



**Laois County Council
Comhairle Chontae Laoise**

&

**Offaly County Council
Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí**

**Portarlington Joint Local Area Plan
2018 – 2024**

**STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL
ASSESSMENT
STATEMENT**

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SEA Statement for review	1 27.09.2018	Ruth Minogue, MA(Econ) MCIEEM

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Contents

1 Introduction	4
2 Summary of how Environmental Considerations and the SEA Environmental Report have been integrated into the Portarlington Joint LAP	5
2.1 Introduction.....	5
Table 1: Stages in SEA	5
2.2 Baseline Data, Geographical Information System and environmental sensitivity mapping.....	6
2.3 Mitigation	6
2.3.1 Reworded Mitigation Measures.....	7
Table 2: Mitigation Measures – Amendment of Text	7
3 Summary of how consultations were taken into account	9
3.1 Introduction.....	9
3.2 Consultation on SEA- Scoping and Environmental Report.....	9
Table 3: Environmental Consultation	10
4 Consideration of Alternatives	15
4.1 Introduction.....	15
4.2 Alternative Scenarios for Portarlington Joint LAP.....	15
5 Monitoring	17
5.1 Introduction.....	17
5.2 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting	17
Table 4: SEA Monitoring	18
6 Conclusion	25

1 Introduction

Laois and Offaly County Councils have prepared a Joint Local Area Plan (the LAP) for Portarlington for the period 2018-2024. Laois County Council adopted the Joint LAP on the 10th September 2018.

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process. To document how environmental considerations, the views of statutory consultees and other submissions and the recommendations of the SEA Environmental Report have been taken into account in the Joint LAP, as well as monitoring arrangements. The Portarlington Joint LAP 2018-2024 was also screened for likely significant effects on European Sites listed in the EU Habitats Directive and a final Stage II Appropriate Assessment accompanies this report.

This SEA Statement includes the following information:

- Summary of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Portarlington Joint LAP (Section Two);
- Summary of how submissions received during consultation have been taken into account in the Joint LAP (Section Three);
- Reasons for choosing the recommended development scenario, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered (Section Four);
- Measures that are to be undertaken to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementing the Joint LAP (Section Five).

2 Summary of how Environmental Considerations and the SEA Environmental Report have been integrated into the Portarlington Joint LAP

2.1 Introduction

The purpose of this section is to present a summary of how environmental considerations and consultation have informed the plan preparation process. Legislation and guidance relating to SEA recommends that the process of plan preparation, SEA and Appropriate Assessment (AA) should be integrated and prepared in an iterative process to facilitate the ongoing assessment and evaluation of environmental considerations during plan preparation. A multi-disciplinary team worked on the SEA and AA elements of the plan. Key tasks associated with the SEA were as follows:

Table 1: Stages in SEA

Stage of SEA	Plan
Stage 1 Screening	Screening is the first stage of SEA to determine if the plan requires full SEA. The SEA Regulations state that SEA is mandatory for certain plans while screening for SEA is required for other plans that fall below the specified thresholds. SEA is mandatory for Local Area Plans where the population or target population exceeds 5,000 persons. As this is the case for the Portarlington Joint LAP area, the plan progressed to the next stage of SEA – Scoping.
Stage 2 Scoping	The purpose of the SEA Scoping report is to identify the scope of the SEA and ensure that relevant data and environmental topics are included in the SEA. The Scoping report was issued to the statutory environmental authorities consultees for a four week period in January 2018.
Stage3 Environmental Report	The Environmental Report tells the story of the draft Joint LAP and how environmental considerations have been addressed and included during the preparation process. The appropriate assessment is also discussed in the Environmental Report. This report was the main consultation document of the SEA process and was on display alongside the plan along with supporting reports. A series of meetings were held with Laois County Council and a number of motions were submitted by elected members. Laois County Council decided a number of these motions were material alterations and these material alterations were also subjected to SEA Screening. The Joint LAP was adopted in September 2018. The SEA process provided a commentary on same and the SEA ER will be updated now the Joint LAP has been adopted.
Stage 4 SEA Statement Current stage	This stage is the final output of the SEA process and tells the story of the SEA process. It has been prepared now that the Portarlington Joint LAP is finalised and adopted.

