

**APPENDIX III**  
TO THE  
**SEA ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT**

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FOR  
**RELEVANT PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**

TO THE  
**DRAFT ATHY  
LOCAL AREA PLAN 2021-2027**

# STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT SCREENING REPORT

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FOR  
**PROPOSED MATERIAL ALTERATIONS**  
TO THE  
**DRAFT ATHY  
LOCAL AREA PLAN 2021-2027**

**for: Kildare County Council**

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# Section 1 Introduction and Background

## 1.1 Introduction

This is the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Screening Report for the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan (LAP) 2021-2027.

SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive<sup>1</sup> requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programmes or alterations to these. Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan - or alteration to a plan -, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA.

The purpose of this report is to inform whether or not to undertake SEA on the Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy LAP. Requirements in relation to the screening of Proposed Material Alterations to LAPs are provided under Section 20 (3) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

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

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027;
- AA Natura Impact Report (including information on AA Screening) for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027.
- SFRA Addendum for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027;
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report for the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027;
- Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) for the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027; and
- The Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 (as varied).

## 1.2 Process so far

The LAP has been progressed to date in compliance with Section 20 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 as amended.

SEA<sup>2</sup> was undertaken on and informed the LAP in order to comply with the SEA Directive and transposing Regulations – the SEA Environmental Report that accompanied the LAP on public display contains the findings of the assessment.

AA<sup>3</sup> was also undertaken on the LAP (informing both the LAP and the SEA) in order to comply with the Habitats Directive and transposing Regulations. An AA Natura Impact Report was prepared that contains the findings of this assessment.

The LAP associated SEA and AA documents were placed on public display and submissions were invited. Submissions were responded to in a Chief Executive's Report and Elected Members decided upon Proposed Material Alterations to the LAP and these are the subject of this report.

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<sup>1</sup> Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27<sup>th</sup> June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

<sup>2</sup> Strategic Environmental Assessment is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or programme, or alteration to a plan or programme, before a decision is made to adopt it.

<sup>3</sup> Appropriate Assessment is an impact assessment process concerning European Sites designated on foot of habitats and species.

### 1.3 SEA Environmental Report (December 2020)

The SEA Environmental Report for the LAP contains the information specified in Annex I of the SEA Directive and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) as amended by the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. 201 of 2011). The relevant sections of the SEA Environmental Report that address these information requirements are detailed on Table 1.1 below.

The assessment undertaken on relevant Proposed Material Alterations (the findings of which are presented later in this document) has used the information contained in the SEA Environmental Report.

**Table 1.1 Information contained within the SEA Environmental Report that accompanies the LAP**

<b>Information Required to be included in the Environmental Report</b>	<b>Corresponding Section of the SEA Environment Report</b>
(A) Outline of the contents and main objectives of the plan or programme, and of its relationship with other relevant plans and programmes	Sections 2, 5 and 8
(B) Description of relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the evolution of that environment without implementation of the plan or programme	Section 4
(C) Description of the environmental characteristics of areas likely to be significantly affected	Sections 4, 7 and 8
(D) Identification of any existing environmental problems which are relevant to the plan or programme, particularly those relating to European Sites	Section 4
(E) List environmental protection objectives, established at international, EU or National level, which are relevant to the plan or programme and describe how those objectives and any environmental considerations have been taken into account when preparing the Plan	Sections 5, 7, 8, 9 and Appendix I
(F) Describe the likely significant effects on the environment	Sections 7 and 8
(G) Describe any measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse environmental effects of implementing the plan or programme	Section 9
(H) Give an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives considered, and a description of how the assessment was undertaken (including any difficulties)	Sections 6, 7 and 8
(I) A description of proposed monitoring measures	Section 10
(J) A non-technical summary of the above information	Appendix II Non-Technical Summary
(K) Interrelationships between each environmental topic	Addressed as it arises within each Section

## Section 2 SEA Screening

### 2.1 Introduction

The section examines whether each Proposed Material Alteration to the LAP would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

This examination takes account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

### 2.2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

SFRA has been undertaken to inform the preparation of the Draft LAP and an SFRA report accompanies the Draft Plan. An SFRA Addendum on the Proposed Material Alterations has been prepared that has informed this SEA Screening Report. All Proposed Material Alterations comply with "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (DEHLG/OPW, 2009).

### 2.3 Appropriate Assessment

AA is an impact assessment process concerning *Natura 2000*, or *European*, sites - these sites have been designated or proposed for designation by virtue of their ecological importance. The Habitats Directive<sup>4</sup> and transposing Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) provide the requirement to screen for effects on European Sites. If the effects are deemed to be *significant, potentially significant or uncertain* then Stage 2 AA must be undertaken.

The LAP is being subject to Stage 2 AA and an AA Natura Impact Report was placed on public display alongside the Draft Plan. At adoption of the Plan, the AA Natura Impact Report will be finalised and an AA determination will be made by the Council.

An AA screening process has been undertaken on the Proposed Material Alterations. This process has determined that Stage 2 AA for certain Alterations is necessary. An AA Natura Impact Report contains the findings of this assessment for the Proposed Material Alterations, has informed this SEA Screening Report and accompanies the Proposed Material Alterations.

### 2.4 Screening Analysis of Individual Proposed Material Alterations

The analysis of individual Proposed Material Alteration is undertaken considering interactions Strategic Environmental Objectives (see Table 2.1). Table 2.2 examines whether each part of the Proposed Material Alterations would be likely to have significant environmental effects (and thus would warrant the undertaking of SEA).

Table 2.2 is supplemented by Table 2.3 which provides details on:

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

Effects encompass the full range of effects<sup>5</sup>, including those arising cumulatively – such as those potentially arising as a result of interactions with other plans and programmes.

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

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

The examination of Proposed Material Alterations also takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A '*Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment*' of the SEA Regulations, as amended, (see Section 2.5).

**Table 2.1 Strategic Environmental Objectives**

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>BFF</b>	No net contribution to biodiversity losses or deterioration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To preserve, protect, maintain and, where appropriate, enhance the terrestrial, aquatic and soil biodiversity, particularly EU designated sites and protected species</li> <li>Ensure no adverse effects on the integrity of any European site, with regard to its qualifying interests, associated conservation status, structure and function</li> <li>Safeguard national, regional and local designated sites and supporting features which function as stepping stones for migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species</li> <li>Enhance biodiversity in line with the National Biodiversity Strategy and its targets</li> <li>To protect, maintain and conserve natural capital</li> </ul>
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	<b>PHH</b>	Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management</li> <li>Ensure that existing population and planned growth is matched with the required public infrastructure and the required services</li> <li>Safeguard citizens from environment-related pressures and risks to health and well-being</li> </ul>
<b>Soil (and Land)</b>	<b>S</b>	Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protect soils against pollution, and prevent degradation of the soil resource</li> <li>Promote the sustainable use of infill and brownfield sites over the use of greenfield</li> <li>Safeguard areas of prime agricultural land and designated geological sites</li> </ul>
<b>Water</b>	<b>W</b>	Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that the status of water bodies is protected, maintained and improved in line with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive</li> <li>Ensure water resources are sustainably managed to deliver proposed growth targets in the context of existing and projected water supply and waste water capacity constraints ensuring the protection of receiving environments</li> <li>Avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding and areas that are vulnerable to current and future erosion</li> <li>Integrate sustainable water management solutions (such as SuDS, porous surfacing and green roofs) into development proposals</li> </ul>
<b>Material Assets</b>	<b>MA</b>	Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Optimise existing infrastructure and provide new infrastructure to match population distribution proposals</li> <li>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all which encourages a broad energy generation mix to ensure security of supply – wind, wave solar, tidal, biomass, energy from waste and traditional fossil fuels</li> <li>Promote the circular economy, reduce waste, and increase energy efficiencies</li> <li>Ensure there is adequate sewerage and drainage infrastructure in place to support new development</li> <li>Reduce the energy demand from the transport sector and support moves to electrification of road and rail transport modes</li> <li>Encourage the transition to a zero-carbon economy by facilitating the development of a grid infrastructure to support renewables and international connectivity. Reduce the average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings, retrofitting, smart- buildings, cities and grids</li> </ul>

