

# Two Year Progress Report On Securing Objectives in the Kilkenny County and City & Environs Development Plans 2014-2020

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Kilkenny County Council  
Forward Planning

COUNTY MANAGER Colette Byrne  
DIRECTOR OF SERVICES Maria Melia  
SENIOR PLANNER Denis Malone

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## Chief Executive's Foreword

The Kilkenny County and City Development Plans came into effect in 2014. These set out the policies and objectives which the Council endeavour to achieve over the six year life of the Plans. While this progress report is concerned with the last two years, the Development Plans have a six year life. Furthermore, some strategic policies and objectives of the Plans have a much longer time horizon, so although significant progress may not have been made to date, the Council is still working towards these goals.

It should be noted that an organisational level, many significant changes have taken place since the adoption of the Plans. These include the abolition of Kilkenny Borough Council, the establishment of three Municipal Districts, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), with rollout of the Local Economic and Community Plan, significant increase in demands for certain services such as housing services and supports, new functions such as tourism, economic development (the establishment of the Local Enterprise Office), and expanded community development functions and structures. In addition, responsibility for water services has been transferred to Irish Water, albeit the day to day service on the ground continues to be delivered by the Council under a Service Level Agreement. In tandem with this, there has been a moratorium on recruitment and a reduction in staffing numbers and a reduction in Council incomes due to the downturn in the economy. Significant resources were also diverted into working on a comprehensive contribution to the Waterford Boundary Review. Despite this, significant progress has been made across all sections of the Plans, as set out in the report.

### Core Strategy

The Council continues to monitor the progress of the County's Core Strategy, to ensure the availability of land for housing and economic development in appropriate locations. As part of this ongoing process, the Castlecomer and Ferrybank Local Area Plans are being reviewed at present, and new draft Local Area Plans will be published in the coming months.

Amendment 2 to the Callan Local Area Plan was adopted in 2015, and this extended the LAP's development boundary to provide for additional housing associated with the Camphill community. In general there is an ample supply of zoned land within the county to fulfil the requirements of the core strategy but challenges remain to release the necessary land due to economic and infrastructural challenges (including access and water services) particularly in the suburbs of Kilkenny city.

### Economic Development

The Council is directly involved in economic development. Following the planned closure of Smithwick's Brewery and its relocation to James Gate in Dublin, in 2012, Kilkenny County and Borough Councils agreed to purchase 10.6 acres of Smithwick's/Diageo lands in the centre of Kilkenny City. These lands are of strategic importance to the City and County of Kilkenny and along with the adjoining land in the ownership of the Council, the total area owned by the Council is c.5,14ha (12.7 acres). The Abbey Creative Quarter Masterplan area itself extends to 7.48ha and presents a unique opportunity to combine a medieval core with a modern city which will enhance its cultural heritage, improve its sustainability and allows it to compete in the knowledge economy in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A non-statutory Masterplan was drawn up and approved by Council in July 2015 and Variation 1 to the City & Environs Plan was adopted to incorporate nine new development objectives for the city, to underpin the future development of this pivotal site. The Council has now engaged with the National Treasury Management Agency and the decision to establish the Kilkenny

Abbey Quarter Development Partnership was made in 2016. The Council is now progressing the implementation of the Masterplan through the JV partnership, further archaeological and architectural investigations and studies and delivery of specific projects such as the linear park and refurbishment of the Brewhouse through Part 8 processes. Sixty percent of the site acquired will remain in the ownership of KCC, where responsibility rests for the development of the public realm, parks and streets.

Significant economic projects that have been completed since 2014 include the Glanbia development in Belview, part of which included the construction of a gas pipeline to link the Great Island pipeline at Ballinlaw to Belview. The Local Area Plan for Ferrybank/Belview, including provision of improved access arrangements, is being progressed along with that for Castlecomer. In Castlecomer, the Creamery House opened as a meeting venue, and has greatly improved the vitality and vibrancy of the Square. In Thomastown, the School of Food was opened in 2015, and this provides a community kitchen to support and promote small food businesses.

In an innovative effort to combat the negative visual impact that vacant sites have on the streetscape and business sentiment of the community and visitors alike, the Council commenced a Small Business Vacant Premises Incentive Scheme in 2016 to support small businesses either in their start-up phase or expansion.

The Council adopted its *Local Economic & Community Plan*<sup>1</sup> in 2016. The overarching objective of the economic dimension of the LECP is to create conditions to support business and job creation. The Council's SPC for Economic Development, Enterprise Support and Tourism will now work to provide the supports necessary for the implementation of the 63 economic actions contained in the plan over the next 6 years. The delivery of the economic actions will be critical to the overall success of the LECP. The successful implementation of the LECP will be dependent upon the support of local businesses, communities, organisations and statutory agencies working collectively to deliver on the actions. The Council has been assigned lead responsibility for many of the economic and enterprise actions contained in the plan.

### **Housing**

We are all aware of the acute housing crisis facing the county and the general lack of housing supply and the numbers on the housing waiting lists. The Council have been combating these issues through the implementation of the Housing Strategy and increasing construction projects, leasing, and making the case for an increase in Government funding. Council housing construction projects are currently being progressed in Bolton, Callan, Donaguile, Castlecomer and at the Abbey Creative Quarter and the Butts in Kilkenny City.

The matter of addressing unfinished housing estates and their subsequent taking in charge is an issue for Kilkenny and all other local authorities. It is a complex area when the following considerations are taken into account: the financial status of developers, that many properties are with NAMA, the Council's legal obligations, potential financial exposure, planning law, residents & elected members' expectations. The Council is proactively engaged in this process.

