




























Annex A: Assessment Matrix of Portlaoise LAP 2018-2024










Additional text recommended through the SEA process is presented in **bold blue font**










No likely interaction with /insignificant impact with SEOs	0	Potential conflict with SEOs – likely to be mitigated	↕
Likely to improve status of SEOs	↑		
Probable conflict with SEOs – unlikely to be mitigated	↓		










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>Strategic Vision Portlaoise</p> <p><i>“To fulfil its role as the Principal Town, by providing for low carbon, sustainable and consolidated growth in a coherent spatial manner, protecting and maximising opportunities presented by the unique natural and built environment of the town and delivering an exemplar quality of life for its residents”</i></p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
Key Plan Objectives									
<p>1. To support and facilitate sustainable intensification and consolidation of the town centre and in established residential areas.</p> <p>2. To promote balanced economic development and employment ensuring a diverse range of economic sectors are developed and supported.</p> <p>3. To promote and support the development of an enterprise and employment campus at National Enterprise Park/Togher Area. Development shall be plan led and subject to a Masterplan prepared in conjunction with this Local Area Plan.</p> <p>4. To support and facilitate development on zoned land based on the policies and objectives of the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023.</p> <p>5. To focus new residential development into brownfield sites.</p> <p>6. To protect, conserve and enhance the built, natural and cultural environment, through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation and promoting good quality urban design.</p> <p>7. To require the preparation and assessment of all planning applications in the plan area to have regard to the information, data and requirements of the Appropriate Assessment Natura Impact Report, SEA Environmental Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment Report that accompany this LAP.</p> <p>8. To require projects to be fully informed by ecological and environmental constraints at the earliest stage of project</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
planning and any necessary assessment to be undertaken, including assessments of disturbance to habitats and species, where required.									
Comment: Togher Area development is supported through existing objectives of the MRPGs and preparation of Masterplan will allow for an integrated approach to the design of same. Objectives 7 and 8 in particular support environmental assessments and measures arising from the SEA, AA and SFRA.									
Key Plan Policies									
1. Implement the development strategies for Portlaoise in order to be consistent with, and in accordance with policies of higher tier plans.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
2. Support strategic enterprise and employment opportunities at other appropriate locations in Portlaoise and environs, having regard to proper planning and sustainable development and relevant development control standards.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
3. Facilitate and promote Portlaoise’s role as a “Principal Town” as designated in the MRPGs and Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
4. Monitor and manage the delivery of population and housing in Portlaoise, in line with national, regional and county level objectives, through the development strategy in this plan and also through the development management process. To cooperate with the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly as part of the monitoring and review approach.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
5. Implement the policies and objectives of the Portlaoise Public Realm Strategy “2040 and Beyond: A Vision for Portlaoise A Strategy For A Better Town Centre”.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Comment: Alignment with hierarchy of plans and policies, including core strategy and support Principal Town Designation in conjunction with policies of 2040 and Beyond are all consistent with SEOs.									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>Economic Development: Strategic Aim: <i>“To promote, facilitate and enable economic development and employment generation activities in appropriate locations and in a sustainable manner”</i></p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to:									
<p>ED O1: Facilitate the future sustainable development of Portlaoise so as to optimise the benefits of its location, in accordance with the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) and the Midland Regional Planning Guidelines.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>ED O2: Promote balanced and sustainable economic development and employment, ensuring that a diverse range of economic sectors are developed and supported.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>ED O3: Promote employment opportunities by facilitating development on appropriately zoned lands.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>ED O4: Facilitate the provision and expansion of all services and infrastructure which would contribute positively to the attraction of the town to economic development.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>ED O5: Develop Togher as a National Enterprise Park.</p>	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↑
<p>ED O6: Improve the existing built environment of the Togher/Clonminam Area.</p>	↑	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
<p>ED O7: Facilitate the improvement and expansion of established enterprises and industries.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	0
<p>ED O8: Facilitate the improvement and expansion of Portlaoise Enterprise Centre.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	0
<p>ED O9: Facilitate and promote the provision of incubator units for start up businesses and SMEs.</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	0
<p>ED O10: Provide opportunities for an IT Ecosystem centred on</p>	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	0










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
the SIRO high speed broadband capacity.									
ED O11: Facilitate development of Bank Place Branch Office/Prison Officers’ Club as an IT Hub / creative cluster.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ED O12: Accommodate small employment generating activities at first floor level and vacant ground floor commercial premises on the Main Street.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ED O13: Support the continued operation and reasonable expansion of non conforming uses subject to maintenance of existing environmental, visual and residential amenity.	O	↕	O	O	↕	↕	O	O	↑
ED O14: Identify opportunities to improve the tourism product in cooperation with relevant statutory agencies, private providers and community groups.	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↕	↑	↑	↑
ED O15: Facilitate the provision of standardized tourism signage and interpretation facilities for tourist attractions.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
ED O16: Promote Portlaoise as a tourist destination.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Promotion of Town Centre development and objectives to enhance existing employment are positive in relation to MA, CC and PH SEOs in particular. Direct, long term positives in terms of reducing commuting patterns through increased economic activity and direct population and human health effects also relating to reduced commuting patterns for population of the town. (ED04 and ED07 for example). ED011 and ED012 are positive as they promote reuse of existing buildings in the town centre and contribute again to altering commuting patterns, promoting adaptive reuse of buildings, and contribute to town centre viability. Reuse of older structures indirectly contributes to townscape quality and character as promotes soil and geology SEOs as it represents reuse of existing buildings/brownfield. For other objectives such as EO014, potential effects can be addressed through existing mitigation measures.</p>									
<p>Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:</p>									
ED P1: Develop Togher, as a National Enterprise Park, focused in particular on trade warehousing, distribution, logistics and other uses associated with the transport industry. Other suitable uses include offline motorway services, retail	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕











Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
warehousing, offices and conference facilities, leisure uses such as hotels, catering and indoor sporting facilities. Provision is also made within Togher for the development of significant heavy, light and ICT industry uses as well as general enterprise uses. In order to deliver the Togher National Enterprise Park, an implementation programme will be developed to include direct marketing campaigns to drive economic development.									
ED P2: Support strategic enterprise and employment opportunities at other appropriate locations in Portlaoise and environs, having regard to proper planning and sustainable development and relevant development control standards.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ED P3: Facilitate the continuity of and encourage the expansion of established enterprises and to promote start-up enterprises, having regard to the protection of the amenity value of neighbouring properties.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ED P4: Co-operate with IDA Ireland, Enterprise Ireland, the Local Enterprise Office and other agencies, organisations and individuals in promoting enterprise in Portlaoise.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
ED P5: Support the further development of broadband in Portlaoise and to facilitate the development of Portlaoise as an E-Commerce centre.	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
ED P6: Encourage, in co-operation with the Local Enterprise Office and Laois Partnership, the development of further small to medium scale industries and services.	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
ED P7: Create an integrated and sustainable public and private transport system to move people and goods efficiently within and through Portlaoise.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










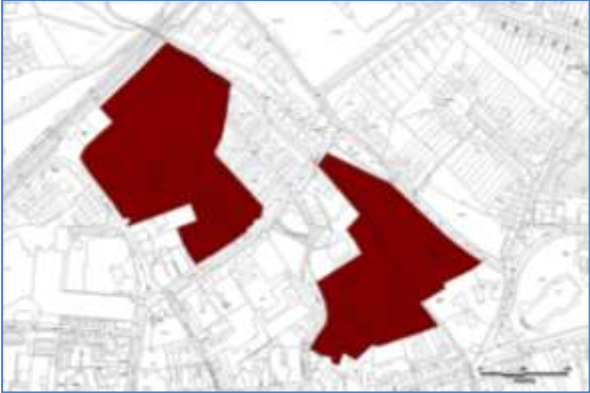
Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
ED P8: Develop high quality business infrastructure.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p>Comment: EDP6 and EDO4 of the MRPGs support the proposal for Masterplanning of Togher as well as its potential as an ‘Inland Port’. As with the objectives, enhancing existing economic opportunities are consistent with SEOs for PHH, MA and CC in particular. For other SEOs potential adverse effects associated with the development are identified as being mitigated through existing development management measures and the Masterplanning process.</p>									
<p>Town Centre Revitalisation: Strategy Aim: <i>“To support the sustainable long-term growth of Portlaoise, in accordance with the Core and Retail Strategies of the Laois County Development Plan 2017 – 2023 and the Portlaoise Public Realm Strategy “2040 and Beyond: A Vision for Portlaoise: A Strategy for a Better Town Centre””.</i></p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Objectives: It is the objectives of the Council to:</p>									
<p>TCR 01: Improve the quality, vitality and vibrancy of the town centre through the implementation of the Portlaoise Public Realm Strategy “2040 and Beyond: A Vision for Portlaoise: A Strategy for a Better Town Centre”.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>TCR 02: Promote the town centre as a priority location for commercial, civic, social and cultural development and sustainable consolidation.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>TCR 03: Promote the consolidation of the town centre through the use of brownfield and backland sites without compromising streetscapes.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>TCR 04: Encourage and facilitate the reuse and regeneration of derelict and vacant sites and disused buildings, especially upper floors.</p>	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>TCR 05: Facilitate the redevelopment of strategic sites within the town centre such as the Convent, CBS and Parish lands, Fort</p>	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