Environmental Component	SEO Code	Guiding Principle	Strategic Environmental Objectives
<b>Air</b>	<b>A</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole resulting from emissions to air from all sectors with particular reference to emissions from transport, residential heating, industry and agriculture</li> <li>• Maintain and promote continuing improvement in air quality through the reduction of emissions and promotion of renewable energy and energy efficiency</li> <li>• Promote continuing improvement in air quality</li> <li>• Reduction of emissions of sulphur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, volatile organic compounds, ammonia and fine particulate matter which are responsible for acidification, eutrophication and ground-level ozone pollution</li> <li>• Meet Air Quality Directive standards for the protection of human health — Air Quality Directive</li> <li>• Significantly decrease noise pollution by 2020 and move closer to WHO recommended levels</li> </ul>
<b>Climatic Factors</b>	<b>C</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impacts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To minimise emissions of greenhouse gasses.</li> <li>• Integrate sustainable design solutions into infrastructure (e.g. energy efficient buildings; green infrastructure)</li> <li>• Contribute towards the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in line with national targets</li> <li>• Promote development resilient to the effects of climate change</li> <li>• Promote the use of renewable energy, energy efficient development and increased use of public transport</li> </ul>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<b>CH</b>	Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect places, features, buildings and landscapes of cultural, archaeological or architectural heritage</li> </ul>
<b>Landscape</b>	<b>L</b>	Protect and enhance the landscape character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To implement the Plan's framework for identification, assessment, protection, management and planning of landscapes having regard to the European Landscape Convention</li> </ul>



**Table 2.2 Screening Analysis of Individual Proposed Material Alterations**

No.	Proposed Material Alteration <sup>6</sup>	SEA Screening Consideration
1	Amend all reference from <del>Tegrai</del> to <i>Etex Ireland</i> throughout the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 - 2027.	This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for, summarises and provides clarification to Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
2	Amend the third paragraph of <b>Section 2.1.2 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy</b> by deleting the text ' <del>Hinterland Areas</del> ' and replacing it with ' <i>Core Region</i> '. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan, including the replacement of Figure 2.3 with an updated map.	This Proposed Alteration ensures consistency with the terminology of the RSES and includes changes to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions; this Proposed Alteration does not interact with Draft Plan provisions to the extent that it would have additional environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
3	Insert the following new objective after objective CSO1.2 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly: <b>CSO1.3</b> <i>Provide for serviced sites with appropriate infrastructure in accordance with Objective 18(b) of the National Planning Framework (2018), as denoted on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map.</i> Amend <b>Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map</b> to denote objective CSO1.3.	This amendment, relating to lands that are removed from the established built development envelope of Athy, would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development and may present additional, potentially significant and unnecessary adverse effects on various environmental components such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology and ecological connectivity (none of the zoning is within designated sites);</li> <li>• Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces;</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies;</li> <li>• Challenges in providing adequate and appropriate waste water treatment;</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives;</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality;</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility;</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and occurrence of adverse visual impacts;</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors.</li> </ul> <b>Consequently, SEA is required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
4	Insert the following additional objective after objective CSO1.7: <b>CSO1.8</b> <i>Ensure that projects giving rise to adverse effects on the integrity of European sites (cumulatively, directly or indirectly) arising from their size or scale, land take, proximity, resource requirements, emissions (disposal to land, water or air), transportation requirements, duration of construction, operation, decommissioning or from any other effects shall not be permitted on the basis of this plan.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for the protection of the environment already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards the protection of the environment, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration on the protection of the environment are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.  As this alteration could be considered mitigation with the objective of protecting the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Stage 2 AA is required.  Taking all of the above into account and taking a precautionary approach, <b>SEA is advised as prudent.</b>
5	Amend text of objective HCO4.1, as follows: <b>HCO4.1</b> Support and facilitate the provision of <i>both indoor and outdoor</i> multi-functional community facilities to meet the needs of the population of Athy.	This amendment adds more detail to an existing objective but would not have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
6	Include the following new objective after objective HCO4.5: <b>HCO4.6</b> <i>To support the provision of new postal facilities and the enhancement of existing facilities, including for operational requirements in Athy, and to facilitate the provision of postal infrastructure at suitable locations within the town, subject to planning and design considerations.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards the framework for development, including commercial development, already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
7	Insert an additional sub objective under objective UCRO1.10, as follows: <b>UCRO1.10</b> Commence the preparation of a Public Realm Strategy for Athy within twelve months of the adoption of this plan. The strategy should be developed in accordance with the provisions of the Athy Urban Regeneration Framework and implemented on a phased basis over the lifetime of the Plan and beyond. The Strategy should also address the following issues: (i) Ensure that the town centre is accessible to all members of the community, including people with disabilities, the	An investigation of feasibility would not result in significant effects and the preparation of the Public Realm Strategy is already provided for by the Draft Plan. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>

<sup>6</sup> Proposed text deletions are shown in ~~strikethrough blue~~ and proposed new text is highlighted in *italics red*.<sup>7</sup> Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: (a) no alternative solution available, (b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and (c) adequate compensatory measures in place.

# SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Proposed Material Alteration <sup>6</sup>	SEA Screening Consideration
	<p>elderly and people with young children.</p> <p>(ii) Support and facilitate the delivery of age friendly seating, bus stops and other public realm initiatives identified in the Athy Public Realm Strategy.</p> <p>(iii) Develop a comprehensive car parking plan for the town which will balance the needs of vehicular access to the town centre without compromising the overall quality and visitor experience of the public realm.</p> <p>(iv) Seek to reduce the use of line marking, signage and overhead wiring in the town centre of Athy.</p> <p>(v) <i>Investigate the feasibility of the development/redevelopment of the backlands of the town centre area of Athy in conjunction with the formulation of the Public Realm Strategy.</i></p>	
8	<p>Inserted the following new objective after objective UCRO2.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p><i>UCRO2.4 Any proposal on the land zoned 'R: Retail' shall be subject to a Retail Impact Assessment, which shall be prepared in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines, pursuant to Section 28 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). This shall include, but not be limited to, demonstrating compliance with the County Development Plan and that there will be no material and unacceptable adverse impacts on the vitality and viability of the town centre through the consideration of alternatives and after the examination of all other town centre sites is exhausted.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards retail and town centre development provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
9	<p>Amend the third paragraph of <b>Section 6.5.1</b> of the draft Plan, as follows:</p> <p><del>It is considered that a longstanding obstacle to achieving improved utilisation of the waterways in the town is the deficit in safe and convenient mooring facilities. Boats and barges are being restricted in their ability to moor in Athy and this is a major disincentive to considering the town as a stopover location. Athy has witnessed substantial growth in boating tourism in recent years. This regularly results in over demand for berths on all town centre mooring facilities. To accommodate this demand, and the predicted future growth, a major upgrade of the current in-place facilities is needed. In addition, investment to dramatically expand the number of berths and moorings available is essential.</del> The development of a marina, or at least the expansion of the existing mooring facilities is <i>considered</i> an essential <i>requirement</i> <del>piece of infrastructure that is required</del> in order to maximise the possibilities presented by the increase of tourism activities based around Athy's waterways with the completion of the Barrow Blueway.</p>	<p>This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b></p>
10	<p>Inserted the following new objective after objective EDTO3.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p><i>EDTO3.4 Support and facilitate the development of angling activities and supporting infrastructure, including the provision of wheelchair friendly stands in Athy, subject to appropriate environmental assessments.</i></p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the SEA and AA. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p> <p>As this alteration could be considered mitigation with the objective of protecting the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Stage 2 AA is required.</p> <p>Taking all of the above into account and taking a precautionary approach, <b>SEA is advised as prudent.</b></p>
11	<p>Amend <b>Section 6.5.4</b> of the draft Plan as follows:</p> <p>This Plan has identified a number of projects and proposals which, if realised, over the life of the Plan and beyond have the potential to have a transformative effect in the improvement of Athy's tourist offer in the town and the promotion of the town as a <i>Blueway tourism</i> <del>key visitor</del> destination <i>town</i>.</p> <p>The Plan, through its various policies, objectives and actions supports and promotes the following tourism development projects/proposals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of the Barrow Blueway, subject to the appropriate environmental considerations and assessment.</li> <li>• <i>The development of new waterways amenities infrastructure including pontoons, kayak friendly jetties, triathlon/swim entry/exit points and other waterways amenities infrastructure, subject to the appropriate environmental considerations and assessment.</i></li> <li>• The rejuvenation of Athy's public realm as part of an overall Urban Regeneration Framework (see Appendix 1)</li> <li>• The delivery of the masterplan proposals for the Dominican Square and Blueway Sports Hub / Education Centre.</li> <li>• The enhancement of the walking routes and trails in the town including Athy Slí Na Sláinte route and the creation of other dedicated Tourist Trail(s).</li> <li>• The redevelopment and expansion of Athy Heritage Centre – Shackleton Museum</li> </ul>	<p>This Proposed Alteration relates to Plan text that sets the context for and provides commentary on Plan provisions. It does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>

# SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Proposed Material Alteration <sup>6</sup>	SEA Screening Consideration
12	<p>Amend objective EDT03.2 as follows:</p> <p><b>EDT03.2</b> Support and facilitate the development of Athy as <i>a Blueway destination town and an 'activity hub'</i> for water-based sports and associated recreational activities including the development of a Blueway Sports Hub / Education Centre within the Dominican lands, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the SEA and AA. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
13	<p>Amend objective EDT03.3 as follows:</p> <p><b>EDT03.3</b> <i>Acknowledge the importance and potential of Athy's waterways and its water sports clubs by supporting</i> Support the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p>	<p>The potential effects - direct and indirect - of the development of the Barrow Blueway route as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities, the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, and water sports and leisure fishing have already been considered by the SEA and AA. This alteration would further contribute towards provisions relating to these issues already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
14	<p>Amend text in objective MTO1.5, as follows:</p> <p><b>MTO1.5</b> Support the creation of new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Barrow that enhance connectivity in the area and link residential areas, the town centre, community facilities and public spaces/amenities as proposed under the Athy Area Based Transport Assessment. <i>In particular, WN6 (as outlined in Table 7.1 and Map 1.1), which provides for a bridge over the River Barrow at Barrack Lane/Woodstock to Stanhope Street/R417, should be prioritised for delivery.</i> The final design details <i>of all new links across the River Barrow</i> shall be subject to the appropriate environmental assessment and public consultation.</p>	<p>This Objective prioritises a provision of the Plan - the potential effects of which have already been considered by the SEA and AA. This prioritisation would not result in additional significant environmental effects. The change relating to all new links across the River Barrow being subject to environmental assessment and public consultation does not change the meaning of the existing Draft Plan Objective. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
15	<p>Insert the following new objective after objective MTO 1.8:</p> <p><b>MT01.9</b> <i>Protect, maintain and upgrade the existing pedestrian connection between St John's Lane and Greenhills (WE6 and CL19) as identified on Map 1.1 and 1.2. Where redevelopment of the lands is proposed, priority shall be given in the overall design to the maintenance and upgrade of this route with maximum passive supervision, including lighting as appropriate, addressing its full length.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards the pedestrian connection and lighting provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
16	<p>Insert the following text as a final paragraph under Section 7.8 Roads and Streets Network:</p> <p><i>"The Plan will seek to safeguard the development and carrying capacity of the national road infrastructure along the existing N78 corridor. New development along this route will be required to accord with policies of the County Development Plan and official policy, which seeks to safeguard these routes from development, which would compromise the safety, integrity or capacity of these routes."</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards the transport and road provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
17	<p>Insert the following new section after Section 7.8.1:</p> <p><b>7.8.2 Employment Lands to the East of the Town</b></p> <p><i>With regard to the employment lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' to the east of the town (identified as Gallowhill in Table 6.3), it is considered that their strategic location, adjacent to the N78 (motorway link) and straddling the Athy Distributor Road, necessitates the preparation of a Strategic Transport Assessment (STA) of the subject lands to be carried out prior to their development. This assessment should demonstrate the quantum of development that can be facilitated at the location complementary to safeguarding the strategic function and safety of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of official policy outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). Such an assessment will also need to identify an Access Strategy and any improvements required to the local transport network to accommodate the extent of development proposed. The STA should undertake relevant stakeholder consultation including with TII, the NTA and landowners and shall be considered in the context of any development proposals for this location.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards the transport and road provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>