### **Community**

The role of Community Development has expanded since the passing of the Local Government Reform Act 2014. The Council adopted its *Local Economic & Community Plan*<sup>2</sup> in 2016. The overarching objective of the community dimension of the LECP is to promote local and community

<sup>1</sup> *Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021*

<sup>2</sup> *Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021*

development within the county and to ensure the co-ordination of relevant public-funded local and community development actions in a way that reduces duplication, targets available resources where they are most needed and maximises benefits for communities. The plan is overseen by the Kilkenny Local Community Development Committee which will be supported in its role by the Council.

In addition the Council will also be a support to the Kilkenny Public Participation Network in its ongoing work in supporting the participation of its many groups.

The community development role of the Council envisages the Council in a pro-active manner seeking out communities at Municipal District level, engaging with them in both informal and formal ways, and assisting them with regards to participating in Council and other initiatives in both rural and urban areas. The Council will work with Kilkenny Leader Partnership to ensure the identified needs of the community are met by the Leader programme.

In terms of the schools programme, permission was granted for a two storey extension to Abbey Community College in Ferrybank in 2014, which will see an increase in capacity to 1,000 pupils. Permission was also granted for a three storey extension to St Brigid's Girls Secondary School, Callan in 2014. Two new secondary schools have been approved for the city to commence construction by 2018 on a zoned site in the western environs of the city.

### **Recreation, Tourism & the Arts**

Tourism is one of Kilkenny's key economic drivers and the Council is involved in significant projects and promotion to further develop Kilkenny's tourist offering. The Council is implementing Phase 1 of the Medieval Mile project including the St Mary's Project/Medieval Mile Museum (due to open later this year), the river garden project and public realm enhancement works on High Street & Parliament Street, all supported by Fáilte Ireland. In 2016 the Council will seek to agree the next phase of details with Fáilte Ireland, to include a key role for Kilkenny City & County in Ireland's Ancient East branding, enhanced tourist information facilities & signage and enhanced access to the river to include development of a sport hub and to the protected structures on the former Diageo site along the linear park. Access to rivers in general is a focal point, as is working with Trail Kilkenny.

Proposals are also in hand to further develop & support the development of Woodstock gardens, Kells Priory, a Christmas Festival & other festival events, all of which will require marketing by the Council directly or in partnership with other agencies. The Council has invested in the Castlecomer Discovery Park with the opening of the new Zip Line and High Ropes Challenge in 2016. Permission was granted in 2015 to Mount Juliet estate for a redevelopment including an expansion of their hotel accommodation and leisure/conference facilities.

The Council is also partaking in a unique regional approach, whereby Counties Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford have joined forces as the 'Three Sisters' to bid for the European Capital of Culture title in 2020. In November 2015, the Three Sisters successfully passed Phase 1 of this competition at Dublin Castle. We are now in Phase 2 which involves the preparation of a Bid Book which includes a Regional Cultural Strategy and a Cultural Programme. This has been an extremely fruitful collaboration, with joint marketing initiatives now firmly established with Wexford and Waterford.

### **Heritage**

The Council has administered various schemes for grant funding for heritage projects, such as the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. Examples of Heritage Plan projects implemented over the period

2014-2016 include the County Kilkenny Fieldnames Recording Project, the Traditional Kilkenny Fieldgates Project and Memorials & Plaques of County Kilkenny.

The Council also obtained funding for Bateman Quay Teahouse under the Structures at Risk Fund and works will begin later this year.

As part of the Planning Department's ongoing Heritage awareness campaign, an Information Meeting on Street Signage and Street Furniture was held for City centre traders on March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2016.

### **Infrastructure & Environment**

Water Services responsibilities were transferred to Irish Water in 2014, and the Council continues to work closely with Irish Water to ensure appropriate transfer of responsibilities. The new Waste Water Treatment Plant at Johnstown became operational in early 2016.

In 2015, Kilkenny County Council was successful in obtaining a grant of €1.1million in respect of the provision of a new Fire Station for Graiguenamanagh. The site for the new Fire Station is located along the Graiguenamanagh Relief Road and Elected Members have approved Part 8 proposals for its development.

In terms of flood prevention measures, consultants were appointed for the Pilot Community Flood Response Project for Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown, and this recently commenced. In addition, the Council recently made two applications to the OPW under the Minor Flood Mitigation Works Schemes for Fanningstown & Owing and for Knockhouse to Portnascully.

### **Renewable Energy**

Permission was granted for the County's first solar farm in Goresbridge in May 2016. Planning applications have since been received for additional solar farms.

The Council is currently preparing its Sustainable Energy Action Plan in conjunction with private stakeholders. As part of the Workforce Plan, a new Climate Change and Energy role is envisaged for a Council staff member. Both these elements will aid in the Council's effort to combat climate change.

### **Transport**

Smarter Travel was a strong theme in the Development Plans, and one successful example of this is the Bohernatounish Road scheme which has been completed in the City.

Numerous road improvement projects which were cited as objectives in the Development Plan have begun, including:

- N77 Ballyragget to Ballynaslee - completed and officially opened October 2015.
- N76 Callan Road Realignment - CPO approved by ABP 2014, Land Acquisition ongoing, expected completion date is 2018.
- N24 Tower Road Overbridge and N78 Damerstown Realignment - Project Appraisal Reports and recommendation submitted for both to TII.
- N29 Belview Port Access Road – Study for improved access arrangements is currently underway, and will form part of the Ferrybank Belview Local Area Plan, to be published later this year.
- N25 New Ross bypass - the contract for the €230m New Ross Bypass and 900m river bridge was signed in early 2016, and is due to open to traffic in 2019.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The Plans were subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. The SEA Report for both plans set out the monitoring proposals for environmental categories. It was stated in the SEAs that the Two

Year Progress Report would include an evaluation of monitoring. Many of the indicators have shown no change since the Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out in 2013. Having evaluated the indicators above, there are no objectives having significant adverse impacts, therefore no variations are recommended.