2.2 Baseline Data, Geographical Information System and environmental sensitivity mapping

The baseline data assists in describing the current state of the environment, facilitating the identification, evaluation and subsequent monitoring of the effects of the plan. It helps identify existing environmental problems in and around the plan area and in turn these can be quantified (for certain environmental parameters) or qualified. This highlights the environmental issues relevant to each SEA parameter and ensures that the plan implementation does not exacerbate such problems. Conversely this information can also be used to promote good environmental practices and opportunities for environmental enhancement, thereby improving environmental quality where possible. Baseline data was gathered for all parameters. Site visits were undertaken by the SEA team in February 2018. Other data was gathered from the SEA ER of the Laois Development Plan 2017-2024, Irish Water, the EPA, Met Eireann and other sources as appropriate.

The SEA has also used a Geographical Information System (GIS) in the following ways:

- To provide baseline information on a range of environmental parameters;
- To assist in assessment of alternatives;
- To help assess in-combination or cumulative impacts; and,
- To provide maps to illustrate environmental parameters in the SEA Environmental Report.

2.3 Mitigation

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where the environmental assessment identifies significant adverse effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such impacts or where this is not possible, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be generally divided into those that:

- Avoid effects;
- Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect;
- Repair effects after they have occurred; and,
- Compensate for effects, by balancing out negative impacts with positive ones.

The iterative process of the Joint LAP preparation has facilitated the integration of environmental considerations into the layout and text of the plan. In addition, potential positive effects of implementing the plan have been and will be maximised and potential adverse effects have been and will be avoided, reduced or offset.

Many impacts will be more adequately identified and mitigated at project and EIA level. In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to environmental considerations outlined in this Environmental Report and associated assessments including the Stage II Appropriate Assessment. Proposals for development which are deemed contrary to the environmental objectives contained in the Joint LAP will not normally be permitted, and if permitted, not without the appropriate site and development specific mitigation measures.

There were also a number of proposals associated with the draft Joint LAP that were identified as potentially generating significant adverse impacts on the environment, and suggested rewording of these proposals were put forward for consideration and recommended for inclusion in the draft Joint LAP.

The Joint LAP has been prepared having regard to the policies and objectives outlined within the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023. The environmental protection measures for the CDP 2017-2023 were included in the SEA ER. Specific measures developed for the Joint LAP are set out in Table 2 as found on the following page. The SEA ER has the full list of mitigation measures.

2.3.1 Reworded Mitigation Measures

The following table presents some of the mitigation measures recommended for the Joint LAP through rewording or additional text. Where new text is proposed it is presented in **blue, bold** font. The column demonstrates whether this was included in the Joint LAP as adopted.

Table 2: Mitigation Measures – Amendment of Text

LAP	Mitigation Measure	Included in LAP Yes/No
Key Plan Objectives Additional objective:	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	Yes
KI O10	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	Yes
KI O11	Ensure developments will not adversely impact on the status of waterbodies 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)	Yes

KI O12	Facilitate, promote and encourage the expansion and improvement of telecommunications, broadband, electricity and gas networks infrastructure subject to proper planning and sustainable development	Yes
KI P10	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	Yes
NH O6	Carry out and require the planting of native trees, hedgerows and vegetation in all new developments	Yes
NH O12	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	Yes

3 Summary of how consultations were taken into account

3.1 Introduction

Throughout the preparation of the Joint LAP and the SEA ER, consultation was undertaken at key points in the process. Further information is available in the following SEA Reports:

- SEA Scoping report issued January 2018
- SEA Environmental Report - issued March 2018 for 6 weeks
- SEA advice on public submissions and Chief Executive Officers recommendation
- SEA Screening of Material Amendments –annex to the SEA ER
- SEA commentary on CEs recommendations

The following section summarises key points and how they were addressed in the SEA and the Joint Local Area Plan.

3.2 Consultation on SEA- Scoping and Environmental Report

The purpose of the SEA Scoping report is to identify the scope of the SEA and ensure that relevant data and environmental topics are included in the SEA. The SEA ER accompanied the Draft Portarlington Joint LAP on display over a six week period beginning in March 2018.

Table 3 on the following page summarises key points raised during the SEA Scoping Stage, and the SEA ER stage.