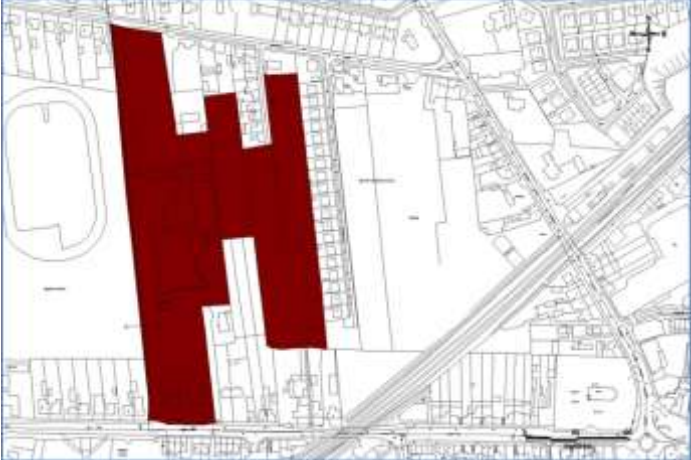









Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
Protector lands, the Maltings Site, and Main Street for a mixture of uses that will contribute to vitality of the central core area.									
TCR O6: Renew, consolidate and develop the existing fabric of the town by achieving a high quality of design in new development and refurbishments.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR O7: Ensure the type, quantum and location of future retail floor space is consistent with the requirements and recommendations of the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023, relevant regional policy frameworks and national planning guidelines.	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR O8: Guide retail development, in accordance with the sequential approach to sustain and strengthen the town centre.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR O9: Promote an appropriate mix of day and night time uses.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR O10: Create attractive and secure pedestrian and cycling links.	⇅	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Comment: Objectives included in the Vision 2040 strategy cover a range of proposals which are broadly positive medium to long term, across all SEOs as they relate to green and blue infrastructure: A low carbon town, walkability, cultural heritage and public realm. Town centre promotion supports Geology and Soil SEOs, as well as PHH, Landscape and modal shift to pedestrian/cycling.									
Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:									
TCR P1: Encourage retail development within the existing town centre. Proposals which would undermine the vitality and viability of the town centre will not be permitted. The sequential approach to retail development set out in the “Retail Planning - Guidelines for Planning Authorities, 2012” will be strictly enforced.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑











Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
TCR P2: Promote the reuse of existing town centre buildings through appropriate design and adaptation.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR P3: Prohibit the proliferation of uses in the town centre which would detract from the amenities of the area or the vitality and viability of the town centre.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR P4: Promote living over the shop and conversion of town centre buildings into housing units.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR P5: Regenerate the town centre in accordance with “Portlaoise 2040 and Beyond A Vision For Portlaoise, A Strategy For A Better Town Centre”.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TCR P6: Encourage the maintenance of original shopfronts, or the reinstatement of traditional shopfronts where poor replacements have been installed.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
TCR P7: Ensure new shopfronts have regard to existing shopfronts and complement the existing character particularly in the Architectural Conservation Area.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
TCR P8: Prohibit internally illuminated fascias or projecting box signs. Concealed strip or flood lighting of fascias and traditional hand painted signs lit by spotlighting may be an acceptable alternative.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
Comment: Town centre viability and support for appropriate uses, and design features provide together for positive long term effects on PHH, Soil and Geology (through promoting reuse), Landscape/townscape, Cultural Heritage and material assets as well as indirectly promoting modal shifts away from car dependency.									
2040 and Beyond: A Vision for Portlaoise The Strategy’s Vision states that “Portlaoise Town Centre will become a place for its people, where residents, workers, and visitors alike will come to enjoy a place that is inclusive,	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<i>accessible, and truly sustainable from a social, economic and environmental perspective. It will be an exemplar town centre where businesses thrive and the pride of the population is reflected in its public spaces”.</i>									
<p>The policies of the strategy are organized under the following key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The creation of a Low Carbon Town Centre; • The Delivery of a Walkable Town Centre; • The “Greening” of Portlaoise Town Centre; • Exposure of Cultural Heritage within Portlaoise Town Centre; • Accommodating Living in Portlaoise Town Centre; • Provision for Working in Portlaoise Town Centre. <p>The strategic policies and interventions of the Public Realm Strategy have been incorporated into all of the various chapters of this plan. In this regard, it is therefore not considered necessary to duplicate such policies and interventions within this chapter.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑











Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p align="center">Opportunity Site 1: Lyster Square Zoning: Town Centre</p>									
	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield retail site; • Large amount of surface car parking; • Prime location for redevelopment of lands fronting onto James Fintan Lalor Avenue; • Located within Portlaoise Architectural Conservation Area; • No Protected structures within the site; • Located within Archaeological Zone; • Public realm improvements would be beneficial and should be consistent with the Guiding Principles for Lyster Square as outlined in Portlaoise Vision 2040. Landscaping proposals including tree planting and ‘greening’ of the area. • Development could be intensified to provide a key landmark or gateway building; • Care should be taken that any building addresses the extensive street frontage available and be designed to an exceptional standard. Development shall comprise a high quality design, fine grained active frontage blocks providing a strong built edge to the surrounding public thoroughfare. New buildings should be permanent, timeless and contemporary structures. Car parking should be provided to the rear of the building or within the structure itself. 									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>Comment: Broadly positive and consistent with SEOs – mitigation measure recommended to align more closely with key principles of Portlaoise A Vision 2040 particularly around green infrastructure and landscaping.</p>									
<p>Opportunity Site 2: Fitzmaurice Place including the School Sites Zoning: Town Centre</p>									
	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↕	↑
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Former school sites (Convent Lands and CBS) occupy a substantial portion of the lands; • Site also includes Laois County Council yards; • Fort of Maryborough is located within site – archaeological issues need to be addressed; • Located within Portlaoise Architectural Conservation Area; • Both schools are Protected Structures; • Conservation principles shall be taken into account in new design; • River Triogue flows through the Convent Lands, which shall be incorporated in a sensitive manner and include provision of a Greenway/Cycle Path; • A Masterplan has been prepared for the Convent Lands which if implemented, would bring substantial benefits to the vitality and vibrancy of the town centre; • A portion of the site is located within Flood Zone A. • Interventions for this area, as described under 'Fort Protector a Heritage Quarter' and 'The Convent, CBS and Parish Lands' in the Portlaoise 2040 									










<p>Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives</p>									
<p>A Vision, should be considered and reflected in development proposals.</p>									
<p>Comment: The opportunity site redevelopment proposals under town centre landuse zoning again is broadly positive and consistent with a number of SEOs, it supports town centre viability. Mitigation measures recommended strengthening and highlighting proposals and interventions identified for this area in the Portlaoise A Visions 2040 to ensure a consistent, strategic approach to development in this area.</p>									
<p>Opportunity Site 3: Centre Point, Mountrath Road Zoning: Residential 2</p>									
									
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield retail site with a disused petrol station located at Mountrath Road, with access also from Harpers Lane; • Extensive surface car park; • Prime location for redevelopment; • Not located within an Architectural Conservation Area; • No Protected Structures within the site; • Public realm improvements would be beneficial and should seek to maximise green and blue infrastructure through landscape design; • Development could be intensified to provide a key landmark or gateway building; • Care should be taken that this building addresses the extensive street frontage available and be designed to an exceptional standard. Development 									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>shall comprise a high quality design, fine grained active frontage blocks providing a strong built edge to the surrounding public thoroughfare. New buildings should be permanent, timeless and contemporary structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Car parking should be provided to the rear of the building or within the structure itself. 									
<p>Comment: Given the previous landuse activity, there may be potential soil contamination associated with historical landuses, but existing measures in the Laois CDP 2017-2023 are sufficient to address these should they arise. Again, additional mitigation measure recommended to enhance opportunity for green and blue infrastructure associated with development proposals.</p>									
<p>Opportunity Site 4: The Maltings site, Mountmellick road Zoning: Residential 2</p> 	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield site; • Planning Permission previously granted (now expired) for a substantial mixed use development; • Prime location for redevelopment adjoining the N80 and Portlaoise Railway Station; 									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large amount of surface car parking on site; • Extensive site curtilage available and cleared for redevelopment; • Not located within an Architectural Conservation Area; • Public realm improvements would be beneficial and should seek to maximise green and blue infrastructure through landscape design. • Development could be intensified to provide a key landmark or gateway building; • Care should be taken that this building addresses the extensive street frontage available and be designed to an exceptional standard. Development shall comprise high quality design, fine grained active frontage blocks providing a strong built edge to the surrounding public thoroughfare. New buildings should be permanent, timeless and contemporary structures. Car parking should be provided to the rear of the building or within the structure itself. 									
<p>Comment: This large site is largely greenfield, comprising grassland with ruderal species.. Its proximity to the town centre and train station supports its potential redevelopment as a residential landuse; additional measures again are recommended to enhance and integrate blue and green infrastructure as part of the design process.</p>									
<p>Opportunity Site 5: Former Bank of Ireland Branch Office/ Prison Officers Club, Bank Place Zoning: Town Centre</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
									