**Conclusion**

The Council has made significant progress in implementing some of the most strategic and far reaching objectives of the current Plans, and as this two year review comes at a relatively early stage in the life of the Development Plan, this progress only marks the beginning of what we hope to achieve over the full six years of the Plans.

**COLETTE BYRNE**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**Kilkenny County Council**



# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Statutory Background

The Kilkenny County and City Development Plans 2014 – 2020 were formally made on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April and 16<sup>th</sup> May 2014 respectively, and came into operation four weeks later. In accordance with the requirements of Section 15(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), this Progress Report sets out the progress made in realising the objectives of the Development Plans since the Plans came into effect. Under Section 95(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, the Chief Executive is also required to include a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Housing Strategy in this Progress Report.

## 1.2 Structure

This Report is in four parts. Part 1 is the introduction.

Part 2 assesses the objectives of the Development Plans under each chapter. Part 2.1 deals with the County Plan and Part 2.2 deals with the City Plan objectives. It should be noted that while this review is concerned with the last two years, the Development Plans have a six year life. Furthermore, some strategic policies and objectives of the Plans have a much longer time horizon. Many of the objectives are ongoing, but where possible, examples of progress to date have been included.

Part 3 comprises a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Housing Strategy.

Part 4 examines the environmental indicators as set out in Section 8, Development Plan Monitoring, of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Development Plans<sup>3</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) of Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020](#)  
[Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) of Kilkenny City Development Plan 2014-2020](#)

## 2 Assessment of Objectives

### 2.1 County Development Plan Objectives

	Objective	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to date
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>			
1A	To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
1B	To ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance <i>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009<sup>4</sup></i> and is assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of the site.	Continuous	Ongoing implementation through Part 8's and development management
1C	To implement the Development Management Standards as set out in the Plan as appropriate.	Continuous	Ongoing implementation
1D	To prepare a Climate Change Adaptation plan following the adoption of the Development Plan.	2018	To be commenced in 2017.
<b>Chapter 3: Core Strategy</b>			
3A	To promote the redevelopment and renewal of areas in need of regeneration.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3B	To implement the <a href="#">NSS</a> and <a href="#">South East Regional Planning Guidelines</a> by encouraging developments into the designated Hub of Kilkenny and the environs of the Waterford Gateway.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3C	To review the County Development Plan in the light of any emerging replacement to the <a href="#">NSS</a> and <a href="#">South East Regional Planning Guidelines</a> and vary the Development Plan accordingly if necessary.	No replacement Guidelines published to date	N/A
3D	To support the strengthening of critical mass within the catchment of the Waterford Gateway by implementing a co-ordinated approach to the development of New Ross and its environs within County Kilkenny between Kilkenny County Council, New Ross Town Council and Wexford County	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation

<sup>4</sup> ibid

	Council.		
3E	To ensure that the District Towns will in so far as practical be self-sufficient incorporating employment activities, sufficient retail services and social and community facilities.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3F	Promote enterprise and economic development in Graiguenamanagh in line with the <a href="#">Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Development and Economic Study, 2006</a> <sup>5</sup>	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3G	To facilitate development of housing, economic development, services and infrastructure in the smaller towns and villages of the county at a scale and character which is appropriate in order to sustain and renew populations and services in these areas.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3H	To monitor the trends in rural housing and population during the lifetime of the plan to ascertain if further rural housing policy responses are required during the plan period.	Ongoing	Planning dept. continuously monitors trends in one off permissions. At present, no change in policy response is considered necessary.
<b>Economic Development</b>			
4A	To increase co-operation between Kilkenny Local Authorities, existing third level institutions and the proposed Technological University for the South East to support employment creation, innovation and lifelong learning.	Ongoing	
4B	To ensure the highest standards of environmental protection in the assessment of planning applications for all development proposals.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
4C	To ensure an adequate amount of employment land on a campus type environment is available within the County for ICT and technology office based industry at the appropriate strategic locations.	Ongoing	Adequate land provided under Development Plans 2014
4D	To deliver and implement the 6 projects associated with the Medieval Mile proposals during the lifetime of the Plan 2014 – 2020 for the city and county.	Ongoing.	Public realm improvements are underway from the Parade to Irishtown. St. Mary's is scheduled for completion in 2016. The Part VIII for the Abbey Creative Quarter Riverside Garden Project was approved at the February Council meeting.