Table 3: Environmental Consultation

Consultee	Key Issue Raised	SEA Response
David Galvin, Scientific Officer, SEA Section Office of Evidence and Assessment. Environmental Protection Agency, Regional Inspectorate, Inniscarra, County Cork		
	<p>Plan Area Boundary Map: There is merit in including a map showing the extent of the Plan area, particularly in the context of assessing and identifying relevant environmental sensitivities to be considered in the SEA.</p>	Agreed, see Figure 1
	<p>Key Environmental Resources: We welcome in Section 3 Key Environmental Resources, that the EPA's Ireland's Environment 2016. An Assessment (EPA 2016), is a key environmental resource in informing the Joint LAP process. The challenges and emerging issues described within this report should be integrated as appropriate in the Plan.</p>	Noted
	<p>Water Framework Directive: The Plan should include a commitment to integrate the relevant recommendations of the Draft National River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018-2021 (DHPLG) and associated Programme of Measures which will be adopted during lifetime of the Plan. The Plan should also provide for the protection of high and good quality surface waters and groundwater resources and also protect relevant areas listed on the WFD Register of Protected Areas.</p>	Noted, reference made in policies to same. Noted, this is provided in the Joint LAP
	<p>Designated Sites: Among the conservation areas included in / within 15km of the Plan area are the River Barrow and River Nore (SAC) and the Slieve Bloom Mountains (SPA). The SEA should consider the potential effects occurring for all designated sites and protected species within and adjacent to the Plan area and associated ecological corridors. In particular consideration should be given to the potential for cumulative effects associated with existing, and proposed, development associated with the Plan implementation. The SEA should consider the potential effects occurring for all designated sites and protected species within and adjacent to the Plan area and associated ecological corridors. In particular consideration should be given to the potential for cumulative effects associated with existing, and proposed, development associated with the Plan implementation.</p>	Noted, these sites are described in Chapter 4 and potential cumulative effects are discussed in Chapter 7 of this SEA ER.

Consultee	Key Issue Raised	SEA Response
	<p>The protection of and possible enhancement of Undesignated Biodiversity: Wider consideration of biodiversity outside of designated areas, such as ecological corridors/linkages, hedgerows and wetlands should be identified and measures put in place to ensure protection/replacement where appropriate. It may also be useful to consider reviewing and updating, as appropriate, existing habitat mapping to inform the development of the Plan area over the lifetime of the Plan. Where wetland sites are involved, consideration should be given to assessing the potential impact on water quality and the hydrological/ hydrogeological regime which maintains these sites.</p>	<p>Noted: consideration of these within the plan area are described in Chapter 4. Noted.</p>
	<p>Flood Risk Assessment and Management: We note that the Plan area has a history of flood events. The Plan should reflect the need for flood risk to be taken into consideration for both existing and proposed new zoning, and associated development, within the Plan area. UoM14 CFRAMS should help inform appropriate zoning/re-zoning considerations within the Plan area. The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DAHLG 2009), should also be integrated, as appropriate.</p>	<p>Noted, described in Chapter 4 and specific policies/objectives in Chapter 7, and Annex A, as well as land use zoning considerations</p>
	<p>Groundwater Vulnerability: We note that Section 3 Material Assets identifies that the public water supply for Portarlington is supplied by groundwater aquifers and that there are no aquifer protection zones within the Joint LAP boundary. In this context, the Plan should include a commitment to the protection of groundwater resources and associated habitats and species.</p>	<p>Noted, included in Joint LAP</p>
	<p>Provision of Adequate and Appropriate Critical Infrastructure: We note the recognition in section 3.6 Material Assets in the Scoping Report that 'high quality water supply and wastewater infrastructure is fundamental to ensuring the long-term physical, environmental, social and economic development of Portarlington'. The Plan should include a commitment to ensuring the provision of adequate and appropriate critical water infrastructure to cater for future sustainable development in the Plan area and to collaborate with Irish Water in seeking to resolve any critical water infrastructure issues which may arise.</p>	<p>Noted, Chapters 4 and 7 of this SEA ER amends this</p>