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18	Amend text of objective MTO4.1, as follows: <b>MTO4.1</b> (a) Maintain and improve, as required, the local road network to ensure a high standard of road quality and safety in accordance with the requirements of the relevant legislation. (b) <i>Safeguard the development and carrying capacity of the national road infrastructure along the existing N78 in accordance with the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012)."</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards the transport and road provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												
19	Amend text of objective MTO4.6, as follows: <b>MTO4.6</b> Ensure that development proposals within Athy Town Centre are subject to a <del>Traffic</del> <i>Transport</i> Impact Assessment (TIA), to be carried out in accordance with the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014). <del>The requirement for all other developments will be determined on a case-by-case basis. Transport Impact Assessments will also be required in the following cases:</del> (a) <i>Development on all lands zoned C: New Residential and;</i> (b) <i>All other lands for which significant development is proposed within the Local Area Plan boundary.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards the transport provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												
20	Insert the following new objective after objective MTO4.9 (along with any consequential amendments): <b>MTO4.10</b> <i>To carry out a Strategic Transport Assessment (STA) and to produce an Access Strategy for lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' situated to the east of Athy in consultation with relevant stakeholders including TII and the NTA, as well as landowners. This will identify the quantum of development that can be facilitated at the location complementary to safeguarding the strategic function and safety of the national road network, in accordance with the provisions of official policy outlined in the Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines 'Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DoECLG, 2012). The STA will also identify any improvements required to the local transport network to accommodate the extent of development proposed.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards the transport provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												
21	Delete the following Walking and Connectivity Measures from <b>Table 7.1 Walking and Connectivity Measures</b> and <b>Map Ref. 1.1 Movement and Transport (Walking and Connectivity Measures)</b> : Extract of Table 7.1: refer Proposed Material Alteration document (Measures to be deleted: <b>WN8 WN9 WN11 WN13 WN14 WN15 WN16 WN17 WN18 WN19 WN20</b> )	Such a deletion would remove the potential for positive effects relating to sustainable mobility and negative effects relating to construction of infrastructure to occur as a result of these measures; however, the deletion would not result in any likely significant environmental effects, taking into account other measures, including those relating to sustainable mobility, already contained within the Draft Plan and already in place. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												
22	Replace Walking and Connectivity Measures WN18 with proposed connectivity measure WN18a in <b>Table 7.1 Walking and Connectivity Measures</b> and <b>Map Ref. 1.1 Movement and Transport (Walking and Connectivity Measures)</b> , as follows: <table><tr><th colspan="4">B: Walking / Connecting Options – New Infrastructure</th></tr><tr><th>Option</th><th>Description</th><th>Type</th><th>Timeframe</th></tr><tr><td><b>WN18a</b></td><td><i>Link to provide for an additional access point to Ardscoil na Trionoide.</i></td><td><i>New Link</i></td><td><i>MT</i></td></tr></table>	B: Walking / Connecting Options – New Infrastructure				Option	Description	Type	Timeframe	<b>WN18a</b>	<i>Link to provide for an additional access point to Ardscoil na Trionoide.</i>	<i>New Link</i>	<i>MT</i>	The deletion of WN18 would remove the potential for positive effects relating to sustainable mobility and negative effects relating to construction of infrastructure to occur as a result of this measures; however, the deletion would not result in any likely significant environmental effects, taking into account the proposed addition of WN18a and the other measures relating to sustainable mobility already contained within the Draft Plan and already in place.  The addition of WN18a would further contribute towards the transport provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. WN18a could be interpreted as a new crossing of the Moneen River however a new crossing at this location would be highly unlikely and it would be most likely that the existing road and bridge would be used. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
B: Walking / Connecting Options – New Infrastructure														
Option	Description	Type	Timeframe											
<b>WN18a</b>	<i>Link to provide for an additional access point to Ardscoil na Trionoide.</i>	<i>New Link</i>	<i>MT</i>											
23	Insert the following new objective after BH1.8: <b>BH1.9</b> <i>Explore the feasibility of restoring the dry dock in Athy, in consultation with Waterways Ireland.</i>	Exploring feasibility would not result in significant effects and the preparation of the Public Realm Strategy is already provided for by the Draft Plan. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>												
24	(a) Include a new View/Prospect in Figure 8.1 and Table 8.2, along with consequential amendments to the Athy Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) Statement of Character, as follows: <i>ViewH: Viewtowards Horse Bridge and River Barrow Sluice Gate</i> (b) Include a new View/Prospect in Figure 8.1 and Table 8.2, along with consequential amendments to the Athy Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) Statement of Character, as follows: <i>ViewI: View from the Canal lock at William Street down Canal Side towards the Dominican Lands.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards views, prospects and cultural heritage provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												
25	Amend text of objective BH2.5, as follows: <b>BH2.5</b> Review all applications for demolition, modifications or extensions to existing buildings with regard to <del>its</del> <i>their</i> relative importance to the appreciation of the character of the ACA as identified in the <del>Building Inventory of the</del> Statement of Character.	This alteration updates language and does not change the meaning of the existing Draft Plan Objective to the extent that it would result in additional significant effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												
26	Insert the following objective following objective NH1.6: <b>NH1.7</b> <i>Ensure that any proposals for the lighting/flood lighting of waterways infrastructure, buildings or pedestrian/cycling routes along waterways within the Plan area incorporate bat friendly lighting schemes as set out in 'Bats and Lighting, Guidance Notes for: Planners, engineers, architects and developers' (Bat Conservation Ireland, December 2010).</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards the lighting provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.												



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No.	Proposed Material Alteration <sup>6</sup>	SEA Screening Consideration
27	<p>Amend text of objective GI.1.7, as follows:</p> <p><b>GI1.7</b> (a) Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow (<i>including all areas covered by the River Barrow and River Nore SAC</i>), 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.</p> <p>(b) <i>Ensure that any development on the lands zoned 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' located adjacent to the River Barrow at Townparks incorporates an appropriately landscaped riparian zone to seamlessly integrate with the lands to the south and east, which are subject to the development of a masterplan under objective OS1.8.</i></p> <p>Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan, including the denotation of objective GI1.7(B) on <b>Map Ref. 5 Strategic Open Space Map.</b></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards green infrastructure provisions already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p> <p>As this alteration could be considered mitigation with the objective of protecting the River Barrow and River Nore SAC, Stage 2 AA is required.</p> <p>Taking all of the above into account and taking a precautionary approach, <b>SEA is advised as prudent.</b></p>
28	<p>Amend the text of objective GI1.10, as follows:</p> <p><b>GI1.10</b> Promote appropriate tree planting <i>and pollinator friendly planting, in accordance with the recommendations of the All Ireland Pollinator Plan throughout Athy and in open spaces within new developments in order to enhance local biodiversity, visual amenity and surface water management. within the public realm with a particular focus on strategic open spaces as well as along transport networks.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for green infrastructure already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
29	<p>Replace the first paragraph of Section 10.1.1 with the following text:</p> <p><i>Census 2016 records that 92.5% of all households in the settlement of Athy are connected to the public mains network. The average water demand in the town is 3 million litres per day, as of Summer 2020. Since 2013, Athy has been served by the Srowland Water Treatment Plant, located to the north of the town. While Athy is supplied from Srowland WTP, it also forms part of the overall Greater Dublin Area Water Resource Zone. Supply in this Water Resource Zone is constrained therefore new connections will be prioritised for housing and domestic sanitation purposes. Connections for Non-Domestic supplies will be accommodated on a first come first served basis. To protect current supplies, applicants for non-domestic demand may be asked to review their demand requirements. IW are developing the National Water Resource Plan which will identify solutions to improve supply over the life of this plan.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions/commitments with regard to water services already detailed within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
30	<p>Replace the second paragraph of Section 10.1.2 with the following text: <i>Following some recent modelling of the sewer network, some issues are appearing in a few areas that will require new systems to be implemented with the growth of the catchment. Where there are constraints, applications for developments would be on a first come, first served basis. If no project is associated with a constrained area, then any infrastructure improvements or upgrades will be developer led. Irish Water can work with developers to form the best solution for a particular site. This would be through the Connections and Developer Services section of Irish Water's website: <a href="https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/">https://www.water.ie/connections/developer-services/</a> There should be sufficient headroom at Athy wastewater treatment plant to provide for the majority of the projected domestic population. However, as above, this will be on a first come, first served basis.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions/commitments with regard to water services already detailed within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
31	<p>Insert the following new objective after objective IO2.3 and renumber subsequent objectives accordingly:</p> <p><b>IO2.4</b> <i>Ensure that the capacity and efficiency of the national road network drainage regimes will be safeguarded for national road drainage purposes.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions for infrastructure and environmental services already included within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
32	<p>Insert the following new section after Section 10.3.1 <b>Section 10.3.2 Site Specific Flood Risk Assessment: All development proposals taking place in areas that KCC have applied a Justification Test, where a residual flood risk remains, should be supported by an appropriately detailed SSFRA. The level of detail within the FRA will depend on the risks identified and the land use proposed. Applications should apply the use of the sequential approach in terms of the site layout and design and, in satisfying the Justification Test (where required), the proposal must demonstrate that appropriate mitigation and management measures are put in place. The development should ensure that no encroachment onto, or loss of, the flood plain shall occur. Only water compatible development such as Open Space would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site. For any development in flood risk areas that meet the Development Plan Justification Test, a Development Management Justification Test must then be applied. Development must satisfy all of the criteria of the Development Management Justification Test as per <b>Box 5-1 of the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.</b> This chapter provides a broad overview of the requirements of FRAs which should accompany planning applications.</b></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions/commitments with regard to flood risk management already detailed within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
33	<p>Amend the following objective: <b>IO3.2</b> Ensure development proposals within the areas <i>where KCC have applied a Justification Test and where residual flood risk remains</i> as outlined on the Flood Risk Map (<i>Map Ref. 2</i>) are the subject of a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed.</p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards provisions/commitments with regard to flood risk management already detailed within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>