<sup>5</sup> Carlow County Council and Kilkenny County Council, [Graiguenamanagh-Tinnahinch Development and Economic Study](#), 2006

4E	To continue the development of major flagship tourism projects within the county to enhance the tourism product for the county.	Ongoing. The Three Sisters bid is underway. The Council has invested in the Castlecomer Discovery Park with the opening of the new Zip Line and High Ropes Challenge in 2016. A Business Plan is being drawn up for Woodstock Gardens at present, and this will identify priority projects and funding mechanisms. The Council is actively working on the development of the River Barrow Blueway and the Waterford to New Ross Greenway. The Council is working with relevant parties such as OPW, Coillte, Fáilte Ireland and Inland Fisheries.	
4F	To ensure that an adequate quantity and range of land is available for enterprise development and that the appropriate infrastructure is provided.	Ongoing	Adequate land provided under Development Plans 2014
4G	To deliver high speed broadband to the Belview port area within the lifetime of the Plan.	Ongoing	The Council will work with the IDA, and other relevant organisations, to deliver this connection, subject to the required funding being available.
4H	To assist in the provision of natural gas supply to the port area within the life time of the plan	Completed	A gas pipeline was constructed to link the Great Island pipeline at Ballinlaw to Belview as part of the recent Glanbia development.
4I	To review the Ferrybank Belview Local Area Plan in 2015 continuing with the policy of partnership	Commenced in	Due for publication in

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	with the local community.	2015	2016
4J	To ensure the sustainable development of the District towns in the County to achieve their target populations and enhance their capacity to attract new investment in employment, services and public transport for the benefit of their own populations and that of their rural hinterlands	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Review of Castlecomer Local Area Plan to commence in 2016
4K	To promote a diverse and sustainable local economy through the designation of sufficient lands for employment related uses, including facilities, to promote SME growth through the local area plans for the District towns	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Review of Castlecomer Local Area Plan to commence in 2016
4L	To review the local area plans for the District towns following the adoption of the county development plan.	Ongoing	Callan, Castlecomer to commence in 2016, Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh in 2017
4M	The Local Authority will prepare an urban framework document to assist in the development of the Smithwick's site and adjacent lands including lands along Bateman Quay.	Ongoing	Masterplan approved by the Council (as non-statutory document) in July 2015
4N	No further retail parks will be granted permission in and around the City and Environs over the period 2014 – 2020. In this regard, a cautious approach will be taken regarding further such developments over the period of the strategy.	Ongoing	No retail parks granted.
4O	To engage with the other relevant local authorities within the region in the preparation of a joint retail strategy for the greater Waterford City area.	The Chief Executive engaged with WCCC in early 2016 in relation to the preparation of a joint retail strategy, and sought the reestablishment of the PLUTS Steering Committee.	
4P	To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the role and potential of the four District Towns.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
4Q	To improve convenience market share retained within the county to 80% post 2020	Ongoing	The baseline data for the retail strategy will be updated following
4R	To improve comparison market share retained within the county to 75% post 2020	Ongoing	
4S	To increase convenience trade draw from 8% to 15% post 2020	Ongoing	

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4T	To maintain comparison trade draw at 58% post 2020	Ongoing	the publication of Census 2016.
<b>5 Housing and Community</b>			
5A	To implement the Housing Strategy contained in Appendix B.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5B	To require 20% of the land zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, be made available for the provision of social housing.	Ongoing	Superceded by Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. See Section 3 below.
5C	To require that a mixture of residential unit types and sizes are developed to reasonably match the requirements of different categories of households within the city and county.	Ongoing	See Section 3 below.
5D	Complete the review of the Traveller Accommodation programme.	2016	TAP 2014 -2018 will be reviewed in Q3 2016.
5E	To implement the Kilkenny Travellers Horse project	Ongoing. Land has been purchased at Hebron. KCC continuing to work in partnership with the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement and Kilkenny Leader Partnership to progress this.	
5F	To redevelop the Wetlands halting site as a group housing scheme.	Ongoing, in 3 phases	Phase 1 complete (2 houses), Phase 2 commencing 2016 (4 houses) and Phase 3 to be completed by 2018.
5G	To implement the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation programme	Completed	2014: 9 Offers of accommodation made – 7 accepted. 2015: 20 Offers of accommodation made – 19 accepted
5H	The Council will facilitate the provision of childcare and early childhood education facilities in a sustainable manner in appropriate locations which include the following: larger new housing estates, industrial estates and business parks, in the vicinity of schools, neighbourhood and district	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation

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	centres and adjacent to public transport facilities.		
5I	The Council will liaise with the Department of Education and Skills, and all providers of education, to assist where possible in the development of adequate education centres, and to identify and facilitate suitable sites for new educational facilities.	Ongoing: Two permissions granted in 2014 for extensions; Abbey Community College, Ferrybank and St. Brigid's School, Callan. Two new schools to be provided on reserved site in Kilkenny city.	
5J	To increase co-operation between Kilkenny Local Authorities and existing third level institutions and the proposed Technological University for the South East to support employment creation, innovation and lifelong learning.	Ongoing	
5K	To integrate the planning and sustainable development of the county with regard to the social, community and cultural requirements of the county and its population.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5L	To progress and achieve the completion and opening of the new City Library at County Hall.	Ongoing implementation, proposal to be brought to Council by end of 2016.	
<b>7 Recreation, Tourism &amp; the Arts</b>			
7A	The Council shall seek the preservation and improvement of amenities and recreational amenity facilities, and shall facilitate and provide for the extension of recreational amenities in the county where appropriate, subject to environmental and heritage considerations.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7B	The Council will continue to assist with and support the development of the Nore Valley Walk and protect its route from encroachment by unsympathetic development.	Ongoing, completion subject to landowners' consent.	Completed from KK to Bennettsbridge and from Thomastown to Inistioge. Last phase is Bennettsbridge to Thomastown. Work ongoing to secure permissive access.
7C	To develop a walking and cycling strategy within the life of this plan.	Underway	As part of the work for the Waterford to New Ross Greenway, a Regional Infrastructure report was completed in 2015. This forms the basis for any such

