

Kildare County Council

**Variation to the Kildare County
Development Plan 2017 - 2023**

SEA Statement

Ref/1

Issue | 6 July 2020

This report takes into account the particular instructions and requirements of our client.

It is not intended for and should not be relied upon by any third party and no responsibility is undertaken to any third party.

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Contents

	Page
1 Introduction	1
1.1 The Purpose of the SEA Statement	1
1.2 Statement of the SEA Process for the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023	2
2 SEA Methodology	4
2.1 Overview	4
2.2 Screening	4
2.3 Scoping	5
2.4 Baseline Assessment	5
2.5 Environmental Assessment	6
2.6 Consideration of Alternatives	6
2.7 Flood Risk	6
2.8 Appropriate Assessment	6
2.9 Consultation	7
2.10 Technical Difficulties Encountered	7
3 SEA Scoping	8
3.1 Scoping Process	8
3.2 Scoping Consultation	9
4 Environmental Assessment	12
4.1 Establishment of the Baseline	12
4.2 Interactions and Interrelationships	12
4.3 Objectives, Indicators and Targets	13
4.4 Consideration of Alternatives	18
4.5 Assessment - Draft Variation	19
5 Mitigation Measures and Monitoring	26
5.1 Mitigation Measures	26
5.2 SEA Monitoring	26
6 Final Appraisal: How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Adopted Variation	31

Appendices

Appendix A

Submissions to Draft Variation and SEA Environmental Report

1 Introduction

1.1 The Purpose of the SEA Statement

This Statement forms part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) of the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan (CDP). The Variation to the Kildare CDP has been adopted to reflect the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031 (RSES) (hereafter referred to as ‘the Variation’). The Variation to the CDP will amend the Kildare CDP 2017-2023.

SEA is a systematic, on-going process for evaluating (at the earliest possible stage) the quantity and consequences of implementing certain plans and programmes on the environment. This SEA Statement is the final stage of the SEA process and it is required under the European Communities Regulations 2004¹ (EU SEA Regulations) and national legislation² (SEA Regulations). The purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process, and to document environmental considerations, the views of stakeholders and outline how recommendations arising from the SEA have been taken into account in the Variation. The four key requirements of this SEA Statement are to highlight:

- The incorporation of environmental considerations;
- Stakeholder involvement;
- Alterations considered; and
- Monitoring

The SEA Statement is chronological in nature and includes the following:

- An outline of the methodology for undertaking a SEA;
- Scoping - an overview of the scoping process and summary of how the submissions received from stakeholders have been taken into account;
- Environmental Assessment- description of how environmental considerations have been integrated into the SEA;
- Alternatives - an outline of the reasons for choosing the plan to be adopted, in light of the other reasonable alternatives considered;
- Monitoring - an overview of the measures to monitor the plan going forward; and
- Final Appraisal - evaluation of the effectiveness of the SEA.

¹ European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations, as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2004

² Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations

This SEA Statement will accompany the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023 and be made available to the public.

1.2 Statement of the SEA Process for the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017 - 2023

The adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development 2017-2023 has been prepared under Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The Variation is required to integrate the changes in national and regional policy, to integrate the Transition Population Projections and to revise the overall county Settlement Hierarchy contained in the Project Ireland 2040; National Planning Framework ('NPF'), the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA) Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES).

The NPF was published on 16 February 2018 and sets out a course for planning and development in Ireland. The NPF was adopted on 29 May 2018 and was further supported by the publication of the Implementation Roadmap for the National Planning Framework ('Roadmap') which was published on 3 July 2018. This document confirmed that the NPF was adopted as a strategy to replace the National Spatial Strategy (2002-2020, NSS) and advised that the NPF is of direct relevance to the preparation of Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies and County Development Plans.

The NPF is a long-term strategy and sets out broad national, regional and city-specific population targets to secure more effective regional development. The strategy itself acknowledges that achieving these targets will take time and their implementation will need to be adaptive to the inevitable changes in circumstances and unforeseen events inherent in a long-run Framework approach.

The Roadmap highlights the differences between what many County Development Plans are currently making provision for and likely outcomes on the ground. This is based on more realistic and deliverable NPF/NDP projections highlighting a gap that the RSES and County Development Plan review or variation processes must now start to bridge.

In order to assist Regional and Local Authorities in addressing this gap, the Roadmap provides a transitional set of population projections to inform City and County Development Plans for the periods to 2026 and 2031.

It is advised that these projections provide for a transitional approach to delivering better alignment between the plans at the different levels. This will provide a more coherent approach to identifying and providing for future development requirements in terms of housing, employment, schools, water services and public transport provision.

These transitional population projections plot a growth trajectory set approximately mid-way between what is currently being planned for in statutory Development Plans if projected forward to 2031, and the more likely evidence based and nationally coherent projected scenario to 2031 and 2040.

These ‘adjusted’ transitional figures will apply to 2026 and will inform the period to 2031.

The figures above have been replicated in the RSES (which came into effect in June 2019) and the Act now requires local authorities to now vary their CDPs for the purposes of enabling the incorporation of the NPF and RSES into their development plans. The Roadmap states that the transitional level of growth to 2026 will provide sufficient scope to enable City and County Development Plans to be reviewed, land zonings to be prioritised and Local Area Plans and planning permissions to be worked through, while also allowing for agility and ambition, as well as monitoring and review.

The Variation will amend the CDP to align with the revised figures set out above. It is of importance to note that the population projection is less than what the current plan provides for and adjustments will be required accordingly.

The Variation fundamentally addresses amendments to the Settlement Strategy of the current CDP and reduces proportionally each of the town’s population and housing targets.

In addition, a number of new National Regional Policy Objectives relate to settlement designations, climate change and strategic employment development areas.

A broad SEA was carried out using an objective led approach to assess likely significant impact. The assessment was mostly qualitative in nature, with some assessment based on expert judgement. This qualitative assessment compared the likely impacts against the SEA objectives, targets and indicators to see which policies and objectives meet these and which, if any, contradict these.

A matrix system was developed to facilitate the assessment and to highlight potential impacts under a number of environmental headings namely biodiversity, population and human health, soil, water, air and climate factors, cultural heritage, landscape and material assets.

2 SEA Methodology

2.1 Overview

This section describes how the SEA was undertaken in accordance with legislative requirements including EU Council Directive 2001/42/EC (the SEA Directive), national legislation and associated regulations. The SEA was undertaken iteratively to facilitate discussions with Kildare County Council in order to implement mitigation where possible at the earliest possible stage.

The methodology for the SEA is based on legislative requirements and guidance from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) thus ensuring compliance with the SEA Directive and associated national legislation. The key stages outlined in Figure 2.1 were identified and are discussed in the following sections.