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34	Insert the following new objective after objective IO3.4: <i><b>IO3.5</b> Ensure that all development proposals apply the sequential approach in terms of the site layout and design and, in satisfying the Justification Test (where required), the proposal shall demonstrate that appropriate mitigation and management measures are put in place. The development proposals should ensure that no encroachment onto, or loss of, the flood plain shall occur. Only water compatible development such as Open Space would be permitted for the lands which are identified as being at risk of flooding within that site.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards provisions/commitments with regard to flood risk management already detailed within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
35	Insert new Map Ref. 2a which illustrates Flood Risk Zones and SSFRA overlaid on the LAP Land Use Zoning Map (Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map).	This alteration combines layers of information already provided as part of the Plan document and does not interact with existing Plan provisions to an extent that it would have additional significant environmental effects. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b>
36	Remove the woodland/scrub designation from the triangular wooded area (as outlined in red on map in PMA document) on <b>Map Ref. 4 Green Infrastructure Map</b> . <b>Map 2:</b> Proposed Material Alteration No. 36	The removal of this designation at this non-native pocket of vegetation would remove the potential for positive effects relating to the protection of ecology to occur at this site as a result of this designation; however, the removal would not result in any likely significant environmental effects, taking into account the other measures relating to ecological protection and management already contained within the Draft Plan. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
37	Amend <b>Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map</b> to designate EteX lands 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' (see Map 10 at end of Report). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	This alteration would further contribute towards land use zoning provisions included in the Draft Plan. There is no change proposed with regard to the extent of land to be zoned and both zoning objectives (for the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alteration) provide for a variety of uses with associated potential for effects.  Taking the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan into account, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
38	Amend <b>Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map</b> to include lands (as outlined in red on map below) to the west of the EteX Ireland campus as 'H: Industrial and Warehousing'. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan. Insert new specific development objective a) and b) in <b>Table 11.3</b> , as follows: <i>H lands – Athy West (Bennetsbridge Road)</i> <i>a) Access to these lands shall be via the existing industrial lands to the immediate east. No further access shall be permitted on to the N78 national primary route.</i> <i>The development of these lands shall be subject to a site-specific transport assessment to protect the integrity and carrying capacity of the N78 at this location.</i>	This alteration would further contribute towards the transport and road provisions already contained within the Draft Plan. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
39	Amend the zoning designation on <b>Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map</b> for the site occupied by the former St. Patrick's National School (as outlined in red on the map below) on St. John's Lane from 'E: Community and Educational' to 'A: Town Centre'.	There is no change proposed with regard to the extent of land to be zoned and both zoning objectives (for the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alteration) provide for a variety of uses with associated potential for effects.  Taking the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan into account, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
40	Amend the zoning designation on <b>Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map</b> on the lands, as outlined in red on Map 4 below, from 'F: Open Space and Amenity' to 'A: Town Centre'. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	This alteration would further contribute towards land use zoning and infill/compact development provisions included in the Draft Plan. Taking into account the limited extent of these lands and the absence of strategic environmental sensitivities it is determined that, taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
41	Amend the zoning designation on <b>Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map</b> for the sites (as outlined in red on map below) from 'F: Open Space and Amenity' to 'B: Existing Residential/Infill' as per KCC Plan Ref. 15/1144. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	This alteration would further contribute towards land use zoning and infill/compact development provisions included in the Draft Plan. Taking into account the limited extent of these lands and the absence of strategic environmental sensitivities it is determined that, taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.
42	Amend <b>Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map</b> by amending the land use zoning objective on the extent of lands as outlined in KCC Plan Ref. 18/184 from 'B: Existing Infill/Residential' to 'F: Open Space and Amenity' (as outlined in red on map below). This amendment shall also include the lands included in folio KE1140 that are not already zoned 'F: Open Space and Amenity'. Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	This amendment would remove the potential arising from development of this site for positive effects, such as those relating to sustainable mobility, and negative effects, such as those relating to construction on various environmental components; however, the amendment would not result in any likely significant environmental effects, taking into account other measures, including those relating to land use zoning and sustainable mobility, already contained within the Draft Plan. <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.

# SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations

No.	Proposed Material Alteration <sup>6</sup>	SEA Screening Consideration
43	Amend <b>Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map</b> by zoning the area identified by Submission No. 43 in the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions Received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 (dated 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2021) as existing residential zoning (as outlined in red on map below). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	<p>This amendment, relating to lands that are removed from the established built development envelope of Athy, would not align with objectives relating to sustainable development and may present additional, potentially significant and unnecessary adverse effects on various environmental components such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ecology and ecological connectivity (none of the zoning is within designated sites);</li> <li>• Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces;</li> <li>• Increased loadings on water bodies;</li> <li>• Challenges in providing adequate and appropriate waste water treatment;</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon the economic viability of providing for public assets and infrastructure;</li> <li>• Adverse impacts upon carbon emission reduction targets in line with local, national and European environmental objectives;</li> <li>• Conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality;</li> <li>• Conflict with efforts to maximise sustainable compact growth and sustainable mobility;</li> <li>• Cultural heritage and occurrence of adverse visual impacts;</li> <li>• Potential effects on human health as a result of potential interactions with environmental vectors.</li> </ul> <p><b>Consequently, SEA is required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
44	<p><b>(a)</b> Amend <b>Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map</b> by changing the proposed 'Q: Employment and Enterprise' land use zoning designation to 'R: Retail' on the land identified by Submission No. 55 in the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions Received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 (dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 2021). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.</p> <p><b>(b)</b> Amend <b>Table 11.3 Land Use Zoning Objectives</b> by inserting the land use zoning objective 'R: Retail' Land Use Zoning Objective as follows: refer to Proposed Material Alteration document.</p> <p><b>(c)</b> Amend <b>Table 11.5 Land Use Zoning Matrix</b> as follows: refer to Proposed Material Alteration document.</p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards land use zoning provisions included in the Draft Plan. There is no change proposed with regard to the extent of land to be zoned and both zoning objectives (for the Draft Plan and Proposed Material Alteration) provide for a variety of uses with associated potential for effects.</p> <p>Taking the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan into account, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
45	Amend <b>Map Ref. 6: Land Use Zoning Map</b> by zoning the area identified by Submission Nos. 42, 50 and 54 in the Chief Executive's Report on the Submissions Received to the Draft Athy Local Area Plan 2021 – 2027 (dated 19 <sup>th</sup> March 2021) to provide for 50% of the area to be retained as existing residential lands ('B: Existing Residential / Infill') and the remaining 50% of the lands adjacent to the Ardrew Key Development Area to the north, be designated as 'F: Open Space and Amenity' (see lands outlined in yellow in Map 6 below). Proposed Material Alteration to include any consequential amendments to the Plan.	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards land use zoning provisions included in the Draft Plan. This site is limited in size, is within the Draft Plan boundary and between two areas of existing residential development. There is a reduction in Agricultural zoned lands, 50% of which is proposed to be replaced with Residential zoning and 50% replaced with Open Space zoning. The Open Space zoning is consistent with adjoining zoning and proposed uses while the Residential zoning is between two other areas zoned Residential.</p> <p>Taking the above and the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan into account, it is determined that all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>
46	<p>Amend <b>Table 11.5 Land Use Zoning Matrix</b> to include a specific objective under land use zoning objective 'H: Industrial and Warehousing' to provide that 'Nursing Home' uses will be amended from 'N' (Not Permitted) to 'O' (Open for Consideration) on lands located to south/east of the R418 (formerly identified as 'H3' in the Athy Development Plan 2012-2018 at Dublin Road/ Gallowshill. Extract of Table 11.5: Land Use Zoning Matrix (for illustrative purposes only, PMA No. 46 refers to 'Nursing Home' category only) refer to Proposed Material Alteration document.</p> <p><i><sup>1</sup> Nursing homes will only be 'Open for Consideration' within the zoning designation 'H; Industrial and Warehousing' on lands located to south/east of the R418 at Dublin Rd/ Gallowshill and denoted by 'H*' on Map Ref. 6 Land Use Zoning Map.</i></p>	<p>This alteration would further contribute towards land use zoning provisions included in the Draft Plan. Taking into account the limited extent of these lands and the absence of strategic environmental sensitivities it is determined that, taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan, all potential effects arising from this Proposed Alteration are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). <b>Consequently, SEA is not required.</b> Refer also to Table 2.3 and Section 2.5.</p>