			strategy.
7D	To protect the New Ross to Waterford railway line from encroachment by development and to retain its continuity.	Ongoing	The line was protected, and there is a greenway now in development. The track is cleared and a Part 8 is likely later in 2016.
7E	To protect the Kilkenny to Portlaoise former railway line and spur line to Castlecomer from encroachment by development and support the development of a trail if feasible.	Ongoing	A "Feasibility Study for the Abbeyleix to Kilkenny City Leisure Trail" is partially complete.
7F	The Council shall preserve and protect existing public rights of way which give access to seashore, uplands, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational use (A list of existing known rights of way in the county are included as on Appendix D to this plan and are shown on Figure 7.1).	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7G	To undertake a survey to establish any additional existing public rights of way in the county and establish a register within the life of the Plan.	Ongoing	Commence work on register by 2017.
7H	Complete the development of the River Nore Linear Park within the lifetime of the Plan.	Ongoing, subject to landowners' consent.	Almost complete, one remaining element of land to be purchased at Bleach Road.
7I	To establish an environmental management plan for the River Nore Linear Park.	Ongoing	Grassland management plan is in place which is updated annually to maintain biodiversity within the meadows.
7J	To develop an arts venue within the county to fulfil a multiplicity of artistic uses.	Discussions are ongoing with relevant stakeholders.	
7K	To implement the Kilkenny Local Authorities Arts Strategy	Ongoing	Ongoing programmes across all art forms,

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			community and education programmes and partnership developments.
<b>8 Heritage</b>			
8A	To prepare and implement, in partnership with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum and all relevant stakeholders, a County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan.	Ongoing.	Annual implementation of Heritage Plan Projects, with co-funding from the Heritage Council.
8B	To protect and, where possible, enhance the natural heritage sites designated under EU Legislation and National Legislation (Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Wildlife Acts). This protection will extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may arise during the lifetime of this plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8C	To protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under European legislation (Habitats and Birds Directive) and protected under national Legislation (European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477 of 2011), Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 and the Flora Protection Order (SI94 of 1999).	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8D	To prepare and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for County Kilkenny.	Not commenced to date.	
8E	To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites. Where the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside is unavoidable as part of a development, to ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures are put in place, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscape character and green infrastructure networks.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8F	Kilkenny County Council will promote the planting of native tree and shrub species, by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping work and on County Council property.	Ongoing implementation through development management and Council's own programme.	
8G	To protect and sustainably manage the landscape character of County Kilkenny, having regard to the findings of the landscape character assessment and the development management standards	Ongoing implementation through development management.	

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	as set out in this chapter for the sustainable development of the county and appropriate conservation of its landscape character.		
8H	To preserve and improve places or areas from which views or prospects of special amenity value exist, as identified in Appendix H and on Figure 8.2.	Ongoing	implementation through development management.
8I	Protect archaeological sites and monuments (including their setting), underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and in the Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny or newly discovered sub-surface and underwater archaeological remains.	Ongoing	through development management and Council's own programme.
8J	To facilitate and support the implementation of existing (and any further) conservation plans, as resources allow.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8K	To ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Kilkenny by including all structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8L	To carry out a review of the Record of Protected Structures.		To be commenced in 2016, structures within the city will be prioritised. An audit of KCC owned structures will be included.
8M	To complete digital mapping of the Record of Protected Structures.	Completed	
8N	To promote principles of best practice in conservation and the use of appropriate materials and repair techniques through the administration of the Conservation Grants Scheme and the Structures at Risk Fund (SRF), funded by the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.	Ongoing	Built Heritage Investment Scheme grant offers were issued in Feb. 2016. Funding obtained for Bateman Quay Teahouse under SRF, works due to take place during 2016.
8O	To provide assistance to owners of protected structures in undertaking essential repairs and maintenance by the provision of relevant information.	Ongoing	Ongoing through pre-planning meetings, responding to queries, carrying out Section 57 declarations, disseminating DAHG Advice Series docs.

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8P	To respond to the Ministerial recommendation to include in the Record of Protected Structures, structures which have been identified as being of Regional, National or International significance in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey of the city and county published in 2006, and to consider for inclusion those rated of local significance.	Ongoing. There are c.1200 NIAH structures recommended for inclusion in the RPS of which to date c.400 have been added.	A small number of those considered were not added due to loss of character over the intervening years (since 2006). There are c.700-800 structures remaining to be considered for addition (City and County). A target of c.200 will be considered for addition in 2016-2017.
8Q	To ensure the preservation of the special character of each ACA within the county particularly with regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, building materials, historic street furniture and paving.	Ongoing	All planning applications for developments located within ACAs are referred to and dealt with by the Conservation Officer and recommendations made concerning proposed works which may affect the character of the ACA.
8R	To designate ACAs where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the preservation of the character of these areas.	Ongoing	None proposed at present
<b>9 Infrastructure and Environment</b>			
9A	Implement the programme as outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
9B	Meet in full the requirements of the E.U. <a href="#">Urban Waste Water Treatment</a> and <a href="#">Water Framework</a>	Ongoing	Ongoing

**County Development Plan Objectives**

	Directives and the <a href="#">Drinking Water Regulations</a> .		implementation
9C	To update Noise Mapping in accordance with revised or updated thresholds for Noise Mapping.	Ongoing.	A <a href="#">Noise Action Plan</a> was published for the period 2014-2018. A cost benefit analysis is recommended to be conducted to prioritise list of actionable works for noise mitigation. A review process to assess the impact of the measures adopted shall be implemented at regular intervals.
9D	To promote compliance with environmental standards and objectives established— for bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009; for groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the South East River Basin Management Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
9E	To complete the mapping of source protection areas and to map Source Protection Areas for any new public water supply schemes as appropriate.	Completed.	Source protection mapping was prepared for the well field in Kilmacow by RPS Consultants. Any new water schemes sourced from groundwater will also have source protection areas mapped.
9F	To ensure that Source Protection Areas are identified for any multiple unit housing developments with private water supplies.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
9G	To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the <a href="#">Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</a> , the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
9H	To implement the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation

