through the particular actions, will be directly informed by the relevant European Union legislation on the environment including:

* Article 6(3) and 6(4) and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive;
* The Surface Water Regulations (2009)
* The River Basin Management Plans 2009 – 2015

***Concluding comments:*** The LECP was developed with the County Development plan as a framework, therefore it is not in conflict with the policies or objectives of the Development Plan which seek to protect and conserve environmentally sensitive areas.

The LECP complies with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive – A Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared and this document accompanies this report and well be available during the statutory consultation period and the SEA Determination Statement.

**3.3.2. The Characteristics of the effects of the Plan and of the Area likely to be affected by the plan, having regard to:**

 (i) the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;

 Generally, it is considered that the characteristics of the effects are likely to increase to increase the likelihood of county Cavan to develop in a more sustainable manner over the lifetime of the plan by reinforcing and putting into practice some of the strategic objectives and principles of the Core Strategy for County Cavan.

The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of effects will be dependent on the extent of development likely to result from the specific projects identified in the Community and Economic Objectives and their respective Actions. The plan does not detail the specific extent of projects at this point in time, however, the County Development Plan has a robust set of policies and objectives which guard against the impact on bio-diversity, flora and fauna and all environmental aspects (e.g. water, landscape, built and cultural heritage). It is considered that there will be no significant negative effects arising from implementing the LECP as any development proposed would be required to comply with the Development Plan’s policies and objectives.

 (ii) the cumulative nature of the effects;

 The two key aspects of the LECP include:

1. **Community:**

The purpose of the community plan is:

* To promote local and community development within the functional area of the LCDC; and
* Ensure the co-ordination of the relevant public-funded local and community development actions in a way that addresses gaps, reduces duplication, targets available resources where they are most needed and maximises benefits for communities;

**2. Economic:**

For the purposes of the LECP, the promotion of economic development includes:

1. Creating and sustaining jobs
2. Promoting the interests of the community including:
3. Enterprise and economic development across economic sectors,
4. Foreign direct investment
5. Indigenous industry
6. Micro-enterprises and small and medium sized enterprises;
7. Tourism
8. Agriculture, forestry and the marine sectors, and other natural resource sectors
9. Identifying local attributes that are essential:
10. to enhancing local economic performance, such as the quality of the environment and the qualities of cities, towns and rural areas, including-
11. Accessibility, physical character, and infrastructure;
12. Employment opportunities and quality of life;
13. and the means by which these may be utilised to enhance competitiveness, and be supported by investment decisions relating to economic infrastructure (including transportation, water services, energy; communications and waste management), together with social and cultural facilities; and-
14. To promoting local economic activities;
15. Supporting enhancement of local innovation capacity, including investment in research and development capacity, technology transfer, up-skilling and re-skilling,
16. Identifying, for existing and prospective businesses, opportunities to engage with local government on relevant matters in setting up and managing their businesses and to ensure speedy and co-ordinated access and response,
17. Identifying local strengths and opportunities, weaknesses and deficiencies relevant to economic performance and-
18. In relation to such strengths and opportunities having regard to economic and employment trends, the means of maintaining and augmenting them, and
19. In relation to such weaknesses and deficiencies, the means of addressing or rectifying them, and
20. Identifying economic potential and the requirements to realise it.

The key aspects of the LECP will be promoted within the framework of the policies and objectives contained in Chapter 3: Economic Development - of the Cavan County Development Plan (2014 -2020), which was subject to a full SEA. Therefore, any actions identified as a result of the key objectives of the LECP which will result in development will take place in accordance with the framework set out by the County Development Plan. (This in turn complies with the Core Strategy of the Plan and therefore, the relevant environmental and planning legislation/guidance: Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive).

The overall cumulative impact will be positive in terms of the economic and community development for the council, this translated into physical development, should not have a negative impact on the environment, subject to the correct procedure being adhered to and implemented.

 (iii) the transboundary nature of the effects

 Should all policies and objectives and procedures be adhered to, as referred to in sub-section 3.3.1 (iii) it is considered that there will be not be any negative transboundary effects on the environment.

1. the risks to human health or the environment (due to accidents etc.)