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brownfield site; • Prime location for redevelopment of lands in close proximity to the Main Street and Portlaoise Railway Station; • Located within Portlaoise Architectural Conservation Area; • Two Protected Structures are located within the site; • Located within Archaeological Zone; • Public realm improvements would be beneficial; • Development could be intensified to provide a key landmark building; • Development shall comprise a high quality design, fine grained active frontage blocks providing a strong built edge to the surrounding public thoroughfare. New buildings should be permanent, timeless and contemporary structures. Car parking should be provided to the rear of the building or within the structure itself. <p>Comment: Key location within town centre and close to railway, opportunities to support adaptive re-use of existing buildings, overall positive effects and consistent with SEOs.</p>									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>Key Infrastructure: Strategic Aim: <i>“To enable development in line with the capacity of supporting infrastructure and to require the timely provision of infrastructure needed for the planned development of lands”.</i></p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Objectives: It is an Objective of the Council to:									
<p>KI 01: Facilitate economic and social development through the provision of infrastructure and optimise the return of infrastructure investment.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>KI 02: Promote and encourage the development of the critical mass of Portlaoise and to enhance its strategic location on the National and Regional road and rail network.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>KI 03: Phase growth in line with the capacity of supporting infrastructure.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>KI 04: Facilitate Irish Water in the maintenance, expansion and upgrading of wastewater disposal and water supply infrastructure.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↕	↑
<p>KI 05: Ensure a good quality of life, through maintaining and improving waste water treatment and water supplies and to minimise the adverse impacts of development on the environment, through policies for the management of wastes and emissions.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>KI 06: Seek compliance with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>KI 07: Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchments.</p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
KI O8: Require all new developments to include proposals for Sustainable Drainage Systems.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI O9: Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in accordance with the South Eastern River Basin District River Basin Management Plan/ National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHPLG) and associated Programme of Measures.	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅	↑⇅
KI O10: Ensure developments will not adversely impact on the status of water bodies in accordance with the Water Framework Directive and South Eastern River Basin District River Basin Management Plan National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHPLG).	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI O11: Facilitate, promote and encourage the expansion and improvement of telecommunications, broadband, electricity and gas networks infrastructure subject to proper planning and sustainable development.	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅
Comment: Broadly consistent for a range of SEOS, a number of objectives are recommended for additional mitigation measures to align with the current draft National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 as highlighted in the Scoping Submission by the EPA.									
Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:									
KI P1: Protect both ground and surface water resources and to work with Irish Water to develop and implement Water Safety Plans to protect sources of public water supply and their contributing catchment.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI P2: Work with Irish Water on developing and upgrading the water supply schemes so as to ensure an adequate, resilient, sustainable and economic supply of piped water.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
KI P3: Work with Irish Water on upgrading the wastewater treatment plant in line with the projected future growth of the settlement of Portlaoise.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI P4: Promote and support the implementation of Irish Water's Eastern and Midlands Region Water Supply Project.	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕
KI P5: Assess all applications in the context of available and sufficient public infrastructural facilities, the protection of Surface Water and Groundwater Resources and their associated habitats and species.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI P6: Promote public awareness and involvement in water conservation measures by households, businesses and industries and support the implementation of Energy Efficiency solutions in Water and Waste Water Systems.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI P7: Promote and encourage the harvesting of rainwater to meet non-potable water needs.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
KI P8: Co-operate with and facilitate the work of national telecommunications, broadband, electricity and gas network providers in the improvement, expansion and provision of energy and communication infrastructure subject to proper planning and sustainable development.	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕
Comment: Positive and consistent long terms effects across all SEOs. Irish Water project (KIP4) is going through environmental assessment and effects are identified as liked to be mitigated through this process at this juncture. Two other policies recommended for mitigation.									
Transport and Movement: Strategic Aim: <i>“To promote and facilitate a sustainable transport system that prioritises and provides for walking, cycling and public transport facilities while ensuring sufficient traffic management”.</i>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Objectives: It is an Objective of the Council to:									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
TM 01: To cooperate with NTA and other relevant transport planning bodies in the delivery of a high quality, integrated transport system.	↑	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
TM 02: Facilitate the economic and social development of the town through the provision and efficient use of transport infrastructure.	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
TM 03: Cooperate and facilitate Irish Rail, Bus Eireann and private operatives in the provision and frequency of public transport services, operation of services and facilities.	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
TM 04: To facilitate the provision of a “park and ride” on the CBS lands to serve Portlaoise Railway Station which incorporates car parking and a bus stop/terminus.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	↑
TM 05: To facilitate the provision of a “park and ride” adjacent to Lismard Business Park to serve the neighbouring school campuses.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	↑
TM 06: To promote the development of a transport interchange on James Fintan Lalor Avenue including bus stops and facilities in conjunction with the NTA.	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑	0	0	↑
TM 07: Encourage, promote and facilitate a modal shift towards more sustainable forms of transport in all new developments.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM 08: Promote sustainable and compact forms of development which reduce reliance of private car based transport.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM 09: Concentrate people intensive development in areas easily accessible to public transport.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM 10: Significantly reduce carbon emissions through	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
interventions at James Fintan Lalor / Lyster Square.									
TM O11: Improve the pedestrian experience by reducing car dominance on James Fintan Lalor Avenue.	O	↑			↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM O12: Improve pedestrian links, based on desire lines, from Main Street through Laneways and between the old and new shopping areas.	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM O13: Seek a 40% increase in bicycle use by 2040.	↑	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM O14: To investigate, in conjunction with Irish Rail, the reopening and reuse of the Togher train line from Portlaoise Railway Station as part of the overall development of Togher National Enterprise Park.	↕	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↕	↑
Comment: Broadly positive and consistent with SEOs relating to PHH, MA, CC and Air Quality. Certain objectives such as the strategic aim and TM07 provide for integrated landuse and transport planning, identified as given rise to a wider range of long term, direct and indirect effects across all SEOs. Other objectives derived from the 2040 and Beyond: A Vision for Portlaoise such as TM11 and TM012 will contribute also to a higher quality public realm as well as improved air quality, this in turn has positive effects on Landscape and Cultural heritage SEOs. Increasing bicycle use and rebalancing of car parking provision (TM013 and TM014) indirectly contributes to noise and air quality emissions reductions, positive effects for these SEOs also identified.									
Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:									
TM P1: Improve and provide pedestrian linkages, cycle networks and permeability including blueways and greenways throughout the town.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM P2: Examine the feasibility of introducing clear, direct pedestrian routes between the shopping areas, and provide pedestrian access across James Fintan Lalor Avenue and Lyster Square.	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM P3: Provide adequate, secure and dry bicycle parking facilities at appropriate locations.	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM P4: Ensure all footpaths provide access for disabled and	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	O	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
mobility impaired persons.									
TM P5: Facilitate and implement appropriate measures to reduce or manage traffic associated with schools to regularize vehicular movements and alleviate congestion.	↑	↑	0	0	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM P6: Reserve all lands for future relief roads free of development in conjunction with the requirements of the Roads Authority.	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0	0	0
TM P7: Complete the inner relief road system for Portlaoise including the links between Timahoe Road and the Abbeyleix Road, the Dublin road and the Borris Road, Rathleague and Meelick and the Stradbally and Dublin Road.	↕	↕	↕	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↕
TM P8: Provide for improvements to the national road network, including reserving corridors for proposed routes, free of development, so as not to compromise future road schemes.	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕	↕
TM P9: Prevent inappropriate development on lands adjacent to the existing national road network, which would adversely affect the safety, current and future capacity and function of national roads and having regard to possible future upgrades of the national roads and junctions.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM P10: Ensure that any development permitted along national roads is in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads–Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) or any updated version.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
TM P11: Facilitate a limited level of new accesses or the intensified use of existing accesses to the national road network on the approaches to or exit to Portlaoise that are subject to a speed limit zone between 50 kmh and 60 kmh otherwise known	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	0