**Table 2.3 Detail of effects<sup>8</sup>, if unmitigated, mitigation measures for potential effects and residual adverse effects**

Environmental Component	Environmental Effects			Mitigation Measures <sup>9</sup>	SEO Code
	Significant Positive, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant		
All	See various below	See various below	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See various below</li> </ul>	<p>EDTO3.1 Support the development of the Barrow Blueway route along the Barrow Line of the Grand Canal and Barrow Navigation system as a multi-use tourism and amenity resource, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p> <p>EDTO3.2 Support and facilitate the development of Athy as an 'activity hub' for water-based sports and associated recreational activities including the development of a Blueway Sports Hub / Education Centre within the Dominican lands, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p> <p>EDTO3.3 Support the development of the necessary infrastructure to service the expansion of water-based activities in the town, including safe and convenient mooring facilities, subject to the required environmental assessments.</p> <p>MT01.4 To work with the National Transport Authority (NTA) to implement the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan (2013) proposals for Athy, subject to detailed engineering design and any mitigation measures presented in the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Natura Impact Statement (NIS) accompanying the NTA Plan.</p>	See various below
Biodiversity and Flora and Fauna	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards protection of ecology (including designated sites, ecological connectivity, habitats) by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the maintenance of existing green infrastructure and associated ecosystem services, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats.</li> <li>Contribution towards protection and/or maintenance of biodiversity and flora and fauna by contributing towards the protection of natural capital including the environmental vectors of air, water and soil. Biodiversity and flora and fauna includes biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species (including birds and bats), listed/protected species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats (including terrestrial and aquatic habitats), and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna – including terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna.</li> </ul>	<p>Arising from both construction and operation of development and associated infrastructure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna;</li> <li>Habitat loss, fragmentation and deterioration, including patch size and edge effects; and</li> <li>Disturbance (e.g. due to noise and lighting along transport corridors) and displacement of protected species such as birds and bats.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of non-protected habitats and species arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> <li>Losses or damage to ecology (these would be in compliance with relevant legislation).</li> </ul>	<p><b>Policy NH1 – Natural Heritage</b></p> <p><b>NH1</b> <i>It is the policy of the Council to support the protection of species and habitats that are designated under the Wildlife Acts 1976 and 2000, the Birds Directive 1979 and the Habitats Directive 1992 as well as areas of high local biodiversity value and to ensure that developments with potential to impact the integrity of the Natura 2000 network will be subject to Appropriate Assessment.</i></p> <p><b>Objectives</b> It is an objective of the Council to:</p> <p><b>NH1.1</b> Protect, conserve and manage the River Barrow and River Nore SAC and contribute to the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the Grand Canal pNHA.</p> <p><b>NH1.2</b> Ensure screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA), in accordance with Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive is carried out with respect to any plan or project, including masterplans.</p> <p><b>NH1.3</b> Ensure that any proposal for development within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA is located and designed to minimise its impact on the biodiversity, geological, water and landscape value of the pNHA.</p> <p><b>NH1.4</b> Ensure all applications for planning permission within or adjacent to the Grand Canal pNHA are accompanied by an Ecological Impact Assessment (EcIA) prepared by a suitably qualified professional.</p> <p><b>NH1.5</b> Identify, protect, conserve and enhance wherever possible, wildlife habitats and species of local importance, not otherwise protected by legislation. Such habitats would include woodland, river, canal, wetlands and grassland areas along with field boundaries (hedgerows, stone walls and ditches). These features form part of a network of habitats and corridors, which allow wildlife to exist and flourish and contribute to compliance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.</p> <p><b>NH1.6</b> Protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Athy.</p> <p><b>Action</b> To survey existing bridge structures in Athy to identify whether any such structure currently supports bat roosts</p> <p><b>GI1.1</b> Reduce fragmentation of the existing Green Infrastructure network while protecting and enhancing its biodiversity by strengthen ecological links including stepping stone habitats (according to their value).</p> <p><b>GI1.5</b> Provide for wildlife bridges (eco links) as part of any new pedestrian and cycle links across the River Barrow, the Barrow Line Canal and railway, thereby facilitating the free movement of people and species throughout the Plan area.</p> <p><b>GI1.7</b> Maintain a biodiversity protection zone of 60 metres from the top bank of the River Barrow, 20 metres from the canal and not less than 10 metres from the top bank of smaller watercourses, with the full extent of the protection zone to be determined on a case by case basis by the Planning Authority, based on site specific characteristics and sensitivities. Strategic green routes and trails will be open for consideration within the biodiversity protection zone, subject to appropriate safeguards and assessments.<sup>10</sup></p> <p><b>GI1.9</b> Seek to protect trees with a particular local amenity or conservation value.</p> <p><b>GI1.10</b> Promote appropriate tree planting within the public realm with a particular focus on strategic open spaces as well as along transport networks.</p>	BFF
Population and Human Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promotion of economic growth to encourage retention of working age population and funding of sustainable development and environmental protection and management.</li> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects arising from flood events.</li> <li>Potential interactions if effects arising from environmental vectors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential interactions with residual effects on environmental vectors – please refer to residual adverse effects under “Soil”, “Water” and “Air and Climatic Factors” below.</li> </ul>	See measures under other environmental components including Soil, Water and Air and Climatic Factors	PHH

<sup>8</sup> Environmental effects of implementing the Plan, including in combination with the wider planning framework e.g. the NPF and associated NDP 2018, the Eastern and Midland RSES, the Kildare County Development Plan and adjacent Development Plans and lower-tier land use plans.<sup>9</sup> These measures are in addition to those measures already in force through the Kildare County Development Plan, as varied, which must be complied with by proposals for development.<sup>10</sup> Any such green route or trail should be designed in accordance with the guidelines and principles outlined in 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (Inland Fisheries Ireland, 2020)