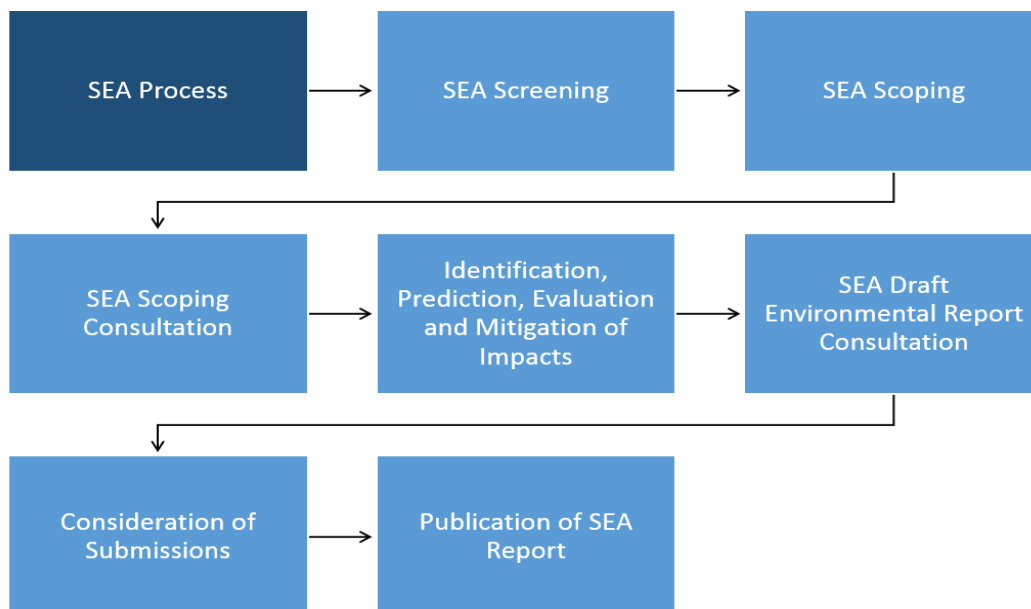


Figure 2.1: Key Stages of the SEA Process

2.2 Screening

The screening process allowed Kildare County Council to identify at the earliest possible opportunity whether the development of the Variation required an SEA and facilitated the assessment findings to be factored into the Variation development process.

The legal requirements of the plan-making process are set out in national legislation and guidelines and in particular:

- Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended); and
- Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended).

It is considered that a SEA is required for the purposes of the Variation, due to the following:

The characteristics of the Variation having regard 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.’

A number of new policy objectives will relate to settlement designations and strategic employment development areas.

The characteristics of the Variation having regard to ‘the degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy’.

The issue of integrating development land prioritisation measures to land-use zonings will be addressed primarily through the preparation of mandatory Local Area Plans for the 12 towns of Naas, Maynooth, Athy, Kildare Town, Kilcullen, Newbridge, Sallins, Leixlip, Kilcock, Monasterevin, Celbridge and Clane.

2.3 Scoping

Scoping is the process for establishing the range of environmental issues to be covered in the SEA and the level of detail that the assessment will investigate. Scoping also allows input from the environmental authorities and stakeholders to be incorporated. Essentially responses submitted as part of the scoping process provide greater focus on the evolution of the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan.

The considerations addressed during the scoping process for the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan are as follows:

- The key elements of the Variation to be assessed;
- The environmental aspects to be assessed as part of the SEA;
- Identification of relevant international, national and local plans, objectives and environmental standards that may influence or impact on the Variation;
- Development of draft environmental objectives, indicators and targets to allow the evaluation of impacts as part of the SEA; and
- Identification of any reasonable alternative means or scenarios for achieving the strategic goals of the Variation.

A scoping report for this SEA was prepared on behalf of Kildare County Council which asked key questions of stakeholders.

2.4 Baseline Assessment

Gathering relevant information that describes the current environment within the plan area is an integral part of the SEA process. The SEA Directive requires that certain information on the existing environment is presented to help assess the implementation of the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan, as well as helping establish how the environment would change if the Variation is not implemented.

Baseline information has been collected from readily available sources, and a Geographical Information System (GIS) was used to graphically present and analyse relevant information. The baseline of the plan area, i.e. the area to which the adopted Variation applies, is reported in Section 4 of the Environmental Report ('Current State of the Environment').

2.5 Environmental Assessment

The environmental assessment ran in parallel to the development of the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan. The process is described in detail in Section 4 of this SEA Statement.

The environmental assessment process was undertaken in accordance with best practice SEA principals and guidance. This included review of baseline information, specialist investigation into the likely impacts associated with the Variation and recommendations for suitable mitigation measures.

An appraisal matrix was developed to facilitate the assessment of the policies and objectives outlined in the adopted Variation. The matrix led assessment basis provided a holistic, integrated and interactive approach to the formation of the policies and objectives in the adopted Variation.

The assessment also considered the findings of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA).

2.6 Consideration of Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives to the plan be assessed in order to demonstrate how the preferred strategy performs against all other forms of action. Alternatives must be developed, described and assessed within the SEA process, with the results presented in the Environmental Report. This is examined in more detail in Section 5.

2.7 Flood Risk

An SFRA was prepared on behalf of Kildare County Council to provide information on the areas of flood risk and enable informed strategic land use planning decisions. This is examined in more detail in Section 4.

2.8 Appropriate Assessment

Stage 1 AA (Screening) was undertaken by Kildare County Council to identify if the potential for effects of implementing the adopted Variation on the conservation status of designated Natura 2000 sites within the sphere of influence of the plan (or project). It was determined as part of this screening that there was no significant effects and/or in-combination effects on European sites expected as a result of implementing the Variation.

2.9 Consultation

There were multiple phases of statutory consultation undertaken during the preparation of the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan in relation to SEA.

The SEA Scoping Report was published on 2nd December 2019 for review and comment by defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities. This represents the first phase of statutory consultation and further information on this process is provided in Section 3.

A period of public, statutory consultation process took place during 9th January and 6th February 2020 to gather feedback on the Draft Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan and supporting Draft SEA Environmental Report.

The content of submissions and comments received during each consultation period were considered by Arup and Kildare County Council, and amendments were made in response to those consultation inputs where considered appropriate.

2.10 Technical Difficulties Encountered

No technical difficulties were encountered during any stage of the SEA process.

3 SEA Scoping

3.1 Scoping Process

The SEA Scoping was a key part of the assessment process as it set out the extent of the SEA and AA and provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities on the scope and level of detail to be considered and incorporated at an early stage in the assessment.

The scoping report for this SEA was published on 2nd December 2019 and outlined that the SEA would assess the following aspects:

- Biodiversity;
- Population and Human Health;
- Land and Soil;
- Water;
- Air Quality and Climate;
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Visual; and
- Material Assets

The report summarised the key environmental issues and outlined relevant plans and programmes that were likely to affect or be affected by the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan.