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
<p>as the transition zone. Such accesses will be considered where they facilitate orderly urban development and would not result in a proliferation of such entrances, leading to a diminution in the role of these transitional zones. The Council will have regard to the nature of the proposed development and the volume of traffic to be generated by it and the implications for the safety, capacity and efficient operation of the national road. A Road Safety Audit, prepared in accordance with the Design Manual for Roads and Bridges (NRA, 2010), shall be submitted where appropriate</p>									
<p>Comment: Positive effects identified for all SEOs relating to TMP01 in particular. Other measures such as bicycle spaces, and addressing school congestion will indirectly reduce emissions associated with traffic, with positive long term effects relating to climate change and air quality and noise. Several of the other specific proposals such as TM P7 have been identified and assessed through the SEA ER of the Laois CDP 2017 -2023. That concluded (SEA ER page 126) “Potential conflicts would be mitigated by the measures which have been integrated into the Plan and are identified in Section 9 of this report and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments or granting of permission. Projects arising would also facilitate public transport, improving sustainable mobility and associated interactions (SEOs C1 HH1) as well as facilitating the preferred scenario for the Plan (see Section 7) and associated beneficial environmental effects (SEOs B1 B2 B3 PHH1 S1 W1 W2 W3 M1 M2 M3 C1 CH1 CH2 L1). Potential adverse effects would be mitigated by the measures which have been integrated into the Plan (see Section 9) and any additional requirements arising through lower tier assessments or granting of permission”. Examples of existing mitigation measures in the CDP 2017 -2023 include the following: TRANS6 - Ensure that all proposed plans or projects relating to transportation (including walking, cycling, rail, bus and roads) and any associated improvement works, individually or in combination with other plans or projects, are subject to Appropriate Assessment Screening to ensure there are no likely significant effects on the integrity (defined by the structure and function) of any Natura 2000 site(s) and that the requirements of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive are fully satisfied. Where the plan or project is likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, or there is uncertainty with regard to effects, it shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment. The plan or project will proceed only after it has been ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site or where in the absence of alternative solutions, the project is deemed imperative for reasons of overriding public interest, all in accordance with the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.</p>									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
It is assessed that for several of the SEOs above, sufficient and appropriate mitigation measures through development management and design measures exist to address potential adverse effects relating to policies such as the Orbital Road and other measures such as reservation of lands – TMP 06 which as proposed relates to reservation of lands only, and not landuse activities.									
Housing: Strategy Aim: <i>“To deliver new residential development, to support the existing community infrastructure, recreation and amenity facilities and provide new facilities in tandem with new housing”.</i>	↕	↑	↕	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↑
Objectives: It is an objective of the Council to:									
H O1: Ensure that sufficient zoned land is available at appropriate locations to cater for the envisaged population growth of the Core Strategy.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H O2: Promote and encourage the development of the critical mass of Portlaoise and to enhance its strategic location on the National and Regional road and rail network.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H O3: Facilitate the provision of housing in a range of locations to meet the needs of the population, with particular emphasis on facilitating access to housing to suit different household and tenure needs, in a sustainable manner.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	0
H O4: To ensure compliance with the provisions of Part V of the Act (as amended) and to integrate such housing so as to prevent social segregation within residential developments.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	0
H O5: To utilise the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 (Vacant Site Levy) to facilitate the appropriate development of vacant sites (residential zoned) that are in need of renewal or regeneration.	↑	↑	0	↑	↑	0	↑	↑	↑
H O6: To encourage the sequential development of sustainable serviced residentially zoned lands in a sustainable manner.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
H O7: To promote a higher density at appropriate locations, particularly close to the town centre and public transport facilities.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H O8: To encourage appropriate housing development on infill and brownfield sites subject to preservation of existing residential amenity, the provision of a high quality design respecting the established character, density and layout, compliance with all traffic safety, quantitative and qualitative standards of the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H O9: To promote the efficient use of the Convent, CBS and Parish Lands for residential and other uses.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	O
H O10: To promote the reoccupation of vacant residential stock within Portlaoise Town Centre, including ‘Living Above the Shop’ units.	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	O
H O11: To increase the residential population of Portlaoise Town Centre in accordance with the objectives of the Public Realm Strategy.	O	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	O
H O12: To ensure an appropriate and sustainable mix of dwelling types, sizes and tenures to cater for all members of society, including homeless persons, the elderly, disabled and travellers.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
H O13: To ensure provision of lifetime adaptable homes that can accommodate the changing needs of a household over time.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	O	O	O
H O14: To identify, acquire and provide suitable sites, accommodation and facilities for the housing and resettlement of travelling families.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	O	O	O










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
H O15: To secure the provision of social infrastructure, community and recreational facilities in tandem with residential development.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H O16: To maintain residential use of structures located in the Housing Protection Areas and resist any change of use.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Comment: Objectives such as H06 and H010 are positive for a range of SEOs as they reinforce town centre development and landuse; -reuse of existing buildings and brownfield this in turn reduces car based travel requirements and longer term positive effects related to higher density development in serviced town centres, with accompanying benefits for climate change, air quality and noise; -reuse of existing buildings and brownfield development contributes to cultural heritage and enhanced streetscapes. Others such as HO05 promote use of vacant sites, these policies contribute to more efficient use of material assets through higher density development – with indirect long term positive effects on MA and W SEOs.									
Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:									
H P1: Ensure that sufficient zoned land is available at appropriate locations to cater for the envisaged population growth of the Core Strategy.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H P2: Require all new residential developments to be consistent with the Core Strategy of the Laois County Development Plan 2107-2023 and the settlement strategy of this plan.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H P3: Promote and encourage the development of the critical mass of Portlaoise and to enhance its strategic location on the National and Regional road and rail network.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H P4: Facilitate the provision of housing in a range of locations to meet the needs of the population, with particular emphasis on facilitating access to housing to suit different household and tenure needs, in a sustainable manner.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
H P5: To require the creation of sustainable communities and high quality residential areas at appropriate locations with a mix tenure and adequate amenities and facilities and to meet the	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
standards and guidance of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable Residential Development In Urban Areas, Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DEHG (2009); • Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2015); • The Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets, DTTS and DECLG (2013); • The development management standards of the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023; • Technical Guidance Document L – Conservation of Fuel and Energy – Dwellings. 									
Comment: Positive effects across SEOs relating to housing provision and variety due to adherence to Core Strategy, Opportunity Sites and Town Centre promotion incentives, allocation of residential zoning lands, service led infrastructure and national guidance and guidelines.									
Community Services & Culture: Strategic Aim: <i>“To deliver, facilitate and support the provision of a broad range of high quality community, educational and cultural facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs of the population”.</i>	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Objectives: It is an Objective of the Council to:									
CSC O1: Facilitate the provision of social infrastructure and to provide access to new and existing community and social facilities.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC O2: Facilitate the improvement and provision of community facilities, library and emergency services in appropriate locations.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC O3: Facilitate the improvement and provision of educational, childcare and healthcare facilities in appropriate and accessible locations.	0	↑	0	0	0	↑	0	0	0