Consultee	Key Issue Raised	SEA Response
	<p>Climate Change Adaptation:</p> <p>The Plan should promote commitments for the development and promotion of appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation measures that can be implemented through relevant land use plans and/or specific plans e.g. Flood Risk Management Plans etc. Climate change adaptation and mitigation measures should be included in the Plan as appropriate and the Plan should be consistent with the National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development the National Mitigation Plan and the National Adaptation Framework (when available), as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaption plans. The Agency has published SEA guidance on 'Integrating Climate Change into SEA' which may be useful in this regard. This guidance (and other SEA related guidance) is available at: http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea.</p>	Noted, a specific policy addresses this in the Joint LAP
	<p>Core Strategy:</p> <p>We note Table 3 Core Strategy in the Scoping Report. The Plan should ensure that it remains consistent with the National Planning Framework, when adopted, and promote the need for sustainable development. A commitment should also be made to remain consistent with the relevant Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) upon adoption.</p>	Noted. The Ethos of the NPF has informed the plan preparation. The Joint LAP complies with the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines currently in place. Policies relating to Town Centre consolidation have been integrated to the LAP
	<p>Brownfield Lands:</p> <p>Where any brownfield lands are proposed for reuse / regeneration in the context of Plan development, these should be appropriately remediated to avoid or minimise any potential</p>	Noted, included as appropriate

Consultee	Key Issue Raised	SEA Response
	significant environmental impacts or human health impacts that may arise. A commitment should be given that any assessment of these sites should consider and provide information on aspects such as contaminated soil removal / remediation, noise and air quality, waste management, possible service infrastructure provision issues, possible presence of invasive species and ensuring appropriate management / control, implications for biodiversity etc.	
	Development arising from the Plan: The Plan should include a specific commitment that any proposed residential, industrial, infrastructural or tourism related development arising from the Plan will take into account any other associated plans/programmes/strategies and the requirements of the SEA, Habitats, WFD and Floods Directives, as relevant and appropriate.	Noted, this is included in the Key Plan objectives
	Potential for Cumulative Effects: In preparing the SEA, you should consider assessing the potential for cumulative effects on the environment as a result of implementing the Plan. A review of relevant adjacent Local Area Plans and relevant Plans/ Programmes and significant projects should also be undertaken and the potential for cumulative environmental effects considered.	Noted, see Chapter 7 for assessment of cumulative effects
	Alternatives: In considering and assessing alternatives, the alternatives proposed should be reasonable and realistic and should be set at the appropriate strategic level at which the Plan will be implemented operating within the national planning hierarchy. They should be assessed against the relevant environmental objectives established for the key environmental aspects of the environment likely to be significantly affected. Clear justification should be provided for the selection of the preferred alternative/ combination of alternatives. Where relevant, the development of alternatives should be clearly described. In addition, the methodology applied in the assessment of alternatives along with any assumptions made should be described. The Agency has published an EPA Guidance document Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment - Good Practice Guidance (EPA, 2015), which should be considered.	Noted, and agreed. Chapter 6 Consideration of Alternatives addresses these comments
	SEA Mitigation Measures: The Plan should include appropriate mitigation measures to address the potential for	Noted, see Chapter 8

Consultee	Key Issue Raised	SEA Response
	significant negative environmental effects, where these have been identified.	for mitigation measures
	<p>SEA Related Monitoring:</p> <p>In relation to monitoring related aspects required under the SEA Directive, the SEA should include information on the nature and frequency of monitoring to be carried out and organisations responsible for carrying out the monitoring. Linking SEA and Plan related monitoring will ensure that any unforeseen negative effects are identified early and appropriate mitigation measures provided.</p>	Noted, please see Chapter 9 of this SEA ER.

4 Consideration of Alternatives

4.1 Introduction

One of the critical roles of the SEA is to facilitate an evaluation of the likely environmental consequences of a range of alternative development scenarios, in this case the PortarlingtonJoint LAP 2018-2024.

These alternative development scenarios should meet the following considerations:

- Take into account the geographical scope, hierarchy and objectives of the plan –be realistic;
- Be based on socio-economic and environmental evidence – be reasonable;
- Be capable of being delivered within the plan timeframe and resources –be implementable;
- Be technically and institutionally feasible – be viable.

In developing, refining and assessing the alternatives for the Joint LAP, the toolkit included in Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment Good Practice Guidance (EPA 2015) was utilised.

In addition to the above, the PortarlingtonJoint LAP will function within the policy hierarchy established by national, regional and county strategic plans, as well as relevant legislation.

4.2 Alternative Scenarios for Portarlington Joint LAP

In the case of the Portarlington Joint LAP, possible alternatives include different land uses and scales of development were examined:

1. **Continuation of Existing LAP landuse zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario).** Continues with the existing LAP in its current context;
2. **Town centre consolidation:** This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors;
3. **Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure:** Promotion of development lands within the town centre for development and the designation of secondary and edge of centre areas where this type of development is considered appropriate in certain circumstances. It would also promote the development of neighbourhood centres to provide a level of retail services locally.