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	Significant Positive, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of human health by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> <li>Contributes towards protection of human health as a result of contributing towards the protection of natural capital including environmental vectors, including air and water.</li> </ul>				
Soil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of soils (including those used for agriculture) by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards the protection of the environment from contamination the highest standards of remediation, and where appropriate to consultations with the EPA and other relevant bodies, will be required to resolve any instances of environmental pollution created by contaminated land.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects on the hydrogeological and ecological function of the soil resource, including as a result of development on contaminated lands.</li> <li>Potential for riverbank erosion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Loss of an extent of soil function arising from the replacement of semi-natural land covers with artificial surfaces.</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Water and Plan provisions relating to compact development <b>NH1.6</b></p> <p>Protect and conserve the integrity of soils that supports the rich biodiversity and ecological networks in Athy.</p>	<b>S</b>
Water	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards the protection of water by facilitating development of lands that have relatively low levels of environmental sensitivities and are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop more sensitive, less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> <li>Contributions towards the protection of water resources including the status of surface and groundwaters and water-based designations.</li> <li>Contribution towards flood risk management and appropriate drainage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential adverse effects upon the status of water bodies and entries to the WFD Register of Protected Areas (ecological and human value), arising from changes in quality, flow and/or morphology.</li> <li>Increase in flood risk and associated effects associated with flood events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Any increased loadings as a result of development to comply with the River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Flood related risks remain due to uncertainty with regard to extreme weather events – however such risks will be mitigated by measures that have been integrated into the Plan.</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Soil and Material Assets.</p> <p><b>Policy I2 – Surface Water and Groundwater</b></p> <p><b>I2</b></p> <p><i>It is the policy of the Council to maintain and enhance the existing surface water drainage systems in Athy and to protect surface and ground water quality in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</i></p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p><b>I02.1</b> Carry out an audit of the existing surface water infrastructure to identify improvement works as required.</p> <p><b>I02.2</b> Ensure that all new developments maintain surface water discharge at greenfield runoff rate, including an allowance for climate change.</p> <p><b>I02.3</b> Incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) and other nature-based surface water drainage solutions as part of all plans and development proposals in Athy. Priority shall be given to SuDS that incorporate green infrastructure and promote biodiversity including green roofs, walls and rain gardens. Proposals for all new residential developments and for the development of 'H' and 'Q' zoned employment lands must consider the potential for SuDS to control surface water outfall and protect water quality, with underground retention solutions only being considered when all other options have been exhausted.</p> <p><b>I02.4</b> Maintain, improve and enhance the environmental and ecological quality of surface waters and groundwater in Athy in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland and in conjunction with the Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p><b>I02.5</b> Require applicants, where necessary, to demonstrate that proposals will not negatively impact on any groundwater or surface water body and be compliant with the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and measures to protect and improve our water bodies set down in the River Basin Management Plan for Ireland 2018 – 2021 and future Cycles of this Plan.</p> <p><b>I02.6</b> 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> <p><b>I02.7</b> Ensure that development along urban watercourses must comply with the Inland Fisheries Ireland Guidance 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (2020), including the maintenance of a minimum riparian zone of 35 metres for river channels greater than 10 metres in width, and 20 metres for rivers channels less than 10 metres in width. Development within this zone will only be considered for water compatible developments.<sup>11</sup></p> <p><b>Action</b> To encourage 'daylighting'/deculverting<sup>12</sup> and the restoration of culverted water bodies within the town as a natural method of flood management.</p> <p><b>Policy I3 – Flood Risk Management</b></p> <p><b>I3</b></p> <p><i>It is the policy of the Council to manage flood risk in Athy in conjunction with the Office of Public Works and in accordance with the requirements of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009) and circular PL02/2014 (August 2014).</i></p>	<b>W</b>

<sup>11</sup> Water compatible developments as defined in the OPW Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2009)

<sup>12</sup> 'Daylighting' is the action of returning a culverted river to open water. At its simplest it is taking the lid off the culvert, but most designs aim to create a more natural river shape and re-introduce ecological habitats.

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				<b>Objectives</b> <b>IO3.1</b> Manage flood risk in Athy in accordance with the requirements of <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> , DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014). <b>IO3.2</b> Ensure development proposals within the areas outlined on the Flood Risk Map are the subject of Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment, appropriate to the nature and scale of the development proposed. <b>IO3.3</b> Maintain all existing overland flow routes. <b>IO3.4</b> Support and co-operate with the OPW in delivering the Athy Flood Relief Scheme, subject to the statutory environmental considerations.	
Material Assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards appropriate provision of infrastructure and services to existing population and planned growth by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> <li>Contribution towards compliance with national and regional water services and waste management policies.</li> <li>Contribution towards increase in renewable energy use by facilitating renewable energy and electricity transmission infrastructure developments.</li> <li>Contribution towards limits in increases in energy demand from the transport sector by facilitating sustainable compact growth.</li> <li>Contribution towards reductions in average energy consumption per capita including promoting energy efficient buildings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Failure to provide adequate and appropriate waste water treatment (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to adequately treat surface water run-off that is discharged to water bodies (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Failure to comply with drinking water regulations and serve new development with adequate drinking water (water services infrastructure and capacity ensures the mitigation of potential conflicts).</li> <li>Increases in waste levels.</li> <li>Potential impacts upon public assets and infrastructure.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Exceedance of capacity in critical infrastructure risks remain, including due to uncertainty with regard to climate – however, such risks will be mitigated by: measures, including those requiring the timely provision of critical infrastructure, and compliance with the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan.</li> <li>Residual wastes to be disposed of in line with higher-level waste management policies.</li> <li>Any impacts upon public assets and infrastructure to comply with statutory planning/consent-granting framework.</li> </ul>	<p>Also see measures under other environmental components including Population and Human Health and various Land Use and Phasing provisions from the Plan.</p> <b>EDTO1.3</b> Ensure the provision of adequate and appropriate water, wastewater treatment and waste management facilities to accommodate future economic growth of the town. <b>MT04.6</b> Ensure that development proposals within Athy Town Centre are subject to a Traffic Impact Assessment (TIA), to be carried out in accordance with the Traffic and Transport Assessment Guidelines (2014). The requirement for all other developments will be determined on a case-by-case basis. <b>MT04.8</b> Provide for traffic calming and speed reduction measures throughout the town, where necessary as funding allows, and ensure that all new developments are designed to incorporate appropriate traffic calming measures as set out in the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets. <p><b>Policy I1 – Water Supply and Wastewater</b></p> <b>I1</b> <i>It is the policy of the Council to work in conjunction with Irish Water to protect existing water and wastewater infrastructure in Athy, to maximise the potential of existing capacity and to facilitate the timely delivery of new water services infrastructure to facilitate future growth.</i> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <b>IO1.1</b> Work in conjunction with Irish Water to promote the ongoing upgrade and expansion of water supply and wastewater services to meet the future needs of Athy. <b>IO1.2</b> Maximise the sustainable and efficient use of existing capacity in water services in the planning of new development. <b>IO1.3</b> Seek to ensure that adequate water services will be available to service development prior to the granting of planning permission for development. <b>IO1.4</b> Seek to ensure that development proposals comply with the standards and requirements of Irish Water in relation to water and wastewater infrastructure. <b>IO5.1</b> Adequately maintain recycling facilities and to secure the provision of additional facilities, as required, including in conjunction with development. <b>IO5.2</b> Support the development of a local bring bank recycling facility at an appropriate location, proximate to either the Stradbally Road or Kilkenny Road, within the boundaries of the Local Area Plan.	MA
Air and Climatic Factors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution towards climate mitigation and adaptation by facilitating compact development of lands that are served (or can be more easily served) by infrastructure and services, thereby helping to avoid the need to develop less well-served lands elsewhere in the town and beyond.</li> <li>In combination with other plans, programmes etc., contribution towards the objectives of the wide policy framework relating to climate mitigation and adaptation, and associated contribution towards maintaining and improving air quality and managing noise levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential conflict between development under the Plan and aiming to reduce carbon emissions in line with local, national and European environmental objectives.</li> <li>Potential conflicts between transport emissions, including those from cars, and air quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An extent of travel related greenhouse gas and other emissions to air. This has been mitigated by provisions which have been integrated into the Plan, including those relating to sustainable compact growth</li> </ul>	<p>Also refer to the overall approach to land use zoning, transport and sustainability provided by the Plan.</p> <p><b>Policy CAM 1 – Climate Adaptation and Mitigation</b></p> <p><i>It is the policy of the Council to future proof Athy to ensure that it becomes a climate resilient town by promoting the economic, social and environmental benefits of low-carbon development, creating an integrated green infrastructure network, prioritising sustainable mobility within the town and building at sustainable densities in appropriate locations.</i></p> <p><b>Objective CAM01.1</b> Support the full implementation of the Kildare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024, or any succeeding document, with regards to its goals, objectives and actions relating to the planning and development of Athy.</p> <p><b>Action</b> To ensure all plans and projects carried out in Athy encourage and provide for climate resilient measures.</p> <p><b>HCO2.3</b> Require that residential schemes in close proximity to heavily trafficked roads within the Plan area are designed and constructed to minimise noise disturbance, follow a good acoustic design process and clearly demonstrate that significant adverse noise impacts will be avoided.</p> <p><b>Policy UCR1 – Urban Regeneration and Development</b></p> <p><b>UCR1</b> <i>It is the policy of the Council to support the implementation of the Athy Urban Regeneration Framework to maximise the potential of Athy's unique built and natural assets in order to instigate transformative place-based change in the town, where a revitalised town centre becomes a major visitor destination and contributes to a model of low carbon development and the creation of a climate resilient, healthy, connected and more inclusive settlement.</i></p>	A