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
CSC O4: Facilitate implementation of the Laois Age Friendly County Strategy 2016-2021.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC O5: Promote the amenities and ensure the accessibility of arts and cultural facilities within the ownership of Laois County Council.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	0	0
CSC O6: Facilitate the roll out of community policing and neighbourhood watch schemes.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p>Comment: Positive effects for PHH SEOs in particular; indirect positive effects can be identified for objectives around community policing in relation to sense of place and potential antisocial behaviour, littering etc. Where facilities are provided within walking distance of communities, increased opportunities for modal shift away from car based journeys therefore indirect, positive long term effects for Material Assets and climate change.</p>									
<p>Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:</p>									
CSC P1: Ensure provision of sufficient zoned lands to allow for expansion of existing and provision of new educational facilities.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	0
CSP 2: Facilitate the development of and expansion of services, amenities and facilities to cater for all society members, ages and community groups.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	0	0
CSC P3: Facilitate the development of primary, second-level, third-level outreach, vocational and lifelong learning facilities and digital capacity for distance learning including fourth level education, lifelong learning and Up-skilling generally.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CSC P4: Ensure the provision and implementation of primary and secondary education facilities in concert with the planning and sustainable development of residential areas in order to maximise the opportunities for use of walking, cycling and use of public transport.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comments: CSP P1 promotes integrated landuse and planning which creates positive, long term effects and consistency with all SEOs. For other policies</p>									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
existing mitigation measures are embedded in the Laois CDP 2017-2023 and the LAP to avoid adverse effects on other SEOs.									
<p>Built Heritage: Strategic Aim: <i>“To protect, conserve and manage the built heritage of the town and to encourage sensitive and sustainable development to ensure its preservation for future generations”.</i></p>	O	↑	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	O
Objectives: It is an Objective of the Council to:									
<p>BH O1: Protect, conserve and enhance the built environment, through promoting awareness, utilising relevant heritage legislation and promoting good quality urban design.</p>	O	↑	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑
<p>BH O2: Conserve, protect and enhance the built heritage of Portlaoise, including the Architectural Conservation Area, all Protected Structures and attendant grounds, Recorded Monuments and Places and the Zone of Archaeological Significance in accordance with best conservation practice.</p>	O	↑	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑
<p>BH O3: Positively consider proposals to improve, alter, extend or change the use of protected structures so as to render them viable for modern use, subject to consultation with suitably qualified Conservation Architects and / or other relevant experts, suitable design, materials and construction methods.</p>	O	↑	O	↑	O	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>BH O4: Ensure all development works on or at the sites of protected structures, including any site works necessary, shall be carried out using best heritage practice for the protection and preservation of those aspects or features of the structures / site that render it worthy of protection.</p>	O	↑	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑
<p>BH O5: Support the re-introduction of traditional features on protected structures where there is evidence that such features (e.g. window styles, finishes etc.) previously existed.</p>	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
BH 06: Strongly resist the demolition of protected structures, unless it can be demonstrated that exceptional circumstances exist.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
BH 07: Consider the change of use of protected structures, provided that it can be shown that the structure, character, appearance and setting will not be adversely affected or where it can be shown it is necessary to have an economic use to enable its upkeep.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
BH 08: Ensure the protection within Architectural Conservation Areas, of all those buildings, spaces, archaeological sites, trees, street furniture, views and other aspects of the environment which form an essential part of their character, as set out in their character appraisals.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
BH 09: Ensure the design of any development in Architectural Conservation Areas, including any changes of use of an existing building, should preserve and / or enhance the character and appearance of the Architectural Conservation Area as a whole.	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BH 10: Promote schemes for the conservation and enhancement of the character and appearance of Architectural Conservation Areas.	0	↑	0	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
BH 11: No development in the vicinity of a feature included in the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) will be permitted which seriously detracts from the setting of the feature or which is seriously injurious to its cultural or educational value.	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑
BH 12: Ensure archaeological assessment is carried out as required and promote ‘preservation in situ’ of archaeological remains and settings in developments that would impact upon	0	↑	0	0	0	0	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
archaeological sites and/or features.									
BH O13: Protect previously unknown archaeological sites and features, including underwater sites, where they are discovered during development works.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
BH O14: Facilitate public access to National Monuments in State or Local Authority care.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
BH O15: Facilitate the linking of the Fort site to the Old St Peter’s Churchyard and to the Ridge Burial Ground.	↑	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
Comment: The objectives above are positive for PHH, Cultural Heritage and landscape in particular. In addition, they complement the promotion and support of the town centre by encouraging reuse of existing buildings and the fabric of the streetscape; indirect positive effects relating to soil and geology (reuse rather than new build) and Climate change (reuse above new build); making the town centre attractive through enhancing access and existing heritage can indirectly enhance greater residential and economic activity within the town centre.									
Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:									
BH P1: Ensure heritage assets that are the focus for tourism development are appropriately managed and their special interest conserved from potential adverse effects from visitors or development in general and that best practice standards in relation for the environmental management of tourism enterprises are adhered to.	O	↑	O	↑	O	O	↑	↑	↑
BH P2: Support and promote, with the co-operation of landowners, public access to heritage sites and features at appropriate locations whilst ensuring heritage related development does not result in negative impacts on the fabric or setting of Laois’s heritage assets.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
BH P3: Support and promote, with the co-operation of key stakeholders, the development of the Fort of Maryborough in Portlaoise and ensure that any development will not result in	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑

Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
negative impacts on the fabric or setting of the site.									
BH P4: Support the implementation of Ireland’s Ancient East by facilitating the provision of visitor information– in line with the policies and objectives with respect to heritage sites and integrating the objectives of Ireland’s Ancient East with transport programmes in the County.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
BH P5: Encourage and support the provision of foreign language interpretation interventions in order to ensure the appropriate interpretation and appreciation of the county’s heritage asset.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	↑	↑
Comment: Positive effects in relation to cultural heritage and population in particular.									
Natural Heritage: Strategic Aim: <i>“To protect, enhance, create and connect natural heritage, green spaces and high quality amenity areas throughout Portlaoise for biodiversity and recreation”.</i>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Objectives: It is the Objective of the Council to:									
NH O1: Identify, protect and conserve natural heritage sites, nationally designated conservation sites and non designated sites in co-operation and consultation with the relevant statutory authorities.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O2: Seek integration of all elements of existing green infrastructure into new developments, prevent fragmentation and mitigate potential impacts on the existing green infrastructure network.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O3: Require the preservation and maintenance of suitable mature trees, hedgerows and natural heritage features in new developments.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O4: Seek to preserve, protect and maintain trees of special	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
amenity, conservation or landscape value.									
NH O5: Carry out and require the planting of native trees, hedgerows and vegetation in all new developments.	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O6: Open up visual and physical access via the River Triogue from People’s Park as a continuous pedestrian and cycle link through the town centre, and potentially through the Convent Lands having regard to ecological considerations including protected species and habitats .	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O7: Reconnect the Triogue Linear Park with the residential areas to the north of the Town Centre.	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O8: Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats, stepping stones, corridors and features.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O9: Provide recreational amenities such as playgrounds and outdoor gym equipment within existing areas of open space.	0	↑	0	0	↑	0	0	↑	↑
NH O10: Protect environmental quality and implement site appropriate mitigation measures with respect to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O11: Maintain riverbank vegetation along watercourses and ensure protection of a 20m riparian buffer zone on Greenfield sites and maintain free from development.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH O12: Facilitate the work of agencies redressing the issue of terrestrial and aquatic invasive species.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Overall positive effects for SEOs identified relating to natural heritage and also multifunctional aspects of ecological enhancement including landscape. Health and air quality. Mitigation measures recommended for NH05 and NH06 to further strengthen and enhance natural heritage considerations.</p>									










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
Policies: It is a Policy of the Council to:									
NH P1: Ensure heritage assets that are the focus for tourism development are appropriately managed and their special interest conserved from potential adverse effects from visitors or development in general and that best practice standards in relation to the environmental management of tourism enterprises are adhered to.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH P2: Develop a greenway/blueway walking and cycling route along the River Triogue.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH P3: Support and promote, with the co-operation of landowners, public access to heritage sites and features at appropriate locations whilst ensuring heritage related development does not result in negative impacts on the fabric or setting of the town’s heritage assets.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
NH P3: Support the implementation of Ireland’s Ancient East by facilitating the provision of visitor information in line with the policies and objectives with respect to heritage sites and integrating the objectives of Ireland’s Ancient East with transport programmes in the County.	O	↑	O	O	O	O	↑	O	O
NH P4: Protect environmental quality in Portlaoise through the implementation of European, National and Regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Flood Management: Strategic Aim: <i>“To manage flood risk in Portlaoise”</i>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Objectives: It is an Objective of the Council to:									
FM O1: Manage flood risk in accordance with the requirements	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).									
FM O2: Support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the South Eastern CFRAM Programme.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
Policies: It is the Policy of the Council to:									
FM P1: Comply with DoEHLG Guidelines “The Planning system and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (2009) and any future Guidelines in relation to flood risk.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
FM P2: Ensure development proposals within the areas outlined on Flood Risk Map are the subject of Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment as outlined in “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines” (2009).	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
FM P3: Ensure all development on lands identified as being at risk of flooding must demonstrate, through the carrying out of a Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment and the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems, that any flood risk can be adequately managed and the use or development of the lands will not cause unacceptable adverse impacts elsewhere.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
FM P4: Co-operate with the OPW in relation to the development of the Catchment Flood Risk Assessment (CFRAM) South Eastern River Basin and for the River Triogue and its tributaries in particular and to comply with any guidance and recommendations of this flood risk management plan.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
FM P5: Incorporate the recommendations of the South Eastern CFRAM into any site specific flood risk assessment undertaken	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑










Portlaoise LAP Policies and Objectives									
for individual sites/areas.									
FM P6: Provide an appropriate set back from the edge of the watercourse and proposed developments to allow access for channel clearing/maintenance.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
FM P7: Adhere to the requirements of the Inland Fisheries and National Parks and Wildlife Service in the construction of any flood alleviation measures.	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
FM P8: Comply with relevant provisions of the Arterial Drainage Action, 1945 and the Arterial Drainage (Amendment) Act 1995.	↕	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Application of guidelines is consistent with SEOs and avoids potential adverse effects arising from in appropriate development and landuse activities.</p> <p>FM07 in particular and FM06 are positive and provide for input and recommendations from statutory bodies such as NPWS to be fully applied in flood risk management which is a very important consideration.</p>									