**County Development Plan Objectives**

9I	To control the following for the purposes of reducing the risk or limiting the consequences of a major accident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The siting of Major Accident Hazard sites</li> <li>• The modification of an existing Major Accident Hazard site</li> <li>• Development in the vicinity of a Major Accident Hazard site</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
9J	To facilitate the delivery of high quality broadband to the District Towns in the county.	Ongoing.	The Council will facilitate implementation of the National Broadband Plan 2016, and is currently making provision for high quality broadband in new infrastructural projects where feasible.
9K	To set up and maintain a register of approved telecommunications structures which will provide a useful input to the assessment of future telecommunications developments and would also be useful from the point of view of maximising the potential for future mast sharing and co-location.	Ongoing	To be commenced in 2016.
<b>10 Renewable Energy Strategy</b>			
10A	Kilkenny County Council recognises the need to support the development of bioenergy resources. It will support suitable projects and recommends that anyone considering a project should consult the South East Regional Authority of Ireland's current <a href="#">Bioenergy Implementation Plan</a> .	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10B	Facilitate the development of projects that convert biomass to energy.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10C	In general, direct commercial bioenergy plants to locate on brownfield sites which are adjacent to industrial areas or on lands which are reserved for industrial uses in any development plan. Brownfield sites in rural areas may also be considered.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10D	Ensure that any commercial bioenergy plant is close to the point of demand and is served by public roads with sufficient capacity to absorb increased traffic flows and adjacent to transport corridors.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10E	Seek to respond positively to applications for waste to energy projects.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10F	Facilitate the development of appropriate projects that convert hydro power to energy.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10G	Have regard to the provisions of the <a href="#">Guidelines on the Planning, Design, Construction and Operation of Small Scale Hydro-Electric Schemes and Fisheries</a>	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10H	The Planning Authority will support and facilitate the development of passive solar design	Ongoing	Ongoing

**County Development Plan Objectives**

	proposals for the development of houses in rural and urban areas, and will draw on the recommendations of the <a href="#">Kilkenny Rural House Design Guide</a> , and the Guidelines on <a href="#">Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas</a> .		implementation
10I	The Planning Authority will make available advice on Passive Solar Design in preplanning consultations for domestic and commercial buildings.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10J	Consider impacts of overshadowing on the efficiency of existing solar technologies when assessing planning applications.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10K	Support applications to install solar panels on public buildings and schools within the county should the opportunity arise.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10L	Support the development of geothermal energy and heat pumps	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10M	To review the progress of the Climate Change Strategy, report on the progress to date, and thereafter develop a new strategy and action plan in line with national policy.	2018	To be commenced in 2017.
10N	Encourage high standards of energy efficiency in all building developments and encourage developers, owners and tenants to improve the environmental performance of the building stock, including the deployment of renewable energy.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10O	Require a provisional BER certificate as part of any planning application, showing how the proposal will comply with Part L of the Building Regulations	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10P	To require that planning applications for large buildings, as defined by the Energy Performance of Building Regulations, demonstrate that due consideration has been given to the technical, environmental and economic feasibility of installing alternative energy systems in the proposed building, and that the use of such systems has been taken into account, as far as practicable, in the design of that building. This shall also apply to applications for ten or more housing units.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
<b>11 Transport</b>			
11A	To investigate the establishment of a Transport Forum to oversee Transport policy of the county.		To be raised at the Transport Strategic Policy Committee.
11B	The Council will implement the provisions of the <a href="#">National Cycle Policy Framework</a> where possible.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
11C	To facilitate the provision of bus shelters as appropriate.	Phase 1 completed in 2013 which provided for 5	Five locations under Phase 2 identified as follows: Glenmore Hill (under

**County Development Plan Objectives**

		shelters in Moocoin, Castlecomer Road, Kilkenny, Gowran, & Paulstown (2)	construction), Piltown, Mullinavat, Castlecomer & Slieverue.
11D	To facilitate parking provision for tourist buses in towns and villages and at tourist attractions.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation as opportunities arise.
11E	To develop and agree an appropriately planned policy response to access for Glanbia and the Leggetsrath roundabout in conjunction with the National Roads Authority.	KCC continue to engage with TII in relation to all national routes. Regarding Glanbia access off N77 Ballyconra, Ballyragget – KCC made an application to the TII in 2015, for funding under the Minor Works Programme. The application includes road widening and strengthening from Ballyragget to Ballynaslee.	
11F	To develop and agree an appropriately planned policy response to access from the N29 Port road to industrial zoned lands in the Belview area in conjunction with the National Roads Authority.	TBC by 2017	Being examined as part of the Ferrybank Belview LAP.
11G	To support the implementation of the NRA projects as outlined above.	Ongoing implementation. N77 Ballynaslee completed and officially opened October 2015. N76 Callan Road Realignment CPO approved by ABP 2014, Land Acquisition ongoing, Construction tenders to be advertised Qtr. 3 2016 and expected completion date Q1 2018. N24 Tower Road Overbridge and N78	