The LECP is directly linked to the County Development Plan and Chapter 3: Economic Development, Section 3.11 Major Accident Directive notes: “*No industries in County Cavan are currently affected by the Seveso II Directive (96/082/EEC) which seeks to prevent major accidents involving dangerous substances and to limit the consequences of accidents on people and the environment*.”

1. The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected),

County Cavan comprises a total area of 1,932km² (746 sq miles) and the population at the last census count was 73,183.

 **3.3.3. The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**

 (b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,

 It is considered that, the environmental quality standards will not be exceeded by the LECP, as the objectives and subsequent actions identified in the plan, have not defined specific projects at this point in time. All projects will be subject to the provisions of the County Development Plan which has a robust set of environmental policies and objectives.

1. intensive land use,

The LECP will be consistent with the Cavan County Development Plan (2014-2020), which set out the extent of lands required for development of Residential Zoned lands in accordance with the Core Strategy which is aligned with the population projections contained in the Regional Planning Guidelines (Border Region). All zoned lands for uses associated with economic and community uses have been identified in the plan. The plan has undergone a full Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report in 2014 and the LECP will not be seeking the intensification of landuses in addition to that which has already been identified in the Plan.

**3.4. The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.**

Each of the developments arising out of the actions identified in the LECP will be subject to an appropriate environmental assessment, in accordance with the requirements of the County Development Plan (2014 – 2020). It is not anticipated that there will be any negative impact on areas or landscapes of National or European importance. It is also noted, that an Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has been prepared in conjunction with this report, which complies with the Habitats Directive and the preliminary finding of “no significant impact” has been identified.

**APPENDIX A: Core Strategy Policies**

## 2.8 Core Strategy Policies

The following core strategy policies will inform and link together the differing sections of the plan. These policies will be implemented through a combination of objectives within the specific sections of the development plan along with subsequent strategies published by the planning department within the life time of the development plan.

**CSP1** To ensure that the future spatial development of County Cavan is in

accordance with higher level plans including the NDP, NSS, BRPG, as well as,

national policy guidance issued under section 28 of the Planning and Development

Act, as amended, the River Basin Management Plans, Surface Water Regulations

and the Habitats Directive.

**CSP2** To prioritise development within the Hub town of Cavan.

**CSP3** To guide development of towns in a sequential manner, outwards from the

core area to maximise the use of existing and future infrastructure provision, promote

sustainable development and make better use of underutilised land.

**CSP4** To ensure that, within the development boundaries of Tier four, five and six

settlements, applications for development will be assessed in the context of the

population targets identified in the settlement framework. No further residential

development shall be permitted until such time as unfinished estates and live

planning permissions have been completed.

**CSP5** To take into account, in the assessment of development proposals, Article

6(3) (4) and Article 10 of the Habitats Directive, the Surface Water Regulations 2009

and the relevant measures of the River Basin Management Plans 2009 – 2015.

**CSP6** To promote the integration of land use and transportation policies, to prioritise

cycling and walking, as sustainable modes of travel and strengthen public transport

provision.

**CSP7** To restrict or prevent development in areas at risk of flooding, in accordance

with the ‘Planning and Flood Risk’ Guidelines, 2009.

**CSP8** To have regard to the DECLG guidelines “Sustainable Residential

Development in Urban Areas Guidelines” (2009) in relation to the scale and design

of residential development appropriate to settlements within the hierarchy.

**CSP9** To provide for rural residential development in accordance with the Rural

Settlement Policy.

**CSP10**To prepare and implement a ‘Retail Strategy’ for the County within one year of the adoption of the ‘County Development Plan’.

**CSP11** To support the ‘Economic Development Strategy’, currently under review.

**CSP12** To promote rural economic development by promoting the tourist value of

rural areas and facilitating the growth of appropriate rural enterprise, agricultural developments and developments associated with agriculture.

**CSP13** To protect the natural heritage, landscape character and cultural heritage of all parts of the county.

**CSP14** The priority areas for new shopping and commercial office development

will be within the defined Town Core of Towns and Villages.