This information was then used to set out a series of draft SEA objectives, indicators and associated targets. The objectives and targets established aims and thresholds which would be taken into consideration to effectively assess the impact of the Variation on the environment. Indicators were used to track the achievements of objectives and targets, describe the baseline situation, monitor the impact on the environment and predict impacts.

Essentially, any issues/comments submitted as part of the scoping provides greater focus on the development of aspects of the Variation. The issues addressed as part of the Scoping Report were:

- The key elements of the Variation to be assessed;
- The key environmental issues to be assessed;
- Research of the relevant international, national and local plans, objectives and environmental standards that may influence or impact on the Variation;
- Development of draft environmental objectives, indicators and targets to allow the evaluation of impacts; and
- Identification of reasonable alternatives means of achieving the strategic goals of the Variation.

3.2 Scoping Consultation

The SEA Scoping Report was published on 2nd December 2019 for review and comment by defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities.

One submission was received in response to the SEA Scoping Report, from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All comments contained therein were considered and incorporated into the assessment process. Table 3.1 contains a summary of the submission received on the SEA Scoping Report, and how it was responded to.

Once scoping was complete, the project team (including the SEA and AA teams and Kildare County Council) worked together to identify and resolve issues and mitigate potential impacts.

The matrix led assessment basis of the SEA provided a holistic, integrated and iterative approach to the development of the policies in the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan. To this effect, the two processes were seamless and facilitated necessary amendments to accommodate the mitigation of environmental impacts.

Table 3.1: SEA Scoping Report- Response to Submission

Organisation	Scoping Response	Action
EPA	<p><i>Planning Policy Context-</i> You should ensure that the Plan is consistent with the National Planning Framework – Ireland 2040 (NPF), as well as the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midlands Region, upon adoption.</p> <p>Other key recent plans to consider include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans – EPA Recommendations and Resources <p><i>State of the Environment Report – Ireland’s Environment 2016 -</i> In preparing the Plan and SEA, the recommendations, key issues and challenges described within our most recent State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2016 (EPA, 2016) should be considered, as relevant and appropriate to the Plan.</p> <p><i>Transition to a low carbon climate resilient economy and society-</i> You should ensure that the Plan aligns with national commitments on climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as relevant sectoral, regional and local adaptation plans.</p> <p><i>EPA SEA Search and Reporting Tool -</i>This tool allows public authorities to explore, interrogate and produce high level environmental summary reports. It is intended to assist in screening and scoping exercises. The tool is available through the EPA website.</p> <p><i>Environmental Sensitivity Mapping (ESM) Webtool -</i>The ESM Webtool is a new decision support tool to assist SEA and planning processes in Ireland. The tool brings together over 100 datasets and allows users to explore environmental considerations within a particular area and create plan-specific environmental sensitivity maps. The ESM Webtool is available at www.enviromap.ie.</p>	<p>Due regard was had to the provisions of the NPF and RSES during the plan making process</p> <p>The plans and programmes referenced and considered as part of the SEA process have been updated to include those suggested by the EPA in their submission. The <i>State of the Environment Report Ireland’s Environment – An Assessment 2016 (EPA, 2016)</i> report was also considered.</p> <p>It is the policy of KCC to protect environmental quality through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution, noise pollution and waste management.</p>

Organisation	Scoping Response	Action
	<i>EPA WFD Application</i> -Our WFD Application provides a single point of access to water quality and catchment data from the national WFD monitoring programme. The Application is accessed through EDEN and is available to public agencies. Publicly available data can be accessed via the Catchments.ie website.	

4 Environmental Assessment

As outlined in Section 2.5, the environmental assessment comprised a review of the baseline data, identification of likely impacts and development of appropriate mitigation measures for the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan. The environmental assessment was undertaken by way of the appraisal matrix and recorded in the Draft SEA Environmental Report which went out for public consultation on 6th January 2020 seeking feedback from stakeholders.

The Variation was updated to reflect input from the public, statutory and non-statutory bodies and local representatives provided during the period of public consultation. The SEA team and Kildare County Council worked together on this, continuing the iterative process to optimise outcomes arising from the Variation. Each time a revision of wording was considered, the appraisal matrix and associated Environmental Report were also adjusted as required.

Advice was provided to Kildare County Council regarding the options for mitigation that could be incorporated to optimise benefits and lessen adverse environmental impacts arising from the Variation.

Section 4.5 contains a summary of the submissions received during public consultation (as they relate to the SEA only), and how they were responded to. Appendix A lists the 73 submissions which have been reviewed.

4.1 Establishment of the Baseline

The SEA requires the assessment of the likely impacts of the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan against the current environmental conditions, i.e. the baseline. The establishment of the baseline was cognisant of the local nature of the CDP and considered existing conditions within the plan area as well as pressures, inter-relationships and factors of relevance for the following environmental aspects:

- Biodiversity;
- Population and Human Health;
- Land and Soil;
- Water;
- Air Quality and Climate;
- Archaeology, Architectural and Cultural Heritage;
- Landscape and Visual; and
- Material Assets

4.2 Interactions and Interrelationships

In accordance with the SEA Directive, the inter-relationship between environmental aspects must be taken into account. The interaction and inter-relationships of relevance for the environmental baseline aspects was an important consideration for the environmental assessment.

Table 4.1 outlines the identifiable inter-relationships that were taken into account during the environmental assessment. It is noted that all environmental aspects interact with each other to some extent, however only significant relationships were considered (where direct relationships are pink and indirect relationships are orange). Where no effect is identified- this is represented in grey).

Table 4.1: Key inter-relationships between environmental aspects.

	Biodiversity	Population and human health	Land and soils	Water resources	Air, noise and climate	Heritage	Landscape and visual	Material assets
Biodiversity		Orange	Pink	Pink	Orange	Grey	Orange	Grey
Population and human health	Orange		Pink	Pink	Pink	Orange	Pink	Pink
Land and Soil	Pink	Pink		Orange	Orange	Orange	Pink	Pink
Water	Pink	Pink	Pink		Orange	Grey	Pink	Pink
Air and climate factors	Orange	Pink	Orange	Orange		Grey	Orange	Pink
Cultural Heritage	Grey	Orange	Orange	Grey	Grey		Pink	Orange
Landscape	Orange	Pink	Pink	Pink	Orange	Pink		Orange
Material assets	Grey	Pink	Pink	Pink	Pink	Orange	Orange	

4.3 Objectives, Indicators and Targets

The objectives, indicators and targets are the aspects for which the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan is assessed against. The policies and recommendations in the Variation are assessed against a range of environmental objectives and targets established for the purpose of the SEA. Further, indicators that are recommended in the SEA are utilised over the lifetime of the Variation to quantify the level of impact that the proposed plan may have on the environment. It is then possible to establish whether Kildare County Council were successful in promoting the sustainable development of the county.