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		Damerstown Realignment - Project Appraisal Reports and recommendation submitted for both to TII.	
11H	To preserve free from development proposed road realignment/improvement lines and associated corridors where such development would prejudice the implementation of National Roads Authority or County Council plans (See Figure 11.1)	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
11I	To seek an upgrade of the R700 between New Ross and Kilkenny to National Secondary status and to provide a relief road for Thomastown.	Ongoing. Thomastown Relief Road – Design substantially complete and land acquired for Phase 1 – Dublin Rd to Inistioge Rd in 2008 - progress dependant on DTTAS funding. Upgrade continues to be raised with DTTAS.	
11J	To seek an upgrade of the Kilkenny to Urlingford Road (R693) to National Secondary status and to improve the road realignment in its entirety.	Ongoing. Submission to be prepared for DTTAS and TII by end of 2016.	
11K	To seek an upgrade of the New Ross to Mullinavat Regional Road (R704).	Ongoing	No progress to date.
11L	Reserve the proposed line of the western bypass for the city from the Castlecomer Road to the Waterford Road free from development.	Ongoing	Reserved within the Development Plan. Subject to staff resources it is proposed to undertake a route selection review Q4 2016.
11M	Complete the R697 Kells Road Improvement Scheme.	Completed	Completed
11N	To improve substandard sections of regional roads throughout the County, in particular those most heavily trafficked, and those providing access to existing or proposed industrial, residential or commercial developments.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation

**County Development Plan Objectives**



## 2.2 City & Environs Development Plan Objectives

	Objective	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to date
<b>Chapter 1: Introduction</b>			
1A	To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
1B	To ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance <i>Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 2009</i> <sup>6</sup> and is assessed in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive in order to avoid adverse impacts on the integrity and conservation objectives of the site.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
1C	To implement the Development Management Standards as set out in the Plan as appropriate.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
1D	To prepare a Climate Change Adaptation plan following the adoption of the Development Plan.	2018	To be commenced in 2017.
1E	To develop a consultation process for plans and projects proposed by the local authority.	Completed by 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter 2016	Revised Part 8 procedure is now in place. New Consult website <a href="https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en">https://consult.kilkenny.ie/en</a> and consultation processes are continuously being developed and improved.
1F	To restore and conserve St. Mary's Church using eco restoration practices and methodologies.	2016	Project well advanced and will be open to public by end of 2016.
<b>Chapter 3: Core Strategy &amp; Zoning</b>			
3A	To promote the redevelopment and renewal of areas in need of regeneration.	Ongoing	Ongoing

<sup>6</sup> ibid

			implementation
3B	To implement the vision, policy and objectives of the Western Environs Local Area Plan 2004 for the development of the area.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3C	To prepare a master plan and urban design framework for the Smithwick's site and Bateman Quay during the lifetime of the development plan.	Ongoing	<a href="#">Masterplan</a> approved (as non-statutory document) in July 2015
3D	To take a fresh analysis of the development strategy for the City & Environs immediately following the agreed masterplan for the Smithwick's lands and taking account of the current and projected economic performance of the City and County.	To be commenced following the publication of Census 2016.	
3E	To implement the provisions of sections 2 of the City Centre LAP relating to transport, car parking, urban design and land uses.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3F	To implement the provisions of Section 3 of the City Centre LAP relating to the urban design frameworks and land uses for specific sites.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
3G	To develop and implement a Living Over the Shop Scheme.	Targeted commencement date 2017.	
<b>Chapter 4: Economic Development</b>			
4A	To increase co-operation between Kilkenny Local Authorities, existing third level institutions and the proposed Technological University for the South East to support employment creation, innovation and lifelong learning.	Ongoing	
4B	To ensure the highest standards of environmental protection in the assessment of planning applications for all development proposals.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
4C	To ensure an adequate amount of employment land on a campus type environment is available within the City for ICT and technology office based industry at the appropriate strategic locations.	Ongoing	Adequate land provided under Development Plans 2014
4D	To deliver and implement the 6 projects associated with the Medieval Mile proposals during the lifetime of the Plan 2014 – 2020 for the city and county.	Ongoing. Public realm improvements are underway from the Parade to Irishtown. St. Mary's is scheduled for completion in 2016. The Part VIII for the Abbey Creative Quarter Riverside Garden Project was approved at the February Council meeting, Plans for the remaining projects are now being progressed.	

**City & Environs Development Plan Objectives**

4E	To continue the development of major flagship tourism projects within the county to enhance the tourism product for the county.	Ongoing. The Three Sisters bid is underway. The Council has invested in the Castlecomer Discovery Park with the opening of the new Zip Line and High Ropes Challenge in 2016. A Business Plan is being drawn up for Woodstock Gardens at present, and this will identify priority projects and funding mechanisms. The Council is actively working on the development of the River Barrow Blueway and the Waterford to New Ross Greenway. The Council is working with relevant parties such as OPW, Coillte, Fáilte Ireland and Inland Fisheries.	
4F	The Smithwick lands the subject of the masterplan referred to in Section 3.4.3 will be the focus for major new retail expansion (convenience and comparison retailing) in the City & Environs over the plan period.	Masterplan completed July 2015	Retail is provided for in the <a href="#">Masterplan</a>
4G	No further retail parks will be granted permission in and around the City and Environs over the period 2014 – 2020.	Ongoing	No retail parks granted.
4H	To engage with the other relevant local authorities within the region in the preparation of a joint retail strategy for the greater Waterford City area.	The Chief Executive engaged with WCCC in early 2016 in relation to the preparation of a joint retail strategy, and sought the reestablishment of the PLUTS Steering Committee.	
4I	To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the role and potential of the four District Towns.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
4J	To improve convenience market share retained within the county to 80% post 2020 <sup>7</sup>	Ongoing	The baseline data for the retail strategy will be updated following the publication of
4K	To improve comparison market share retained within the county to 75% post 2020	Ongoing	
4L	To increase convenience trade draw from 8% to 15% post 2020	Ongoing	
4M	To maintain comparison trade draw at 58% post 2020	Ongoing	

<sup>7</sup> Not taken into account in the capacity assessment. These are targets to be achieved should proposals come forward for significant retail development that would affect inflow and outflow patterns.