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	Significant Positive, likely to occur	Potentially Significant Adverse, if unmitigated	Likely Residual Adverse Non-Significant		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>including through measures relating to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Sustainable compact growth;</li> <li>o Sustainable mobility, including walking, cycling and public transport;</li> <li>o Drainage, flood risk management and resilience;</li> <li>o Sustainable infrastructure design solutions including green infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential conflicts between increased frequency of noise emissions and protection of sensitive receptors.</li> <li>• Potential conflicts with climate adaptation measures including those relating to flood risk management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• and sustainable mobility.</li> <li>• Interactions between noise emissions and sensitive receptors.</li> </ul> <p>Various provisions have been integrated into the Plan to ensure that noise levels at sensitive receptors will be minimised.</p>	<p><b>MT04.9</b> Reduce the harmful effects of traffic noise by ensuring noise mitigation measures are implemented into new developments in proximity to national routes, regional routes and significant urban streets. Developers shall engage a suitably qualified acoustic specialist to prepare an Acoustic Design Statement for all new developments with the potential to impact sensitive noise receptors from traffic noise. The Statement shall have regard to the thresholds set out in the Kildare Noise Action Plan 2019-2023 (or any subsequent plan).</p> <p><b>I05.3</b> Avoid, prevent or reduce harmful effects on human health and the environment as a whole through promoting the preservation of best ambient air quality with sustainable development.</p> <p><b>I05.4</b> Support the take-up and use of ultra-low emissions vehicles and encourage, through the development management process the provision of electric vehicle charging infrastructure, where appropriate.</p>	
Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage elsewhere in the County by facilitating development within the town.</li> <li>• Contributes towards protection of cultural heritage within existing settlements by facilitating brownfield development and regeneration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on protected and unknown archaeology and protected architecture arising from construction and operation activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Potential effects on known architectural and archaeological heritage and unknown archaeology however, these will occur in compliance with legislation.</li> </ul>	<p><b>UCR01.9</b> Prioritise the enhancement of the streetscape and heritage assets of the town centre, to continue environmental improvements, to sustain and improve its attraction for living, working, visiting and investment.</p> <p><b>Policy BH1 – Protected Structures</b>  <b>BH1</b> <i>It is the policy of the Council to preserve and enhance the buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of such structures, including their historic curtilage, both directly and indirectly.</i></p> <p><b>BH1.1</b> Ensure the protection and preservation of all protected structures (or parts of structures), including the curtilage and attendant grounds of structures contained in the Record of Protected Structures (refer to <b>Table 8.1, Map 3: Built Heritage and Archaeology and Map 3a: Built Heritage and Archaeology – Town Centre</b>).</p> <p><b>BH1.4</b> Proactively address dereliction, endangerment, neglect and vacancy in the town centre through the use of the Council's legal process and through the promotion of appropriate uses and the sensitive conservation of historic buildings, in conjunction with other relevant initiatives.</p> <p><b>BH1.5</b> Encourage the protection, retention, appreciation and appropriate revitalisation of the vernacular and industrial heritage of Athy.</p> <p><b>Policy BH2 – Architectural Conservation Area</b>  <b>BH2</b> <i>It is the policy of the Council to protect the character of the Architectural Conservation Area (ACA) and to carefully consider any proposals for development that would affect the special value of the ACA, while providing guidance through the publication of a Statement of Character to support property owners located within the ACA.</i></p> <p><b>Policy BH3 – Archaeological Heritage</b>  <b>BH3</b> <i>It is the policy of the Council to safeguard the archaeological heritage located within the boundary of the Local Area Plan and avoid negative impacts on sites, monuments, features or objects of significant historical or archaeological interest.</i></p> <p><b>Objectives</b>  <b>BH3.1</b> Prioritise the protection/preservation in situ (or upon agreement preservation by record) of items of archaeological interest as listed in <b>Table 8.3</b> and shown on <b>Map 3: Built and Natural Heritage</b> from inappropriate development that would adversely affect and/or detract from the interpretation and setting of these sites.</p> <p><b>BH3.5</b> Ensure that development proposals contribute towards the protection and preservation of the archaeological value of underwater or archaeological sites associated with the River Barrow, the Grand Canal and associated features.</p>	<b>C</b>
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Contributes towards protection of wider landscape and landscape designations by facilitating development within the town.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Occurrence of adverse visual impacts and conflicts with the appropriate protection of designations relating to the landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Landscapes will change overtime as a result of natural changes in vegetation cover combined with new developments that will occur in compliance with the Plan's landscape protection measures.</li> </ul>	<p><b>EDT02.1</b> To support the continued operation and reasonable expansion of existing non-conforming uses, provided they do not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Result in loss of amenity to adjoining properties;</li> <li>• Cause adverse impact on the environment;</li> <li>• Cause adverse impact on the visual amenity or character of the area; or</li> </ul> <p><b>GI.1.11</b> Protect and enhance the existing character and setting along the route of the Barrow Blueway.</p>	<b>CH</b>

## 2.5 Schedule 2A

### PART 1

**1. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources***

The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027. The LAP will be positioned under the County Development Plan and contributes towards the associated planning framework for the development consent of projects and Masterplanning.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan set a framework for projects and other activities, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**2. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy***

The Material Alterations propose a number of text and map-based changes to the Draft Athy LAP 2021-2027. The LAP will be positioned under the County Development Plan and contributes towards the associated planning framework for the development consent of projects and Masterplanning.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan influence other plans, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

**3. *The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development***

The Draft Plan - to which the Proposed Material Alterations relate - has undergone SEA. This process integrated environmental considerations into the Plan and found that the Plan contributes to environmental protection and management and sustainable development.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the degree to which these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan are relevant for the integration of environmental considerations with a view to promoting sustainable development, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

#### **4. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: environmental problems relevant to the plan**

Environmental problems arise where there is a conflict between current environmental conditions and legislative targets. Through its provisions relating to environmental protection and management, the Draft Plan contributes towards ensuring that environmental conditions do not get worse and, where possible, they contribute towards its amelioration.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from environmental problems relevant to these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

#### **5. The characteristics of the plan having regard, in particular, to: the relevance of the plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection)**

The Draft Plan relates to the land use and town planning sector and has fulfilled requirements in relation to SEA and AA. These processes integrated considerations with regard to EU and national legislation on the environment, including those relating to the waste management and the Water Framework Directive.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.

Taking the above and the examination of the various other Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4 into account, arising from the relevance of these Proposed Material Alterations and the Draft Local Area Plan for the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment, the other Proposed Material Alterations would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects.

## **PART 2**

### **1. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **2. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the cumulative nature of the effects**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

### **3. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the transboundary nature of the effects**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely

to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**4. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**5. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**6. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:**

**a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values, and;**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**c) intensive land-use.**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

**7. Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular, to: the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status**

SEA is required for Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) while other Proposed Material Alterations would not necessitate SEA as they would not be likely to result in significant environmental effects (see responses under Schedule 2A Part 1 above and the examination of the various Proposed Material Alterations provided under Section 2.4).

## **Section 3 Conclusion**

Most Proposed Material Alterations are determined not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is identified that all potential effects arising from most Proposed Material Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely add clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

Proposed Material Alterations No. 3, 4, 10, 27 and 43 (refer also to Table 2.2) require full SEA and these will be considered in the SEA Environmental Report.