In considering these alternatives, regard was had to the Preferred Alternative (Scenario 3

Balanced Growth, Strong Plans) identified for the Laois County Development Plan 2017-2023. Within this scenario, the main population centres for prioritised development would remain to be Portlaoise, Portarlington, Mountmellick and Graiguecullen, this is where development both residential and commercial is most likely to happen in a controlled manner. This fulfils the objectives of the current NSS, the RPGS and the new National Planning Framework in terms of achieving balanced regional growth which is of benefit to both the county and the region as a whole.

From the evaluation of the above scenarios, Alternative 3 provides for the most positive effects when assessed against the SEOs. This alternative provides for the promotion of development lands within the town centre for development and the designation of sequential areas where this type of development is considered appropriate in certain circumstances. It would also promote the development of neighbourhood centres to provide a level of retail services locally.

It acknowledges the need to consolidate Portarlington through the town centre revitalisation whilst helping to meet the key objectives of the Joint LAP.

Therefore, the preferred alternative was developed by the planning team and others having regard to the key requirements of:

- Environmental effects identified through the SEA consideration of alternatives;
- Objectives of the Portarlington LAP including social and economic effects of the development;
- National Policy documents.

By complying with appropriate mitigation measures - including those which have been integrated into the Joint LAP - potential adverse environmental effects which could arise as a result of implementing this scenario would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

5 Monitoring

5.1 Introduction

It is proposed, in accordance with Article 10 of the SEA Directive, to base monitoring on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water pollution levels. Monitoring will focus on the aspects of the environment that are likely to be significantly impacted upon by the implementation of the Joint LAP.

The targets and indicators are derived from the Strategic Environmental Objectives (SEOs) discussed in Chapter Five of the SEA ER. The target underpins the objective whilst the indicators are used to track the progress of the objective and targets in terms of monitoring of impacts.

The monitoring programme will consist of an assessment of the relevant indicators and targets against the data relating to each environmental component. Similarly, monitoring will be carried out frequently to ensure that any changes to the environment can be identified.

5.2 Frequency of Monitoring and Reporting

Should new data or the following occur, additional monitoring will be required:

- Pollution events associated with construction;
- Boil notices on drinking water;
- Fish kills;
- Court cases taken by the DEHLG regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places;
- Complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the Joint LAP.

In turn the list below is subject to review at each reporting stage to reflect new data. Laois and Offaly County Councils are responsible for the implementation of the SEA Monitoring Programme including:

- Monitoring specific indicators and identifying any significant effects, including cumulative effects;
- Collating the Environmental Reports (such as Environmental Impact Assessment Reports, Natura Impact Reports etc) submitted by developers in the Joint LAP area.
- Reviewing the effectiveness of monitoring/mitigation measures during the lifetime of the Joint LAP;
- Identifying any cumulative effects.

It is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion.

Table 4: SEA Monitoring

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
Biodiversity Flora and Fauna	B1: To ensure compliance with the Habitats and Birds Directives with regard to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and Annexed habitats and species	B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive	B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under National and International legislation to be unaffected by implementation of the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant effects; Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive (every 6 years); Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs's National Monitoring Report for the Birds Directive under Article 12 (every 3 years); Consultations with the NPWS.
	B2: To ensure compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive with regard to the management of features of the landscape which - by virtue of their linear and continuous structure or their	B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	B2: No significant ecological networks or parts thereof which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation resulting from development provided for by the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant); CORINE mapping resurvey (every c. 5 years); Review of Council Ecological Network Mapping.

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
	<p>function act as stepping stones (designated or not) - are of major importance for wild fauna and flora and essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</p> <p>B3: To avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites and to ensure compliance with the Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 with regard to the protection of listed species</p>	<p>B3i: Number of significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan</p> <p>B3ii: Number of significant impacts on the protection of listed species</p>	<p>B3i: Avoid significant impacts on relevant habitats, species, environmental features or other sustaining resources in designated sites including Wildlife Sites resulting from development provided for by the Plan</p> <p>B3ii: No significant impacts on the protection of listed species</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant); Consultations with the NPWS.
Population and	PHH1: To protect	PHH1: Occurrence (any) of a	PHH1: No spatial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultations with EPA and Health