**CSP15** Proposals for the generation of energy from renewable sources will

be supported, provided that the wider environmental benefits are not outweighed by any detrimental impacts of the proposed development, including any electricity transmission facilities needed, on the landscape, public safety, and the local environment.

**CSP16** Recognise the strategic importance of the national road network within the County which links Towns and villages to each other and to Cavan Town and that contribute to the role of large and medium size towns to support Cavan Town and act as drivers of growth.

**CSP17** To support the role of tourism in Cavan and to encourage the development of a high quality and diverse tourism product throughout the County, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development and proper planning.

**CSP18** To restrict the development of new build holiday home developments.

**CSP19** Where the Planning Authority deems that a Town or Village does not

have the infrastructural capacity to absorb additional residential development, no further residential development shall be permitted until the infrastructural deficit has been addressed. This includes deficits in water supply, sewerage treatment systems, roads structure and social or community facilities.

**CSP20** All proposals for development shall comply with the ‘Water Framework Directive’ and other legislation relevant to the protection of the aquatic environment.

|  |
| --- |
| **SCHEDULE 1**  |
|  |  | [*Article 9*](http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/2004/en/si/0435.html#article9) |
|  |  | **Criteria for determining whether a Plan or Programme (or Modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the Environment** |
|  |  | 1. The characteristics of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, having regard, in particular, to |
|  |  | —  the degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources, |
|  |  | —  the degree to which the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, influences other plans including those in a hierarchy, |
|  |  | —  the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development, |
|  |  | —  environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, |
|  |  | —  the relevance of the plan or programme, or modification to a plan or programme, for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste management or water protection). |
|  |  | 2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to |
|  |  | —  the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects, |
|  |  | —  the cumulative nature of the effects, |
|  |  | —  the transboundary nature of the effects, |
|  |  | —  the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents), |
|  |  | —  the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected), |
|  |  | —  the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to: |
|  |  | (*a*) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage, |
|  |  | (*b*) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, |
|  |  | (*c*) intensive land-use, |
|  |  | —  the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status. |

**APPENDIX B:**

**APPENDIX C: SCREENING of OBJECTIVES & ACTIONS of the LECP**

* 1. **Introduction and Context:**

The Local Economic and Community Plan [LECP] for County Cavan sets the objectives and actions needed to support and guide economic and community development in County Cavan over the next six year period.

The policy context for the LECP is Putting People First: Action Programme for Effective Local Government. The overarching vision of Putting People First is “to promote the well-being and quality of life of citizens and communities”. The LECP will be the primary mechanism at local level to progress relevant actions arising from measures under the *Action Plan for Jobs* and other statements of Government policy including the report of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

The economic elements of the LECP were developed by the SPC for Economic Development, while community elements were developed by the LCDC. Both elements were developed based on feedback gathered as part of a widespread public consultation process.

These actions will be delivered through a range of stakeholders in partnership with the LCDC, the Economic SPC and Cavan County Council. Delivery will be supported through the programmes of the local authority and other stakeholders.

## Methodology

The plan has been developed through a wide ranging consultation process that included public meetings, written submissions, high level focus groups, facilitated sessions, thematic meetings, workshops with local authority staff and discussion at LCDC, SPC and Municipal District meetings.

We sought to involve people in all parts of the county, those working in agencies, businesses, and community and voluntary groups as well as individual residents, elected members and representative networks. We aimed to be inclusive in how we consulted by offering a variety of formats for engaging with the LECP process (written, oral, telephone, email, social media) and using accessible venues for all public meetings. We organised meetings at different times of the day to accommodate people with differing family or work responsibilities.

We provided information at various stages in the development of the plan through the LCDC, PPN, Strategic Policy Committees, on the local authority website and in local media.

The plan adheres to, and is consistent with, the core strategy and objectives of the County Development Plan 2014-2020, and is also consistent with existing and evolving government policy for economic and enterprise development. It has regard to other policy initiatives, such as the National/Regional Action Plan for Jobs.

The draft plan will be presented to the 3 Municipal Districts prior to the adoption of a statement on the draft of both elements of the LECP by the members of the Municipal District, as a reserved function. This is consistent with the guidelines issued by the Department of Environment.