Land use Zoning Assessment

Land Use Zoning									
<p>Town Centre (Primary / Core Retail Area) Tier 1 lands Amount: 60.44ha.</p> <p>Objective: <i>“To protect and enhance the special physical and social character of the existing Town Centre and to provide for and improve retailing and commercial activities”.</i></p>	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Positive and consistent with all SEOs, reflects national policy, core strategy and promotes consolidation of town centre. Subject to adherence and implementation of relevant polices and measures including NH01, FM07 and FM08 positive long term impacts are identified in particular for population and human health, material assets, Landscape, Cultural Heritage and Soil and Geology SEOs</p>									
<p>Residential 1 Existing Residential Amount: 369.8ha.</p> <p>Objective: <i>“To protect and improve the amenity of developed residential communities”.</i></p>	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○	○
<p>Comment: Confirms existing land use</p>									
<p>Residential 2 – New Proposed Residential Amount: 67.81ha.</p> <p>Objective: <i>“To provide for new residential development, residential services and community facilities”.</i></p>	↕	↑	↕	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↑

Land Use Zoning									
<p>Comment: Most of the impacts identified for residential development zones are identified as being mitigated at project level through development management. Positive impacts were identified for population and human health, plus a number of material assets such as flood risk and sustainable transport.</p>									
<p>Strategic Residential Reserve Amount: 33.69ha. Objective: “To provide lands for future development in line with national and regional targets”.</p>	↕	↑	↕	↕	↑	↕	↕	↕	↑
<p>Comment: As this land use is identified as strategic residential, impacts, should development take place over the lifetime of the plan, would be similar to those identified for Residential R2.</p>									
<p>Open Space & Amenity Amount: 143.6ha. Objective: “To preserve, provide for and improve active and passive recreational open space”.</p>	↕↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Generally, impacts are positive for a range of parameters including soil and geology, population and human health, flood risk, water quality and landscape. The opportunity to enhance these areas through public realm improvements and/or green and blue infrastructure measures contribute positively in the longer term to biodiversity, water and climate change adaptation SEOs also.</p>									
<p>Community, Educational & Institutional Services/Facilities Amount: 119.6ha. Objective: “To protect and provide for local neighbourhood, community, ecclesiastical, recreational and educational facilities”.</p>	↕	↑	↑	↕	↑	↑	↑	↑	↑
<p>Comment: Again on undeveloped lands, negative impacts are identified for biodiversity and soil due to development on greenfield sites, but for many SEOs these can be mitigated through development management and relevant policies and objectives in the Plan. Positive impacts are</p>									

Land Use Zoning									
identified for population and human health, transport and air quality for these zonings.									
Industrial & Warehousing Amount: 33.09ha. Objective: "To provide for and improve industrial and warehousing development".	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅
Comment: The range of impacts will vary according to the potential use, however for most of the SEOs, the impacts are considered to be addressed through mitigation at development management level. In the absence of mitigation, this zoning could give rise to adverse effects on the River Barrow and Nore SAC. However, existing policy provision in the LAP including Key Plan Objectives (numbers 7 and 8), as well as other measures including NH01 are identified as providing sufficient protection. Moreover, green and blue infrastructure measures may also be integrated within this landuse zonings and offer longer term positive effects on Biodiversity, and Water SEOs in relation to potential ecological connectivity along the Triogue River.									
Enterprise & Employment Amount: 179 ha. Objective: "To provide for enterprise and employment activities".	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅
Comment: The largest of these lands are close to the M7 and existing plans and objectives in the LAP both support this as well as investigating the potential re-opening of the railway line at Togher (TM O14). A Masterplan is also to be prepared for these lands which will further integrated environmental considerations at local level. Subject to implementation of appropriate mitigation measures, no significant adverse effects are identified for this zoning.									
Transport & Utilities Amount: 73.75ha. Objective: "To provide for the needs of all transport users and other utility providers".	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅
Comment: A large area in the south west of the plan area is buffered by the Enterprise and Employment use. Other areas identified for this zoning include the wastewater treatment plant and reserved lands associate with transport.									

Land Use Zoning									
<p>A wedge shaped Utilities zoning east of the Golf course comprises grassland with built land and artificial surfaces and some hedgerows. It is approximately 300m northwest of the River Triogue. Mitigation measures in the plan including KI P1, KI O8, NH O12, and NH O11 will address potential adverse effects at development management level.</p>									
<p>General Business Amount: 61.53ha Objective: <i>“To provide for and improve commercial activities”.</i></p>	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅	⇅
<p>Comment: Within the plan area, this zoning largely corresponds to existing landuse activities. The area of undeveloped land identified for this zoning is an area south of Portlaoise Retail Park, which, based on a review of aerial photograph is characterized by agricultural land – of note is that the River Triogue flows through this land so key mitigation measures relating to Flood risk management, buffers for watercourses, ground and surface water quality and integration of green and blue infrastructure are important for this particular area.</p>									
<p>Neighbourhood Centre Amount: 9.28ha. Objective: <i>“To serve the needs of new/existing residential areas”.</i></p>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<p>Comment: This largely confirms existing land uses.</p>									

Appendix B Review of Plans, Policies and Programmes

Title	Summary
Sustainable Development	
EU Environmental Action Programme to 2020	<p>The 7th EU Environmental Action Programme is more strategic in nature and identifies three main areas to guide EU environmental policy and research. The three thematic priority objectives are intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protect nature and strengthen ecological resilience; • Boost sustainable resource-efficient low-carbon growth, and • Effectively address environment-related threats to health.
Environmental Assessment	
SEA Directive - Assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment, (2001/42/EC) 2001	<p>This Directive requires plan makers to carry out an assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme before the plan or programme is adopted.</p>
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (85/337/EEC)	<p>The EIA Directive (85/337/EEC) came into force in 1985 and applies to a wide range of public and private projects, which are defined in Annexes I and II of the Directive. This has been amended with Directive 2011/92/EU and the 2014 Directive (see below).</p>
Environmental Impact Assessment Directive (2014/52/EC)	<p>It is necessary to amend Directive 2011/92/EU in order to strengthen the quality of the environmental impact assessment procedure, align that procedure with the principles of smart regulation and enhance coherence and synergies with other Union legislation and policies, as well as strategies and policies developed by Member States in areas of national competence. The Directive now applies from May 2017.</p>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
UN Convention of Biological Diversity, 1992	<p>The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) entered into force in December 1993. It has 3 main objectives:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The conservation of biological diversity; 2. The sustainable use of the components of biological diversity; 3. The fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources.
The Convention on Wetlands of	<p>Protection and conservation of wetlands and habitats of importance to waterfowl</p>

Title	Summary
International Importance (The Ramsar Convention) 1971 and subsequent amendments	
EU Biodiversity Strategy to 2020	<p>In 2011 the European Commission adopted a new strategy to halt the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services in the EU by 2020. There are six main targets, and 20 actions to help Europe reach its goal. The six targets cover:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full implementation of EU nature legislation to protect biodiversity. • Better protection for ecosystems, and more use of green infrastructure. • More sustainable agriculture and forestry. • Better management of fish stocks. • Tighter controls on invasive alien species. • A bigger EU contribution to averting global biodiversity loss.
EU Directive on the Conservation of Wild Birds, (2009/147/EC) 1979. Known as the Birds Directive	<p>This Directive ensures far-reaching protection for all of Europe's wild birds, identifying 194 species and sub-species among them as particularly threatened and in need of special conservation measures. Member States are required to designate Special Protection Areas (SPAs) for 194 particularly threatened species and all migratory bird species. SPAs are scientifically identified areas critical for the survival of the targeted species, such as wetlands. They are part of the Natura 2000 ecological network established under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC.</p>
EU Directive on the Conservation of Natural Habitats and of Wild Flora and Fauna, (92/43/EEC), 1992 known as the Habitats Directive	<p>The main goal of the Directive is to promote the maintenance of biodiversity by requiring Member States to take measures to maintain, protect or restore natural habitats, animal and plant species to a favourable conservation status, introducing robust protection for those habitats and species of European importance. For Ireland, these habitats include raised bogs, active blanket bogs, turloughs, sand dunes, machair (flat sandy plains on the north and west coasts), heaths, lakes, rivers, woodlands, estuaries and sea inlets. The Directive provides for a network of protected sites known as The Natura 2000 network, which limits the extent and nature of development which may have a detrimental effect on the flora or fauna identified therein.</p>
European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011	<p>These regulations consolidate the European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations 1997 to 2005 and the European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats)(Control of Recreational Activities) Regulations 2010, as well as addressing transposition failures identified in the CJEU judgments.</p>