A summary of the objectives, in indicators and targets is included in Table 4.2.

Table 4.2: Objectives, Indicators and Targets

Environmental Category	Objectives	Target	Indicators
Biodiversity	Conserve the diversity of habitats and species by limiting adverse impacts on habitats and species of conservation concern, including the SACs / SPAs and to contribute to the protection of the ecological, visual, recreational, environmental and amenity value of the NHAs and pNHAs.	<p>Consider siting of new development on non-sensitive sites.</p> <p>Improve/conservate and protect all designated sites and species within County boundary.</p> <p>Deliver the requirement of the Habitats Directive (Article 4, Paragraph 4) for the maintenance or restoration of annexed habitats and species within SACs at a “favourable conservation status.</p> <p>Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species, in association with the NPWS and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Protect SPAs, Annex I bird species, and regularly occurring migratory bird species and their habitats, and avoid pollution or deterioration of important bird habitats outside SPAs.</p> <p>Improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 sites by encouraging the management of, maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>Protect NHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Refuges for Fauna or Flora and sites proposed for designation.</p>	<p>Census population data.</p> <p>Number and extent of Protected Sites.</p> <p>Areas actively managed for conservation.</p> <p>Population and range of Protected Species.</p> <p>Achievement of the Objectives of Biodiversity Plans.</p>

Environmental Category	Objectives	Target	Indicators
		<p>Improve/maintain protection for important wildlife sites, particularly urban wildlife corridors and linear and stepping-stone features for migration, dispersal and exchange of wildlife.</p> <p>Improve access for the appreciation and promotion of wildlife.</p>	
Population and Human Health	Meet the future housing demand of County Kildare and provide all of the services required to sustainably meet this demand (e.g. health and sanitation services including waste collection, wastewater treatment and potable water supply, electricity, gas, telecommunications, transportation, education and amenity access).	<p>Minimise population exposure to high levels of noise, vibration and air pollution.</p> <p>Increase modal shift to public transport.</p> <p>Co-ordinate land use and transportation policies.</p> <p>Improve access to recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Census population data.</p> <p>Rates of unemployment per area.</p> <p>Dependency ratio.</p> <p>Deprivation Index.</p> <p>Commuting times and modes of transport.</p> <p>% increase in housing (number and type).</p>
Land and Soils	Protect quality and quantity of existing soil and geology and maintain and preserve the Warm Spring sites of Geological Heritage.	<p>Prevent pollution of soil through adoption of appropriate environmental protection procedures during construction and maintenance works on site.</p> <p>Ensure polluting substances are appropriately stored and banded.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate management of existing contaminated soil in accordance with the requirements of current waste legislation.</p> <p>Re-use of brownfield lands, rather than developing greenfield lands, where possible.</p> <p>Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.</p>	<p>Rates of re-use/recycling of construction waste.</p> <p>Rates of quarrying.</p> <p>Rates of brownfield site and contaminated land reuse and development.</p> <p>Rates of greenfield development.</p>
Water	Improve/maintain water quality and the management of the watercourses, reservoirs and lakes to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.	<p>Support the achievement of “good” ecological and chemical status/potential of waterbodies in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Minimise flood risk through appropriate management of flood vulnerable zones.</p>	<p>Compliance of potable water sources to water quality regulations.</p> <p>Compliance of surface waters with national and international standards.</p> <p>Potable and wastewater treatment capacities versus population.</p> <p>% of wastewater requiring treatment.</p>

Environmental Category	Objectives	Target	Indicators
		Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow.	Achievement of the Objectives of the River Basin Management Plans. Amount of new developments within flood plains. Annual costs of damage related to flood events.
Air Quality and Climate	Protection of ambient environmental of County Kildare through the implementation of European, national and regional policy and legislation relating to air quality, greenhouse gases, climate change, light pollution noise pollution and waste management.	Minimise air and noise emissions during construction and operation of new developments. Promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere. Limiting climate change and adapting to climate change.	Traffic, Transport and Vehicular survey data. National and region-specific emission data. Compliance with national standards. Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Number and extent of emission licensed facilities. Number of energy/renewable energy production facilities. Rates of energy/renewable energy consumption.
Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	Promote the protection and conservation of the archaeological, architectural and cultural heritage of County Kildare, specifically those buildings identified on the Record of Protected Structures, and Recorded Monuments within the plan area, and promote the historic character and visual setting of the Kildare Architectural Conservation Areas.	Regeneration of derelict and underutilised heritage sites. Improve appearance of areas with particular townscape character. Improve protection for protected archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, protected structures and conservation areas and areas of archaeological potential. Enhance access to sites of heritage interest.	Updating of inventories to include new sites/features. Achieving the objectives of development plans regarding heritage protection. Range and extent of areas of heritage potential. Range and extent of areas of special planning controls.
Landscape and Visual	Protect the landscape character, values, sensitivities, focal points and views in the Leixlip Plan Area, particularly the historic character and visual setting of the Leixlip Architectural Conservation Area.	Improve protection for landscapes of recognised quality. Maintain clear urban/rural distinctions. Enhance provision of, and access to, green space in urban areas. Ensure development is sensitive to its surroundings.	Range and extent of Amenity Landscapes. Rates of development within designated landscapes. Rates of urban expansion. Rates of deforestation.

Environmental Category	Objectives	Target	Indicators
			Rates of agricultural land re-development. % change of land use from rural to urban.
Material Assets	Make best use of existing infrastructure and phase the significant future growth of County Kildare in line with the capacity and delivery of the sustainable development of new physical infrastructure.	<p>Improve availability and accessibility of commercially provided facilities and public services.</p> <p>Increase local employment opportunities.</p> <p>Improve efficiencies of transport, energy and communication infrastructure.</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable transport infrastructure i.e. increased public transport.</p> <p>Reduce the generation of waste and adopt a sustainable approach to waste management.</p>	<p>Location/level of Infrastructure.</p> <p>Achievement of development plan objectives.</p> <p>Rates of deprivation.</p> <p>Rate of waste disposal to landfill statistics.</p> <p>Range and extent of recycling facilities and services.</p> <p>Rates of recycling.</p>

4.4 Consideration of Alternatives

This first stage of the SEA involved an environmental assessment of the alternative scenarios considered for the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan. The alternatives considered are summarised below:

Alternative Scenario 1- centres on the concept of balanced growth in key towns and self-sustaining growth towns whilst protecting small / rural towns, villages and rural areas from unsustainable growth.