The draft will be presented to the 3 municipal districts on 9th December and the plan will be presented to Cavan County Council meeting of 8th February 2016 for the formal adoption of the plan by Cavan County Council.

The draft plan has been forwarded to the Regional Assembly and we will consult with the Regional Assembly to ensure the plan is consistent with the RPG/RSES prior to the Regional Assembly adopting a statement on both elements of the draft plan.

**General proofing of plan against the County Development Plan 2014-2020:**

**Vision Statement**: the vision statement set out in the LECP mirrors that in the CDP with the exception that whereas the CDP sets the timeframe as 2020, the LECP sets down 2021 in order to be consistent with the timeframe of the LECP.

In line with the vision statement and the CDP the focus throughout the lifetime of the plan will be on sustainable economic development.

The **Socio-Economic Statement** set out in the LECP is consistent with that set out in the CDP and indeed in most parts is based on the data contained in the CDP (updated as appropriate).

**National Context and the NSS:** The LECP has been formulated taking account of the National Spatial Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. It is a requirement of the guidelines that the Regional Assembly adopt a statement to the effect that the draft LECP is consistent with Regional Planning Guidelines and we have forwarded an initial draft of the LECP to the Regional Assembly for initial comment on this and we will continue to engage with the Regional Assembly to ensure that the LECP is and demonstrates consistency with the RPG. This will include the strengthening of linkages between the economies of Northern Ireland and the Republic.

**County Development Options:** Any projects or initiatives that are developed under the LECP will have to demonstrate that, where appropriate and applicable, that they are consistent with the preferred county development scenario set out in the County Development Plan.

**Age Dependency:** Actions developed, where relevant, have taken account of the comparative age dependency of the county which at 55% is some 20% higher than regional and national levels.

Similarly influences such as migration and other factors show that the population of the county will continue to grow and actions developed under the LECP are based on this premise.

The CDP has clearly demonstrated that Cavan is very much a rural county with 70% of the population residing in either rural areas or very small settlements. However there is a trend, consistent with national trends, towards urbanisation and this has been taken account of in formulation of actions around rural areas and the development of initiatives focused on urban areas.

Any actions rolled out under the LECP will take account and support the goal of the CDP to respect the long tradition of people living in rural areas and will promote sustainable rural settlements as a key component in achieving strong and vibrant rural communities.

A key consideration will be to encourage the sustainable development of rural enterprises within the county.

Any developments will have to take account of the Cavan County Council Heritage Plan and any proposals under the LECP will be routed to the Heritage Officer.

**Review of the actions and objectives of the LECP against the County Development:**

**Goal 1: We will promote Cavan as an attractive investment location**

**Objective 1.1 To attract inward investment**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Joint initiatives with IDA | Consistent with CSP11: Support the “Economic Development Strategy”  |
| b) Encourage diaspora |  |
| c) This is Cavan brand | Consistent with Tourism Strategy section 9.2 |
| d) Targeting BPO companies |  |
| e) Information supports to businesses (Brochure and Library Supports) | Library Policy SCP18, |

**Objective 2 Economic Development Forum**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a)Establish Economic Dev Forum | CSP11: Economic Development Strategy |
| b) Audit of infrastructure |  |

**Goal 2: We will invest in Strategic Infrastructural Developments**

**Objective 2.1: Development of Enterprise Space and Workspace**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a)Dev enterprise parks | CSP11; EDO8 – Ensure that there is sufficient and suitable lands reserved for new enterprise development at key locations throughout the county; EDO9 – Encourage development of appropriate new industrial development in serviced towns and villages. EDO10 |
| b) New community enterprise workspace | CSP11; EDP5 – Sustainable development of rural enterprises within the county. Chapter 10.2 Access for all |

**Objective 2.2:** **Ancillary Services to Support Enterprise**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| b) Develop digital capacity | CSP11; EDO15 – Facilitate the development of broadband telecommunications as an enabler of rural enterprise.Telecommunications and Information Technology objectives set out in CDP |