Title	Summary
	Articles 6(1) and (2) of the Regulations require Member States to take appropriate conservation measures to maintain and restore habitats and species, for which a site has been designated, to a favourable conservation status. Furthermore the Regulations require Member States to avoid damaging activities that could significantly disturb these species or deteriorate the habitats of the protected species or habitat types. Under these regulations any plan or project likely to have a significant effect on a Natura 2000 site, either individually or in combination with other plans or projects, shall undergo an Appropriate Assessment to determine its implications for the site. The competent authorities can only agree to the plan or project after having ascertained that it will not adversely affect the integrity of the site concerned. In exceptional circumstances, a plan or project may still be allowed to go ahead, in spite of a negative assessment, provided there are no alternative solutions and the plan or project is considered to be of overriding public interest.
Green Infrastructure Strategy	The European Commission in May 2013 adopted a Green Infrastructure Strategy, ' <i>to promote the deployment of green infrastructure in the EU in urban and rural areas</i> '. This is a key step in implementing the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy and specifically Target 2 that requires that ' <i>by 2020, ecosystems and their services are maintained and enhanced by establishing green infrastructure and restoring at least 15% of degraded ecosystems</i> '. Green Infrastructure (GI) is contributing to all other targets of the EU Biodiversity strategy – in particular the full implementation of the Birds and Habitats Directive (target 1) – and to maintain and enhance biodiversity in the wider countryside and the marine environment (targets 3 and 4).
Population and Human Health	
The Stockholm Convention	The Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants is a global treaty to protect human health and the environment from chemicals that remain intact in the environment for long periods, become widely distributed geographically, accumulate in the fatty tissue of humans and wildlife, and have adverse effects to human health or to the environment.
Several environmental parameters interact and impact on human health including water quality, infrastructure, air quality, soil, cultural heritage and landscape; the plans, policies and programmes associated with these are presented under thematic headings as appropriate.	
Geology and Soil	
EU Soil Thematic Strategy	In September 2006, the European Commission published the final Thematic Strategy for Soil Protection (COM(2006)231 final) and a proposal for a Directive establishing a framework for the protection of soil

Title	Summary
	across the EU (COM(2006)232). The objective of the strategy is to protect and ensure the sustainable use of soil, based on the guiding principles of preserving soil functions, preventing further degradation and restoring degraded soils to a level of functionality consistent with current and intended use. Once adopted the European Soil Thematic Strategy will guide and frame Ireland's approach to developing its own soil protection strategy.
Water Resources	
Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) as amended	<p>The Water Framework Directive (WFD) was adopted in 2000 in an effort to establish a framework for the protection of waterbodies within the EU including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inland surface waters; groundwater; transitional waters; and coastal waters. <p>The key aims of the WFD are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the scope of water protection to all waters, surface waters and groundwater; • Achieving "good status" for all waters by a set deadline; • Water management based on river basins; • "Combined approach" of emission limit values and quality standards; • Getting the prices right; • Getting the citizen involved more closely, and • Streamlining legislation. <p>Its ultimate objective is to achieve "good ecological and chemical status" for all Community waters by 2015.</p>
Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Directive aims to establish a common framework for assessing and reducing the risk that floods within the European Union pose to human health, the environment, property and economic activity.
The Drinking Water Directive (DWD), (98/83/EC) 1998	This Directive is intended to protect human health by laying down healthiness and purity requirements which must be met by drinking water within the Community.
Groundwater Directive, (2006/118/EC) 2006	This directive establishes a regime which sets underground water quality standards and introduces measures to prevent or limit inputs of pollutants into groundwater.
EC Bathing Water Quality Directive, (2006/7/EC) 2006	This Directive strengthens the rules guaranteeing bathing water quality It supplements Directive 2000/60/EC on water protection and management. Each year, the Member States are required to identify the bathing waters in their territory and define the length of the bathing season. They shall

Title	Summary
	establish monitoring at the location most used by bathers or where the risk of pollution is greatest.
Climate and Air Quality	
Kyoto Protocol	The Protocol was initially adopted on 11 December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, and entered into force on 16 February 2005. To date 191 states have signed and ratified the protocol. Following the Conference of Parties to the Climate Change Convention (COP) meeting in Copenhagen 2009, the EU revised its commitment to reducing greenhouse gases by increasing the target to 20% reduction on 1990 levels by 2020.
The Ambient Air Quality and Cleaner Air for Europe (CAFE) Directive	The EU objective in relation to air quality is <i>'to achieve levels of air quality that do not result in unacceptable impacts on, and risks to, human health and the environment'</i> .
Material Assets	
EU Directive on Waste, (2006/12/EC), 2006	This Directive requires EU States to publish waste management plans. It requires a system of permits and registrations to be put in place to authorize all waste management infrastructure, as well as setting down the basic requirements that need to be satisfied for these statutory authorizations to be issued.
EU Directive on Waste (2008/98/EC), 2008	This Directive establishes a legal framework for the treatment of waste within the Community. It aims at protecting the environment and human health through the prevention of the harmful effects of waste generation and waste management. The Directive requires Member States to take measures for the treatment of their waste in line with the following hierarchy which is listed in order of priority: -Prevention; -Preparing for reuse; -Recycling; - Other recovery, notably energy recovery; -Disposal.
EU Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC), 1991	The aim of the Urban Waste Water Directive is to protect inland surface waters from the adverse effects of discharges of urban wastewater and discharge of certain biodegradable industrial waste water (particularly from the agro-food industry).
Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources	Directive 2009/28/EC on the promotion of the use of energy from renewable sources establishes the basis for the achievement of the EU's 20% renewable energy target by 2020. Under the terms of the Directive, each Member State is set an individually binding renewable energy target, which will contribute to the achievement of the overall EU goal. Each Member State is required to adopt a national renewable energy action plan.

Title	Summary
Cultural Heritage Archaeology and Built Heritage	
The World Heritage Convention	The World Heritage Convention was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) in November 1972. The World Heritage Convention aims to promote cooperation among nations to protect heritage around the world that is of such outstanding universal value that its conservation is important for current and future generations.
European Convention on the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage, 1992 (The Valletta Convention)	This Convention was ratified by Ireland in 1997 and as such the Planning Authority is legally bound by it. The aim of the Convention is to <i>'protect the archaeological heritage as a source of the European collective memory and as an instrument for historical and scientific study'</i> . It requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process.
Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe, 1985 (Granada Convention)	Ratified by Ireland in 1997, the 1985 Convention for the Protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe is intended to reinforce and promote policies for the conservation and enhancement of Europe's heritage. The Convention is dual purpose, involving the promotion of architectural heritage policies while fostering European wide co-operation measures. Covering monuments, groups of buildings and sites of importance, the Convention requires a national inventory of architectural heritage to be developed. Legal protection measures must be established, with a system of formal authorisation required for works affecting protected sites and structures. Architectural heritage conservation considerations are required to feature in the Convention signatories' town and Regional planning processes.
Landscape	
The European Landscape Convention 2000	The 2000 European Landscape Convention, adopted in Florence (and was ratified by Ireland in 2002), requires a commitment to introduce policies on landscape protection and management. It promotes the protection, management and planning of EU landscapes as a response to European wide concerns that the quality and diversity of landscapes were deteriorating. The underlying purpose of the Convention is to encourage public authorities to adopt policies and measures at local, Regional, National and International level to protect and manage landscapes throughout Europe.
Other relevant conventions, plans, policies and programmes	
The Aarhus Convention	The Aarhus Convention establishes a number of rights of the public (individuals and their associations) with regard to the environment. The Parties to the Convention are required to make the necessary provisions so that public authorities (at national, regional or local level) will contribute to these rights to

Title	Summary
	become effective.
<p>Environmental Liability Directive 2004/35/EC</p>	<p>The overall objective of the Directive and the Regulations is to prevent and remedy environmental damage by holding operators whose activities have caused environmental damage financially liable for remedying the damage. The Environmental Liability Regulations 2008 define environmental damage under three categories:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Damage to natural habitats and protected species - any damage that has significant adverse effects on reaching or maintaining the favourable conservation status of European designated habitats or species (i.e. those covered by the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)). 2. Water damage - damage which significantly adversely affects the ecological, chemical and/or quantitative status and/or ecological potential of waters covered in the Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC). 3. Land damage - any contamination that creates a significant risk of human health being adversely affected as a result of the direct or indirect introduction in or under the land of substances, preparations, organisms or micro-organisms.