Alternative Scenario 2- centres on the concept of compact growth and the densification of Key Towns therefore prioritising urban areas. This option places an emphasis on the Key Towns of Maynooth and Naas where each settlement would take 20% each of the total allocation until 2023.

Alternative Scenario 3- also centres on the concept of compact growth in urban areas particularly Maynooth and Naas. Allocated percentage growth as per the adopted Variation will be retained, with a proportionate reduction (in accordance with the RSES and NPF transitional population targets) respectively for each settlement in the County.

Each of the three alternative scenarios considered seek to meet the requirements of the NPF, by providing additional residential opportunities in County Kildare. As outlined in the requirements of the Variation, each of the alternative scenarios aim to meet the housing requirements in the RSES by concentrating on the concept of compact growth, and the consolidation and densification of the town centres and adjoining lands. This approach is common to each of the alternative scenarios, with some variation in housing allocation.

The alternatives considered include scenarios that balance growth in larger towns whilst protecting small towns and rural areas from unsustainable growth and scenarios with a focus on growth within the large growth towns of Naas and Maynooth. The alternative scenarios are realistic and capable of implementation, representing different approaches to fulfil the requirements of the Variation.

Alternative Scenario 1 centres on the concept of balanced growth across self-sustaining growth towns whilst protecting small, rural towns and villages from unsustainable growth. This scenario allocates 24% growth to Key Towns, with the remainder of growth allocation balanced across the County. The issue with this is that some areas do not have the capacity or infrastructure to withstand growth. This has the potential to have a negative impact on material assets, population and human health and potentially biodiversity and landscape and visual.

Alternative Scenario 2 focuses 40% of the allocated growth on the Key Towns of Maynooth and Naas until 2023, much higher than Scenario 1. This scenario recognizes that the Key Towns require a concentrated focus due to their proximity and accessibility to Dublin as well as their existing infrastructure and potential for urban regeneration and development.

However, while although the development of the Key Towns and the North-West Quadrant requires a focus it is important to consider a growth plan for the rest of the County.

Even though there is a growth reduction in smaller towns, there is still growth across all land zones, so all must be reasonably considered. There is therefore a potential negative effect on population and human health as well as material assets due to over development in certain areas resulting in an over utilisation of resources.

The SEA determined Alternative Scenario 3 as the preferred development strategy. This scenario has been informed by RSES and the environmental sensitivities of the County.

Alternative Scenario 3 would result in an overall neutral impact on population and human health due to a decrease in growth targets, with a potential negative impact on population neutralized by a potential positive effect on human health. All other indicators have a potential positive or neutral impact. This is because the plan-led approach is balanced avoiding an over utilisation of resources ensuring material assets is not negatively impacted, while at the same time avoiding urban sprawl ensuring human health, landscape and visual are not negatively impacted. It would also reverse commuter patterns by promoting targeted investment for local employment and infrastructure in places that have experienced commuter driven population growth which would also contribute to a potential positive effect on material assets, air noise and climate and population and human health.

Measured growth with emphasis on economic growth in the towns identified as Self-Sustaining Growth Towns and Self-Sustaining Towns. A hierarchy of smaller rural settlements is established to develop rural centres capable of providing a range of services and employment to their local populations. It is proposed that settlements will develop as local centres for rural catchments with growth appropriate to cater for local demand. Lower densities will be encouraged in appropriate locations to provide alternatives to one-off rural dwellings in the immediate rural area. Expansion will be controlled to minimise pressure on services, the environment and unsustainable commuting patterns – mitigating any potential for negative environmental impacts.

4.5 Assessment - Draft Variation

The SEA assessment process comprised the first draft of the appraisal matrix that was completed by the SEA team based on the initial draft of the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan and provided to Kildare County Council for their consideration.

This objectives-led assessment compared the likely impacts of each policy and objective in the initial Variation against the strategic environmental objectives (as described in Section 4.3) with respect to the baseline information. Particular reference was made to the potential for cumulative effects in association with other relevant plan and programmes within Kildare County Council and the Greater Dublin Area.

The assessment process categorised environmental impacts using the ratings outlined in **Table 4.3** which is based on the impact assessment criteria defined by the EPA for environmental impact assessment.

Table 4.3: Impact Ratings

Significance of Impact	
	Positive
	Neutral
	Negative
	Uncertain

The assessment also considered the cumulative effects of policies on each other to determine if certain policies working in combination could have an environmental impact.

Upon completion of the appraisal matrix, a number of recommendations were made which were then reviewed in detail by Kildare County Council and where appropriate, incorporated into the Variation to the Kildare CDP.

This appraisal matrix was incorporated into the SEA Draft Environmental Report that accompanied the Draft Variation to the Kildare CDP that went out for public consultation on 6th January 2020. The principle environmental effects, as per the assessment matrix, identified are summarised below.

Biodiversity

The potential effects on biodiversity are mostly neutral in nature. The Draft Variation generally avoids potential effects on natural ecosystems and biodiversity. Uncertainties are identified where the precise nature and extent of development proposals are unknown.

Positive effects on biodiversity are likely to arise from the reduced level of growth compared to the original policy. This will have potential for an overall positive effect on the environment as there will be less pressure on resources.

Population and Human Health

The potential impacts on population and human health are generally positive in nature.

This policy changes specify the regeneration of towns and villages and includes the requirement of at least 30% of all new homes in these settlements to be within their existing built-up footprint. This emphasizes the revitalisation of existing urban areas, avoiding urban sprawl, in order to achieve sustainable growth, setting a measurable target.

The expansion of the urban centres is likely to result in a positive effect on the population, as a result of increased residential, social and commercial opportunities and potential economic investment associated with the same.

Land and Soils

The potential effects on land and soil are predominantly neutral with some positive effects identified. Potential neutral environmental effects are identified as for the most part there will be no significant consequences on land and soils upon implementation of the new policies.

Potential for positive effects are identified where policy changes creates potential for an overall positive effect on the environment as there will be less pressure on resources. This is due to the reduced level of growth compared to the original policy

Water

The Variation has the potential to result in both positive and neutral effects on water resources. Potential neutral environmental effects are identified as for the most part there will be no significant consequences on land and soils upon implementation of the new policies.

Potential for positive effects are identified where policy changes creates potential for an overall positive effect on the environment as there will be less pressure on resources. This is due to the reduced level of growth compared to the original policy

Air Quality and Climate

The potential effects on air, noise and climate are predominantly neutral with some positive effects identified. Potential neutral environmental effects are identified as for the most part there will be no significant consequences on air and climate upon implementation of the new policies.

Potential for positive effects are identified where policy changes creates potential for an overall positive effect on the environment as there will be less pressure on resources. This is due to the reduced level of growth compared to the original policy. There is also an increased emphasis on sustainable transport in the new policies, which should reduce private vehicular usage which in turn would have a potential positive effect on air, noise and climate.