**Goal 3: We will promote and develop indigenous enterprise**

**Objective 3.1:** **Developing and Embedding Entrepreneurial Culture**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Promote business start ups | EDP5: Encourage sustainable development of rural enterprises within the county.  |
| b) Entrepreneurial initiatives |  |

**Objective 3.2:** **Business Networking and Clustering**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a) Business networks |  |
| b) USEFE |  |
| c) Cross border networks |  |
| d) Promote clusters | EDO8;EDO9;EDO10;EDP5 |

**Goal 4: We will encourage innovation/research & development**

**Objective 4.1:** **Promoting, Supporting and Resourcing Innovation**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Specialist R&D workshops |  |
| c) Cross border and European funding for companies |  |

**Objective 4.2:** **Focus on Renewable Energy & Sustainable Technologies**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a) Stimulate renewable energy | CSP15: Proposal for the generation of energy from renewable sources will be supported provided that the wider environmental benefits are not outweighed by any detrimental impacts of the proposed development. Energy Objectives in CDP esp PIO104 – promote renewable energy policies in the county. |
| b) Partnerships for sustainable tech CREST |  |

**Goal 5: We will support businesses to expand and internationalise**

**Objective 5.1: Focus on Exporting**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a)Exporting supports |  |

**Goal 6: We will concentrate on the development of key niche areas**

**Objective 6.1: Food Development**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Food Strategy | CSP11; ED01; Also consistent with Chapter 9 – Recreation and Tourism – the development of Cavan’s Food Tourism potential will be further developed in coming years.  |

**Objective 6.2: Development of Tourism Product and Tourism Marketing**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| Action a) Burren Park facilities | CSP17: To support the role of tourism in Cavan and to encourage the development of a high quality and diverse tourism product throughout the county, in a manner consistent with the principles of sustainable development and proper planning.CSP12: To promote rural economic development by promoting the tourist value of rural areas.CSP13: To protect the natural heritage, landscape character and cultural heritage of all parts of the county. All actions developed in consultation with Tourism Officer and proofed to ensure consistency with Tourism Strategy (See Chapter 9 of CDP on Tourism and recreation). Walkways and Amenities Objectives contained in CDP RTO4-RTO22 are all relevant and have been taken into account in developing the Tourism actions under the LECP.Re Burren RTO11 is critical in this regard. RTO16: Develop tourism initiatives across the county and in particular the Cross-Border Global Geopark.9.9 Geotourism and the Geopark |
| Action b) Castlesaunderson | Foresty policies esp EDP14 &15 – to encourage the provision of public access to forests for walking routes, recreational areas and other similar activities.  |
| Action c) Killykeen | Foresty policies esp EDP14 &15 – to encourage the provision of public access to forests for walking routes, recreational areas and other similar activities. Waterways and Fisheries Policy esp RTO2 – ensure the protection of existing angling locations and maintain free from inappropriate development also RTO1 In terms of accessibility. RTO12To facilitate opportunities for the social use of state forests and to enhance public enjoyment of the geology and natural landscapes of the region. |
| Action d) County Museum | Section 6.15 of CDP; SCP19 Museum Policy.  |
| Action e) Angling Development | Invasive species policy: NEHP15.  |
| Action f) Shannon Erne Blueway | Inland Waterways Policies and objectives: NHEP21, NHEO39,40,41&42Waterways and Fisheries Policy:  |
| Action g) Ulster Canal | Inland Waterways Policies and objectives: NHEP21, NHEO39,40,41&42Waterways and Fisheries Policy:RTO13: to promote and facilitate the redevelopment of the Ulster Canal and associated waterways. |
| Action h) Walking trails | EDP14;EDP15; Walking and cycling objectives set out in the plan. Public rights of way policy NHEP22.Walking and Amenities Objectives in CDP. Esp RTO3-RTO22 esp RTO19,20,21 & 22.  |
| Action i) Greenways | CSP6: Integration of land use and transportation policies, to prioritise cycling and walking as sustainable modes of travel. – Also Smarter Travel Schemes.Greenway strategy will be consistent with walking and cycling objectives set out in CDP esp PIO61;PIO68 & PIO69.RTO17: re-use of railway lines. RTO18 – protect established walking and cycling routes and keep free from development that would adversely impact upon them. RTO19-RTO22 |
| Action j) Festivals and Events |  |
| Action k) Accessible tourism | Social Inclusion Policies, Tourism and Recreation and Waterways and Fisheries Policy esp RTO1 in terms of accessibility. General theme of accessibility throughout all tourism activities.  |
| Marble Arch Geopark | Geopark Policy and objective esp NHEO10: To facilitate and encourage the development of geotourism and the recreational potential of County Cavan through increased social use of the landscape, with attendant conservation, economic, social and community benefits within the region.  |
| Promote Cavan as a conference centre |  |