Sustainable Development	
<p>Our Sustainable Future A framework for sustainable development in Ireland</p>	<p>Our Sustainable Future timeframe is to 2020 to tie in with other national and international frameworks, but a longer-term horizon to 2050 is also taken where appropriate, to provide a framework for guiding and reporting on long-term broad development trends such as on climate change.</p>
<p>Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework</p>	<p>Is a national document that will guide at a high-level strategic planning and development for the country over the next 20+ years, so that as the population grows, that growth is sustainable (in economic, social and environmental terms).The NPF alongside the ten-year National Development Plan puts together one plan to guide strategic development and infrastructure investment at national level. The NPF with the National Development Plan will set the context for each of Ireland’s three regional assemblies to develop their Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies taking account of and co-ordinating local authority County and City Development Plans in a manner that will ensure national, regional and local plans align.</p>
Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna	
<p>Actions for Biodiversity 2011 – 2016,</p>	<p>The National Biodiversity Plan is intended to play a central part in Ireland’s efforts to halt biodiversity</p>








Ireland's 2nd National Biodiversity Plan	loss and was developed in line with the EU and International Biodiversity strategies and policies. It sets out the strategic objectives of the government in relation to biodiversity.
Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000	The Wildlife Act is Ireland's primary national legislation for the protection of wildlife. It covers a broad range of issues, from the designation of nature reserves, the protection of species, regulation of hunting and controls in wildlife trading. It is implemented by a series of regulations. The Act provides strict protection for nearly all birds, 22 other animal species, and 86 plant species. These species are protected from injury, or from disturbance/ damage to their breeding or resting place wherever these occur. The 2000 Act was amended in 2010.
National Heritage Plan (2002)	The Department of Arts Heritage Gaeltacht and the Islands published the National Heritage Plan in April 2002. The plan sets out a vision for the management of the heritage of Ireland. A key element of the process of formulating the National Heritage Plan is the requirement to prepare Local Heritage Plans at County and City level.
Population and Human Health	
Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas (Cities, Towns & Villages) (2009)	The aim of these guidelines is to set out the key planning principles which should be reflected in development plans and local area plans, and which should guide the preparation and assessment of planning applications for residential development in urban areas.
Geology and Soil	
Geological Heritage Sites Designation (under the Wildlife Amendment Act 2000)	The Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 provides for designation of Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) which will include geological sites. Until actually designated, there is no real protection for any important sites identified by GSI and recommended for NHA status. However, a number of geological features are protected because they are the underlying reason for a biological or ecological site protected as a National Nature Reserve, National Park or as a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). In addition many local authorities have scheduled County Geological Sites within their County Development Plans.
Water Resources	
Eastern River Basin District Management Plan (2010)	The key objectives of the Water Framework Directive for the Eastern River Basin District (IRBD) are aimed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintaining "high status" of waters where it exists; • Preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters and; • Achieving at least "good status" in relation to all waters by 2015.

	The Management Plan presents a series of measures to achieve these.
Water Services Act (2007)	The Act sets down a comprehensive modern legislative code governing functions, standards, obligations and practice in relation to the planning, management, and delivery of water supply and waste water collection and treatment services. The Act focuses on management of water "in the pipe", as distinct from broader water resources issues such as river water quality, etc.
Water Services (Amendment) Act (2012)	The 2012 Act amends the 2007 Water Services Act in order to comply with a European Court of Justice ruling against Ireland in October 2009. The Court found that Ireland had failed to fulfill its obligations under the Waste Directive (75/442/EEC) regarding domestic waste waters disposed of through septic tanks and other individual waste water treatment systems. The new Part 4A requires each water services authority to establish and maintain a register of domestic waste water treatment systems situated within their functional area.
Irish Water Services Strategic Plan SEA and AA	The 25 year plan for strategic delivery of water services is currently being prepared and the SEA Scoping report was issued for consultation with a deadline in September 2014.
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines (and Technical Appendices) for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG, OPW), 2009	In relation to planning at the County level the guidelines require planning authorities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce flood risk assessment as an integral and leading element of their development planning functions at the earliest practicable opportunity. • Align strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA) with the SEA process. • Establish flood risk assessment requirements as part of the preparation of the County Development Plan. • Assess planning applications against the guidance set out in the Guidelines. • Ensure development is not permitted in areas of flood risk except where there are no suitable alternative sites.
Climate and Air Quality	
National Climate Change Strategy (2007-2012)	The National Climate Change Strategy 2007 - 2012 sets out a range of measures, building on those already in place under the first National Climate Change Strategy (2000) to ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol. The Strategy provides a framework for action to reduce Ireland's greenhouse gas emissions.
Review of Ireland's climate change policy and Climate Action and Low Carbon Bill 2013	The National Economic and Social Council submitted a review of Ireland's climate change policy to the Minister of Environment in late 2012. The review includes the development of potential policies and measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in agriculture, transport, heat in buildings and

	renewable energy supply and a basis for a national transition to a low-carbon future by 2050.
Material Assets	
Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020	Smarter Travel is the transport policy for Ireland that sets out how the vision of a sustainable travel and transport system can be achieved.
Cultural Heritage Archaeology and Built Heritage	
National Monuments Act 1930 with subsequent amendments	This is the primary legal protection to archaeology in Ireland and has been amended a number of times, most recently in 2004.
Architectural Heritage Protection - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2011)	The 2004 guidelines were reissued in 2011 following the transfer of architectural heritage protection functions to the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Part IV of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2011 sets out the legislative provisions for the protection and conservation of our architectural heritage
National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH)	The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage (NIAH) is a state initiative under the administration of the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The purpose of the NIAH is to identify, record, and evaluate the post-1700 architectural heritage of Ireland, uniformly and consistently as an aid in the protection and conservation of the built heritage. NIAH surveys provide the basis for the recommendations of the Minister to the planning authorities for the inclusion of particular structures in their Record of Protected Structures (RPS).
Landscape	
A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland –2015	The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht has issued A National Landscape Strategy for Ireland which sets out objectives and principles in the context of a proposed National Landscape Strategy for Ireland.
Draft Landscape and Landscape Assessment Guidelines, (2000)	These Guidelines attempt to approach landscape appraisal in a systematic manner and recommend Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) as the method for assessment. LCA involves the characterisation of landscape based primarily on landcover (trees, vegetation, water etc.) and secondly on the value (i.e. historical, cultural, etc.). LCA is intended to aid the development management process as it gives indicators of development types which would be suited to certain locations using certain design criteria and consequently the character of the landscape remains intact.

Title	Summary
<p align="center">Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)</p>	<p>This Act consolidated all planning legislation from 1963 to 1999 and remains the basis for the Irish planning code, setting out the detail of regional planning guidelines, development plans and local area plans as well as the basic framework of the development management and consent system. Among other things, it provides the statutory basis for protecting our natural and architectural heritage, the carrying out of Environmental Impact Statements and the provision of social and affordable housing.</p> <p>There have been a number of changes to the legislation since 2000, the most significant of which are set out in The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2002 and the Housing (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2004, which made substantial changes to Part V of the Act.</p>
<p align="center">Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2020 To be replaced by Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies</p>	<p>The aim of the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) is to provide a framework for long term strategic development of the Eastern and Midland Region for the period 2010 – 2022 which is consistent with the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002 – 2020 and which ensures the successful implementation of the NSS at regional, county and local level. This NSS has been replaced by the National Planning Framework and the Regional Economic and Spatial Strategies for the Eastern and Midland Region are replacing the existing RPGs.</p> <p>The accompanying SEA ERs and NIRs for the above will be used in this SEA as appropriate and relevant.</p>
<p align="center">Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023</p>	<p>This plan sets out on a statutory basis for the development framework for Laois County. The main sections relate to core strategy, housing, social, community and recreation, infrastructure, heritage and economic development.</p>
<p align="center">Laois Local Economic and Community Plan 2016</p>	<p>The socio-economic framework centers around a number of key themes and goals which underpin the LECP. These themes and goals contribute to realising the overall vision. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and Actions to Diversify and Strengthen a Sustainable Laois Economy (Goal 2); • Objectives and Actions to Support Innovation and Entrepreneurship (Goal 3); • Objectives and Actions to Enrich Civic Participation and Empower Communities (Goal 4); • Objectives and Actions to Promote Equality and Inclusiveness across all Sectors (Goal 5); • Objectives and Actions to Recognize and Support the Diverse Needs of People (Goal 6); • Objectives and Actions to Cultivate a Strong Laois Identity and an Excellent Quality of Life

	<p>(Goal 7);</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives and Actions to Create an Integrated and Holistic Approach to Education, Training and Employment (Goal 8); • Objectives and Actions to Develop and Promote Ways of Living and Doing business that Support a Sustainable Environment and Resilient Communities (Goal 9); • Objectives and Actions to Enhance and Sustain our Town and Village Centres and their Function as Focal Points for their Rural Hinterlands (Goal 10).
Laois Heritage Plan 2014-2019	<p>The heritage plan is underpinned by a number of objectives and supporting actions as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objective 1: Increase understanding of the heritage of Laois; • Objective 2: Record the heritage of Laois; • Objective 3: Protect and promote active conservation of the heritage of Laois; • Objective 4: Promote community participation in heritage plans and projects; • Objective 5: Promote enjoyment and accessibility of heritage sites.

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¹ <https://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/media-and-resources/publications/the-vichealth-framework-for-health-equity>

² <http://www.hoofddorp-pioniers.nl/verslag-alv-2017/>

³ <https://www.shareicon.net/mountain-rural-peaks-geology-nature-738122>

⁴ <http://www.pvhc.net/img80/edivpmrvqoyefzdgxerf.jpg>

⁵ <https://icons8.com/icon/5170/palace>

⁶ <https://m.veryicon.com/icons/system/line/landscape-2.html>