Heritage

The potential effects on heritage are generally neutral with some positive effects likely to occur. The Variation seeks to avoid impacts on architectural, archaeological and/or vernacular heritage values.

Positive effects are likely to arise due to the incorporation of measures to implement best practise urban design, regenerate derelict buildings, and through the continued protection of the quality, visual character, cultural heritage, ambience and vitality of the town centre.

Landscape and Visual

The potential impacts on landscape and visual are predominantly neutral with some positive impacts likely to occur.

The policy changes specify the regeneration of towns and villages and includes the requirement of at least 30% of all new homes in these settlements to be within their existing built-up footprint – this emphasizes the revitalisation of existing urban areas, avoiding urban sprawl, in order to achieve sustainable growth, setting a measurable target.

The regeneration and revitalisation of the urban centres in Kildare is likely to result in a positive effect on the landscape and visual setting of the County, where development is implemented at an appropriate scale and where development is responsive to its architectural surroundings.

Material Assets

Generally, there is both positive and neutral effects on material assets likely to arise from the Variation.

The Variation generally aims to consolidate development in the town centres, encourages the provision of efficient infrastructure networks, promotes accessibility and seeks to enhance existing material assets within the plan area. This would positively affect material assets.

It is envisaged that the scale of development would be appropriate to the site and that the relevant assessments would be undertaken to support such developments in accordance with legislative and planning obligations.

4.5.1 SEA Environmental Report- Consultation

As outlined in Section 2.9, the SEA Environmental Report was subject to a period of statutory consultation to gather feedback in accordance with legislative requirements. The documents were sent to statutory stakeholders and made available for public viewing at Kildare County Council Offices, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas; and public libraries; Athy, Ballitore, Celbridge, Clane, Clocha Rince, Kilcock, Kilcullen, Kildare Town, Leixlip, Maynooth, Monasterevin, Naas, Newbridge, Rathangan. It was also available on the Kildare County Council website.

Some 73 No. submissions were received with regards the Draft Variation to the Kildare CDP and associated documentation, including the SEA ER and Report for the Purposes of AA Screening (Refer to Appendix A for a list of submissions received). The 73 No. submissions were reviewed by the SEA team, and 4 No. submissions were considered relevant to the SEA, as summarised in **Table 4.4** below:

Table 4.4: Submissions relating to the SEA Environmental Report

Submission	Summary of Key Issues	Response
Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly	<p>Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) The proposed Variation is subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and an environmental report has recorded the process to date.</p> <p>The environmental report states that all potential environmental effects arising from the proposed Variation have been identified as either neutral or positive. A SEA Statement will identify how environmental considerations and consultations have been integrated into the final Variation post adoption.</p> <p>A Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) was also carried out and concluded that the proposed Variation, individually or in combination with other plans or projects will not have a significant effect on European sites.</p> <p>A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was also carried out and the SFRA Statement concluded that the proposed Variation will not give rise to any increase in the risk of flooding since no changes are proposed to the existing land uses described in the current Kildare County Development Plan. Any future amendments will be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment and associated Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, all in accordance with EU Directives and other relevant legislation.</p>	
Environmental Protection Agency	<p>We acknowledge your notice, dated 9th January 2020, in relation to the Draft Proposed Variation No. 1 to the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023(the Variation) and SEA Environmental Report. The EPA is one of five statutory environmental authorities under the SEA Regulations. In our role as an SEA environmental authority, we focus on promoting the full and transparent integration of the findings of the Environmental Assessment into the Variation and advocating that the key environmental challenges for Ireland are addressed as relevant and appropriate to the plan. Our functions as an SEA environmental authority do not include approving or enforcing SEAs or plans. As a priority, we focus our efforts on reviewing and commenting on key sector plans. For land use plans at county and local level, we provide a 'self-service approach' via the attached guidance document 'SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans –EPA Recommendations and Resources'. This document is updated regularly and sets out our key recommendations for integrating environmental considerations into Local Authority Land Use Plans. We suggest that you take this guidance document into account and incorporate the relevant recommendations, in finalising and implementing the Variation.</p>	

Submission	Summary of Key Issues	Response									
	<p>Kildare County Council should also ensure that the Variation aligns with key relevant higher-level plans and programmes and is consistent with the relevant objectives and policy commitments of the National Planning Framework and the Eastern and Midlands Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.</p> <p>The submission goes on to outline the information to be contained in SEA reporting.</p>										
<p>Health and Safety Authority</p>	<p>The Authority would expect the planning guidelines to contain:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An indication of planning policy in relation to major accident hazard sites notified under the regulations, which reflects the intentions of Article 13 of Directive 2012/18/EU 2. The Consultation distances and generic a ADVICE, WHERE APPLICABLE, SUPPLIED BY THE Authority to Meath County Council in relation to such sites. These distances to be indicated on the various maps included in the plan, as well as any more specific distances and advice supplied by the Authority. 3. A policy on the siting of new major hazard establishments, taking account of Article 13 and the published policy of the Authority in relation to new developments, including developments in the vicinity of such establishments 4. Mention of the following notified establishments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intel Ireland Limited • Irish Industrial Explosives 	<p>Section 5.3.2 of the SEA ER discusses the Seveso sites within the Plan area</p> <p>New developments including transport routes, locations of public use and residential areas in the vicinity of establishments, where the siting or developments may be the source of or increase the risk or consequences of a major accident. There are two sites in County Kildare that are listed as coming under the SEVESO III Directive, as shown in Table 4.2.</p> <p>Table 4.2: Industries in County Kildare regulated by the SEVESO III Directive</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="1579 938 2094 1125"> <thead> <tr> <th>Name</th> <th>Location</th> <th>Tier</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Irish Industrial Explosives</td> <td>Clonagh, Enfield</td> <td>Upper Tier</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Intel Ireland</td> <td>Collinstown Industrial Park, Leixlip</td> <td>Upper Tier</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Guidance on consultation distances and advice re. sites, or inclusion of policies for KCC consideration</p>	Name	Location	Tier	Irish Industrial Explosives	Clonagh, Enfield	Upper Tier	Intel Ireland	Collinstown Industrial Park, Leixlip	Upper Tier
Name	Location	Tier									
Irish Industrial Explosives	Clonagh, Enfield	Upper Tier									
Intel Ireland	Collinstown Industrial Park, Leixlip	Upper Tier									
<p>Gerard O'Connor</p>	<p>The river Liffey section from Straffan to the Leixlip reservoir is one of the critical water courses in Ireland. This is because it is the water supply for the vital Leixlip reservoir, which is the source of potable water for > 600,00 citizens in the Dublin Metropolitan Area, not to mention the country's most active economic zone.</p>	<p>As part of the SEA ER, Environmental Mapping was prepared. Refer to Figure 4.6 'River Waterbody WFD Quality' and Figure 4.7 'WFD Risk Status for Rivers'.</p>									