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
Human Health Noise 	populations and human health from exposure to incompatible land uses <i>including adverse noise and air quality impacts</i>	spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors resulting from development provided for by the Plan, as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency	concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan	Service Executive
Water 	W1: To maintain and improve, where possible, the quality and status of surface waters	W1: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009)	W1: Not to cause deterioration in the status of any surface water or affect the ability of any surface water to achieve ‘good status’ ⁴⁷ by 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant); Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).
	W2: To prevent pollution and contamination of ground water	W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	W2: Not to affect the ability of groundwaters to comply with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant); Data issued under the Water Framework Directive Monitoring Programme for Ireland (multi-annual).
	W3: To comply as appropriate with the provisions of the Planning System	W3: Number of incompatible developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in	W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant)

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
	and Flood Risk Management: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG, 2009)	the future - a significant flood risk	significant flood risk in compliance with The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities	
Soil and Geology	S1: To avoid damage to the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource	S1: Soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	S1: To minimise reductions in soil extent and hydraulic connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).
	S2: <i>To maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield lands, and the existing built environment, rather than developing greenfield lands.</i>	S2: <i>Permission granted on Opportunity Sites % Occupancy of buildings in town centre</i>	S2: <i>Number of Opportunity Sites developed over lifetime of the plan</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grant by grant
Material Assets	M1: To serve new development with adequate and appropriate wastewater treatment	M1: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately and appropriately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	M1: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately and appropriately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant)

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
	 M2: To serve new development with adequate drinking water that is both wholesome and clean	M2: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan	M2: No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan	• Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant)
	M3: To reduce waste volumes, minimise waste to landfill and increase recycling and reuse	M3i: Total collected and brought household waste M3ii: Packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	M3i: Minimise increases in and, where possible, reduce household waste generation M3ii: Maximise increases in packaging recovered (t) by self-complying packagers	• EPA National Waste reports
Climate Change, Air Quality and Noise	C1: To reduce travel related emissions to air and to encourage modal change from car to more sustainable forms of transport C2: Ensure that the LAP proposals are adaptive to	C1: Percentage of population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means C2: Number of SUDs measures included and developed as part of planning applications.	C1: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work, school or college by public transport or non-mechanical means C2: An increase in extent of Blue and Green infrastructure linkages in	• CSO Population Data • Grants of permission

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
	expected climate change patterns in line with Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines (EPA) as appropriate	Number/extent of additional tree planting as part of planning applications.	plan area	
Cultural Heritage	CH1: To protect archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places and/or their context	CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Areas of Archaeological Potential and Significance (and the context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) - protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Areas of Archaeological Potential and Significance (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grants of permission
	CH2: To protect architectural heritage including entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural	CH2: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context protected from significant adverse effects arising from new development	CH2: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas and their context from significant adverse effects arising from new development granted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant). Consultation with Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

SEA Topic	Strategic Environmental Objectives	Indicator	Selected Target	Source (Frequency)
	Conservation Areas and their context	granted permission under the Plan	permission under the Plan	
Landscape	L1: To minimise significant adverse visual impacts within and adjacent to the County	L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	L1: No developments permitted which result in avoidable adverse visual impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant)
	L2: To protect and enhance landscape character and quality within and adjacent to the LAP area.	L2: <i>Number of Opportunity Sites and interventions from the development, vision and strategy for Portarlington implemented over lifetime of plan</i>	Adherence to all principles in the development, vision and strategy for Portarlington implemented over lifetime of plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant)
Interrelationships	Maintain and improve the health of people, ecosystems and natural processes	Blue and Green Infrastructure measures implemented over lifetime of plan	Increased network of blue and green infrastructure achieved over lifetime of the plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant)
	Actively seek to integrate opportunities for environmental enhancement	As above	As above	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Internal monitoring of likely significant environmental effects of grants of permission (grant by grant).

6 Conclusion

This SEA Statement summarises how environmental parameters have been addressed in the preparation process of the Portarlington Joint LAP 2018-2024. Consultation has been undertaken through all stages of the plan preparation and SEA process.

The SEA and Appropriate Assessment has been undertaken in line with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 to 2011 (as amended).

Subject to the full and proper implementation of the mitigation measures outlined in this SEA Environmental Report, the Natura Impact report and the Portarlington Joint LAP including detailed design at planning application stage, it is considered that significant adverse impacts on the environment will be avoided.