**Objective 6.3 Support artistic excellence and professional development in the arts**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| Action a) Professional supports to artists | Consistent with Strategic Arts Plan and developed in consultation with Cavan Arts Office |
| Raise profile of arts |  |
| Strategic art partnerships |  |
| Town Hall Theatre | Chapter 10.2 of CDP Access for all |
| Encourage dev of Creative Industries |  |

**Objective 6.4:** **Development and promotion of Equestrian activities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| Develop Equestrian centres, horse breeding and marketing | EDP4 |

**Goal 7: We will provide quality employment, education & training services**

**Objective 7.1: Matching Skillsets and Job Opportunities**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| Skills requirement audit and deliver programmes |  |
| Identify priority needs and source funding |  |
| Promote apprenticeships |  |
| Education and training partnerships |  |
| Intensive support course for clients to be job ready |  |

**Objective** **7.2: Addressing Long Term Unemployment**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| Initiatives to provide advice, training and employment opportunities for long term unemployed. |  |

**Goal 8: We will stimulate town renewal and help revive the retail sector**

**Objective 8.1: Town/Village Renewal Initiative**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| Town Team programme | Any actions developed under this will be proofed to ensure consistency with preferred county development option set out in the CDP. Also the selection of towns under the strategy will take account of the settlement hierarchy set out in the County Development Plan. CSP2: Cavan as a hub; CSP3: Sustainable development of towns in a sequential manner. CSP14:Priority areas within defined town core.Chapter 12: Town and Villages Plans. Chapter 13: Large Towns; Chapter 14 Medium Sized Towns; Chapter 15: Small Town and Village Plans |
| REDZ and BIDS |  |

**Objective 8.2: Revival of Retailing**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| Reopen vacant business premises | CSP2;CSP3. CSP10: Prepare and implement a “Retail Strategy” for the county. CSP14Retail policies set out in CDP EDP 16,17,18 & 19.10.2 Access for all.  |
| Host regional retail symposium |  |
| Shop local campaign |  |
| Online trading opportunities for local retailers |  |
| Management training  |  |
| Retail awards |  |
| Christmas markets and seasonal initiatives |  |

**Community Plan**

**Goal 1: We will support the ongoing development of safe, active and empowered communities.**

|  |
| --- |
| **Objective 1.1 Develop leadership and capacity within urban and rural communities to support their regeneration.** |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) community audits of facilities/actions/services | SCP4 – audit of infrastructure |
| b) Community hub space | Chapter 10.2 Access for all  |
| c) Community development training |  |
| d) Networking opportunities |  |
| e) Deliver LEADER LDS | Consistency with Agriculture policies and Agriculture objectives set out in CDP; EDP5 Encourage the sustainable development of rural enterprises within the county. |

**Objective 1.2 Support and harness volunteerism within the county and support the active citizenship structures in place.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Support PPN  |  |
| b) Volunteer Info Service |  |
| c) Small C&V grants |  |

**Objective 1.3 Develop measures to enhance safety and security at local level**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) JPC plan |  |
| b) Crime prevention initiatives |  |

**Objective 1.4 Develop an integrated response to the needs of young people, helping them to reach their full potential**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a) CYPSC plan | The analysis contained in the County Development Plan indicates that Cavan has a higher that regional and national average in terms of youth dependency. This factor has been taken into account in identifying actions for youth.  |
| b) Youth Network |  |
| c) Youth work plan |  |
| d) Early childhood sector |  |
| e) Comhairle na nOg |  |