Submission	Summary of Key Issues	Response
	<p>The condition of the waterway along this six-kilometre stretch is very poor, with visible pollution, no riverbank management, absence of appropriate signage, large amounts of junk deposited on the riverbed and poor ad hoc amelioration of flooding (witness for example sunken sandbags at Mill in Celbridge). No hydrologic survey, Biologic and Chemical data, or Infrastructure plans are published. The list goes on.....</p> <p>There is a total lack of published mapping information on incoming water sources along this stretch and the condition of the water that enters the Liffey from each of these.</p> <p>This situation represents, in my view, a failure to manage this stretch of the river by Kildare County Council, the responsible authority.</p> <p>I submit that it is of critical importance to the well-being of our Citizens who use the water supply from this source, that a comprehensive management program of the Liffey from Straffan to Leixlip is in place - no amount of water cleaning and scrubbing at the treatment works can guarantee safety if the source is filthy and polluted with debris, chemicals, faeces and agricultural runoff. Failures in Technology, as we have experienced, lead to very serious consequences.</p> <p>In consideration of variations to the KDP, it is critical that a managed program specific to this waterway section, is included in the final plan.</p>	<p>The maps show the River Liffey, from Sraffan to the Leixlip Reservoir is of 'good' quality and is 'not at risk' from achieving WFD quality status.</p> <p>The proposal regarding a Management Programme for the river is for KCC consideration.</p>

5 Mitigation Measures and Monitoring

5.1 Mitigation Measures

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged and designed to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan.

All potential effects have been identified as neutral or positive, therefore, specific mitigation measures do not need to be considered.

The primary mitigation measure is to ensure the sustainable and appropriate development of County Kildare without compromising the integrity of the natural and built environment. All new development that requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in accordance with EIA legislation will address the range of environmental objectives, indicators and targets.

5.2 SEA Monitoring

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring should be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse impacts associated with the implementation of the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan.

A monitoring programme is developed based on the indicators (noted in Section 4.2) selected to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling effects on the environment to be measured. As previously described, the environmental indicators have been developed to show changes that would be attributable to implementation of the proposed Variation.

The SEA carried out has ensured that any potential significant environmental effects have been identified and given due consideration.

KCC is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

Table 5.1: Proposed Monitoring Measures

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Biodiversity	<p>Consider siting of new development on non-sensitive sites.</p> <p>Improve/conservate and protect all designated sites and species within County Kildare.</p> <p>Deliver the requirement of the Habitats Directive (Article 4, Paragraph 4) for the maintenance or restoration of annexed habitats and species within SACs at a “favourable conservation status.</p> <p>Promote the maintenance and, as appropriate, achievement of favourable conservation status of habitats and species, in association with the NPWS and other stakeholders.</p> <p>Protect SPAs, Annex I bird species, and regularly occurring migratory bird species and their habitats, and avoid pollution or deterioration of important bird habitats outside SPAs.</p> <p>Improve the ecological coherence of Natura 2000 by encouraging the management of, maintaining, and where appropriate developing, features of the landscape which are of major importance for wild fauna and flora. Such features are those which, by virtue of their linear and continuous structure (such as rivers with their banks or the traditional systems for marking field boundaries) or their function as stepping stones (such as ponds or small woods), are essential for the migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild species.</p> <p>Protect NHAs, National Parks, Nature Reserves, Wildfowl Sanctuaries, Refuges for Fauna or Flora and sites proposed for designation.</p> <p>Improve/maintain protection for important wildlife sites, particularly urban wildlife corridors and linear and stepping-stone features for migration, dispersal and exchange of wildlife.</p> <p>Improve access for the appreciation and promotion of wildlife.</p>	<p>Census population data.</p> <p>Number and extent of Protected Sites.</p> <p>Areas actively managed for conservation.</p> <p>Population and range of Protected Species.</p> <p>Achievement of the Objectives of Biodiversity Plans</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Services, Fisheries Board and EPA.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>
Population and Human Health	<p>Minimise population exposure to high levels of noise, vibration and air pollution.</p>	<p>Census population data.</p> <p>Rates of unemployment per area.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Central Statistics Office.</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
	<p>Increase modal shift to public transport.</p> <p>Co-ordinate land use and transportation policies.</p> <p>Improve access to recreation opportunities.</p>	<p>Dependency ratio.</p> <p>Deprivation Index.</p> <p>Commuting times and modes of transport.</p> <p>% increase in housing (number and type).</p>	<p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>
Land and Soils	<p>Prevent pollution of soil through adoption of appropriate environmental protection procedures during construction and maintenance works on site.</p> <p>Ensure polluting substances are appropriately stored and banded.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate management of existing contaminated soil in accordance with the requirements of current waste legislation.</p> <p>Re-use of brownfield lands, rather than developing Greenfield lands, where possible.</p> <p>Minimise the consumption of non-renewable sand, gravel and rock deposits.</p>	<p>Rates of re-use/recycling of construction waste.</p> <p>Rates of quarrying.</p> <p>Rates of brownfield site and contaminated land reuse and development.</p> <p>Rates of greenfield development.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>
Water	<p>Support the achievement of “good” ecological and chemical status/potential of waterbodies in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.</p> <p>Minimise flood risk through appropriate management of flood vulnerable zones.</p> <p>Promote sustainable drainage practices to improve water quality and flow</p>	<p>Compliance of potable water sources to water quality regulations.</p> <p>Compliance of surface waters with national and international standards.</p> <p>Potable and wastewater treatment capacities versus population.</p> <p>Increase in % of wastewater requiring treatment.</p> <p>Achievement of the Objectives of the River Basin Management Plans.</p> <p>Amount of new developments within flood plains.</p> <p>Annual costs of damage related to flood events.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, Environmental Protection Agency and Fisheries Board.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
Air Quality and Climate	<p>Minimise air and noise emissions during construction and operation of new developments.</p> <p>Promote reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.</p> <p>Limiting climate change and adapting to climate change.</p>	<p>Traffic, Transport and Vehicular survey data.</p> <p>National and region-specific emission data.</p> <p>Compliance with national standards.</p> <p>Reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.</p> <p>Number and extent of emission licensed facilities.</p> <p>Number of energy/renewable energy production facilities.</p> <p>Rates of energy/renewable energy consumption.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, Environmental Protection Agency and Central Statistics Office.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development.</p>
Archaeological, Architectural and Cultural Heritage	<p>Regeneration of derelict and underutilised heritage sites.</p> <p>Improve appearance of areas with particular townscape character.</p> <p>Improve protection for protected archaeological sites and monuments and their settings, protected structures and conservation areas and areas of archaeological potential.</p> <p>Enhance access to sites of heritage interest.</p>	<p>Updating of inventories to include new sites/features.</p> <p>Achieving the objectives of development plans regarding heritage protection.</p> <p>Range and extent of areas of heritage potential.</p> <p>Range and extent of areas of special planning controls.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Department of Environment Community and Local Government.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development.</p>
Landscape and Visual	<p>Improve protection for landscapes of recognised quality.</p> <p>Maintain clear urban/rural distinctions.</p> <p>Enhance provision of, and access to, green space in urban areas.</p> <p>Ensure development is sensitive to its surroundings.</p>	<p>Range and extent of Amenity Landscapes.</p> <p>Rates of development within designated landscapes.</p> <p>Rates of urban expansion.</p> <p>Rates of deforestation.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council and Department of Environment, Community and Local Government.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p>

Environmental Category	Target	Indicators	Data Sources, Responsibility, and Frequency
		Rates of agricultural land re-development. % change of land use from rural to urban.	Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.
Material Assets	<p>Improve availability and accessibility of commercially provided facilities and public services.</p> <p>Increase local employment opportunities.</p> <p>Improve efficiencies of transport, energy and communication infrastructure.</p> <p>Promotion of sustainable transport infrastructure i.e. increased public transport.</p> <p>Reduce the generation of waste and adopt a sustainable approach to waste management.</p>	<p>Location/level of Infrastructure.</p> <p>Achievement of development plan objectives.</p> <p>Rates of deprivation.</p> <p>Rate of waste disposal to landfill statistics.</p> <p>Range and extent of recycling facilities and services.</p> <p>Rates of recycling.</p>	<p>Sources: Kildare County Council, Central Statistics Office, National Roads Authority and Environmental Protection Agency.</p> <p>Responsibility: Kildare County Council</p> <p>Frequency: Align with monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing Kildare County Development Plan.</p>

6 Final Appraisal: How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Adopted Variation

This Section summarises how environmental considerations were integrated into the adopted Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan, throughout the SEA process.

Identification of environmental constraints

As described in Section 4.1, the SEA team undertook an assessment of baseline environmental conditions of the County, with reference to biodiversity, population and human health, land and soil, water, air and climate, heritage, landscape and material assets. This information was used to focus the SEA objectives, develop alternatives and assess positive and negative impacts associated with the implementation of the proposed Variation to the Kildare County Development. An Environmental Sensitivity Map was prepared to enable this assessment and to influence alternatives discussions and assessment of policies.

SEA scoping

As described in Section 3, the SEA Scoping was a key part of the assessment process as it provided information to allow consultation with defined statutory bodies and environmental authorities on the scope and level of detail to be considered and incorporated at an early stage in the assessment.

Assessment of alternatives

The environmental baseline and objectives were used to identify key sensitivities and inform development of the alternatives and ultimately the assessment of the preferred alternative.

Proposed mitigation measures

There were no mitigation measures proposed as there were no potential negative environmental impacts identified during the assessment process.

Required environmental monitoring programme

A monitoring programme has been developed based on the indicators (noted in Section 6) in order to track progress towards achieving strategic environmental objectives and reaching targets, enabling impacts on the environment to be measured.

The indicators have been developed to illustrate changes that would be attributable to the implementation of the Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan.

Consultation

Further to the SEA Scoping consultation, the SEA Environmental Report, the AA Screening, the Draft Variation to the Kildare County Development Plan were put on wider display on the Kildare County Council website. All changes to policies and actions have been screened by the SEA and AA teams to determine if they would result in significant effects, and all submissions and objections received were reviewed.

Appendix A

Submissions to Draft Variation and SEA Environmental Report

Table A1: Submissions Received on Draft LAP, and SEA Environmental Report

Author	Submission Relevant to SEA/AA?	Response
Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly	Yes	Y
Environmental Protection Agency	Yes	Y
Transport Infrastructure Ireland	No	N/A
Health and Safety Authority	Yes	Y
Laois County Council	No	N/A
Michael Hoey	No	N/A
Irish Water	No	N/A
Office of Public Works	No	N/A
Jennifer Whitty	No	N/A
MoyglareHall Residents Association	No	N/A
Meath County Council	No	N/A
Mark Byrne	No	N/A
Gerard O'Connor	Yes	Y
Kevin Duffy	No	N/A
Fingal County Council	No	N/A
Westar Group	No	N/A
Cllr Bill Clear	No	N/A
Irish Wind Energy Association	No	N/A
Flora McDonnell	No	N/A
Patrick Donnelly	No	N/A
Babette and Louis Harriss	No	N/A
Randalswood Construction Ltd.	No	N/A
Gar Whelan	No	N/A
LHIL	No	N/A
Íde Cussen	No	N/A
Ardstone Homes Ltd.	No	N/A
Department of Transport Tourism and Sport	No	N/A
Paris Farren	No	N/A
National Transport Authority	No	N/A
John J Cross	No	N/A
Applegreen Services Areas Ltd C/o Eugene Moore, Director	No	N/A
Tom Phillips + Associates	No	N/A
Crylock Developments Ltd.	No	N/A
Melanie Treacy	No	N/A
Pádraig McEvoy	No	N/A
Jane Tripp	No	N/A
Office of the Planning Regulator	No	N/A
Celbridge Community Council	No	N/A
Crodaun Development Ltd C/o David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	No	N/A
WTNB Partnership C/o David Mulcahy Planning Consultants Ltd	No	N/A
Brian Coughlan Coughlan	No	N/A
McCourt Investments	No	N/A
paris farren	No	N/A
McGill Planning Ltd.	No	N/A
RPS	No	N/A
Cllr. Vanessa Liston	No	N/A

Author	Submission Relevant to SEA/AA?	Response
Robert Power	No	N/A
Alice Power	No	N/A
Frank O'Rourke	No	N/A
Michael Coleman	No	N/A
Daragh Fitzpatrick	No	N/A
MKO	No	N/A
Colivet Family	No	N/A
O'Flynn Construction Limited	No	N/A
Mary Collins	No	N/A
Ciara Galvin	No	N/A
Maynooth Planning Alliance	No	N/A
Coillte	No	N/A
Anne Birchall	No	N/A
Raymond King	No	N/A
Billy Mulhern	No	N/A
Senator Anthony Lawlor & Cllr. Fintan Brett	No	N/A
Devondale Ltd	No	N/A
Makros Ltd	No	N/A
Tom Treacy	No	N/A
Dennison Trailers	No	N/A
Dominic Fagan	No	N/A
steven fadian	No	N/A
Suzanne Doyle	No	N/A
Department of Education and Skills	No	N/A