**Objective 1.6 Maximise European Funding Opportunities to benefit local communities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) European funding |  |

**Goal 2: We will focus on developing the health and wellbeing of our communities**

**Objective 2.1: Improve the health outcomes for all sectors of the community**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Healthy Ireland local group |  |
| b) Establish Community First Responder |  |

**Objective 2.2 Support opportunities for sporting and recreational life within the county, ensuring equal access for all.**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a) Sports Facility | The higher than average overall, youth and elderly dependency as set out in the CDP are taken into account in developing actions focussed on youth and the elderly.  |
| b) Sports and recreation strategy | Consistency with Walking and cycling objectives set out in CDP along with Walkways and Amenities Objectives set out in the CDP.  |
| c) Physical activity programmes |  |
| d) Sports inclusion  |  |
| e) Physical activity local communities |  |
| f) Outdoor recreation strategy | 6.9 of CDP – Open Space/Amenity policies and SCP14 – Recreation Policies – meet recreational needs of all communities and individuals.  |
| g) Mass participation event |  |
| h) Sports education and training to clubs |  |

**Objective 2.3 Develop an integrated, targeted response at a local level to reduce levels of drug and alcohol use among adults and young people.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Local Drugs Task Force Plan |  |
| b) Drugs and Alcohol Forum |  |

**Goal 3: We will promote social inclusion and address disadvantage**

**Objective 3.1 Opportunities for the promotion of social inclusion and integration, reducing the isolation and marginalisation of specific communities within the county.**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a) Community transport | CSP6: strengthen public transport provision.SCO10 –enhance transport routes throughout the county with the provision of bus shelters and seating.  |
| b) Address discrimination and promote integration | SCP12 – ethnic minorities policy. |
| c) Traveller Inclusion | Section 6.7: The Travelling Community – SCP10 & SCP11 |
| d) Deliver Peace IV |  |
| e) Representative networks |  |
| f) People with disabilities | Proofed against Access for People with disabilities section against CDP – SCP8 – equal access to community infrastructure, SCP9 – capital developments designed with universal access in mind.  |
| g) Suicide Prevention work (move to health) |  |
| h) Literacy initiative | Education Policies SCP16 & 17. |
| i) SICAP Programme |  |
| j) Social Inclusion Week |  |

**Objective 2.2 Continue an integrated response to the needs of older people and pursue Age Friendly County commitments.**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Age Friendly Alliance and Older People’s Council | Actions developed haven taken account of elderly dependency rates in the county compared to the regional and national levels. Older Persons Policy; SCP6;SCP7 |
| b) Develop Age Friendly Town in each MD |  |
| c) Health and wellbeing of older people |  |
| d) Age friendly businesses |  |
| e) Intergenerational work |  |

**Goal 4 We will protect our natural resources/heritage and promote culturally rich communities**

**Objective 4.1 Protect and develop the Irish language**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Promote Irish language |  |

**Objective 4.2: Development of Heritage Sites and Projects**

| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| --- | --- |
| a) Strategic management plan for heritage | Section 6.15 of CDP on Heritage Centres – all actions under this objective developed in consultation with heritage officer)  |
| b) Baseline heritage data |  |
| c) Heritage programmes |  |
| d) Raise awareness of heritage |  |
| e) Initiatives to enhance ownership  |  |
| f) Heritage trail? | Will be consistent with Walkways and Amenities Objectives RTO3- RTO22.  |

**Objective 4.3 Community arts initiatives**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Capacity building for organisations to work  | Section 6.14 Arts & Culture – actions developed in consultation with Arts Office.  |
| b) Arts in Education contexts |  |
| c) Audience development |  |

**Objective 4.3 Green and Sustainable communities**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Actions** | **Section of CDP reviewed consistency versus LECP**  |
| a) Raise awareness of Energy efficiency/leverage funding for businesses | Energy Objectives in CDP: PIO103,104 &105 Energy consumption reduction in line with NEEAP, promote renewable energy policies, promote energy conservation via reduction in consumption. |
| b) Local environmental initiatives | Any forestry activities will take account of Forestry Policies set out in CDP (EDP11,12,13) |