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			Census 2016.
<b>Chapter 5: Housing and Community</b>			
5A	To implement the Housing Strategy contained in Appendix B.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5B	To require 20% of the land zoned for residential use, or for a mixture of residential and other uses, be made available for the provision of social housing.	Ongoing	Superseded by Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015. See Section 3 below.
5C	To require that a mixture of residential unit types and sizes are developed to reasonably match the requirements of different categories of households within the city and county.	Ongoing	See Section 3 below.
5D	Complete the review of the Traveller Accommodation programme.	2016	TAP 2014 -2018 will be reviewed in Q3 2016.
5E	To implement the Kilkenny Travellers Horse project	Ongoing. Land has been purchased at Hebron. KCC continuing to work in partnership with the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement and Kilkenny Leader Partnership to progress this.	Ongoing. Land has been purchased at Hebron. KCC continuing to work in partnership with the Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement and Kilkenny Leader Partnership to progress this.
5F	To redevelop the Wetlands halting site as a group housing scheme.	Ongoing, in 3 phases	Phase 1 complete (2 houses), Phase 2 commencing 2016 (4 houses) and Phase 3 to be completed by 2018.
5G	To implement the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation programme	Completed	2014: 9 Offers of

**City & Environs Development Plan Objectives**

			accommodation made – 7 accepted. 2015: 20 Offers of accommodation made – 19 accepted
5H	The Council will facilitate the provision of childcare and early childhood education facilities in a sustainable manner in appropriate locations which include the following: larger new housing estates, industrial estates and business parks, in the vicinity of schools, neighbourhood and district centres and adjacent to public transport facilities.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5I	The Council will liaise with the Department of Education and Skills, and all providers of education, to assist where possible in the development of adequate education centres, and to identify and facilitate suitable sites for new educational facilities.	Ongoing: Two permissions granted in 2014 for extensions; Abbey Community College, Ferrybank and St. Brigid’s School, Callan. Two new schools to be provided on reserved site in Kilkenny city.	
5J	To integrate the planning and sustainable development of the county with regard to the social, community and cultural requirements of the county and its population.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5K	To progress and achieve the completion and opening of the new City Library at County Hall.	Ongoing implementation; proposal to be brought to Council by end of 2016.	
<b>Chapter 6: Recreation, Tourism &amp; the Arts</b>			
6A	The Council shall seek the preservation and improvement of amenities and recreational amenity facilities, and shall facilitate and provide for the extension of recreational amenities in the county where appropriate, subject to environmental and heritage considerations.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
6B	Complete the development of the River Nore Linear Park within the lifetime of the Plan.	Ongoing, subject to landowners’ consent.	Almost complete, one remaining element of land to be purchased at Bleach Road.
6C	To establish an environmental management plan for the River Nore Linear Park.	Ongoing	Grassland management plan is in place which is updated annually to maintain biodiversity within the meadows.
6D	The Council shall preserve and protect existing public rights of way which give access to seashore,	Ongoing	Ongoing

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	uplands, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational use		implementation
6E	To undertake a survey of existing rights of way in the City and establish a register within the life of the Plan.	Ongoing	Commence work on register by end of 2016
6F	To provide a skate park within the City & Environs during the lifetime of the Plan	Ongoing	The <i>Urban Design Framework Masterplan for Abbey Creative Quarter</i> (July 2015) includes provision for a skate park.
6G	To develop an arts venue within the county to fulfil a multiplicity artistic uses.	Discussions are ongoing with relevant stakeholders.	
6H	To implement the Kilkenny Local Authorities Arts Strategy	Ongoing	Ongoing programmes across all art forms, community and education programmes and partnership developments.
<b>Chapter 7: Heritage</b>			
7A	To prepare and implement, in partnership with the Kilkenny Heritage Forum and all relevant stakeholders, a County Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan.	Ongoing. Annual implementation of Heritage Plan Projects, with co-funding from the Heritage Council	Examples of Heritage Plan projects implemented over the period 2014-2016 include Fieldnames Recording Project, Traditional Kilkenny Fieldgates Project, and "My Heritage" poetry competition, book, calendar and radio programming.

7B	To protect and, where possible, enhance the natural heritage sites designated under EU Legislation and National Legislation (Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 and Wildlife Acts). This protection will extend to any additions or alterations to sites that may arise during the lifetime of this plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7C	To protect and, where possible, enhance the plant and animal species and their habitats that have been identified under European legislation (Habitats and Birds Directive) and protected under national Legislation (European Communities (Birds and Natural Habitats) Regulations 2011 (SI 477 of 2011), Wildlife Acts 1976-2010 and the Flora Protection Order (SI94 of 1999).	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7D	To prepare and support the implementation of a Green Infrastructure Strategy for Kilkenny City & Environs, to include for a tree planting programme.	Not commenced to date.	
7E	To protect and where possible enhance wildlife habitats and landscape features which act as ecological corridors/networks and stepping stones, such as river corridors, hedgerows and road verges, and to minimise the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside (such as ponds, wetlands, trees) which are not within designated sites. Where the loss of habitats and features of the wider countryside is unavoidable as part of a development, to ensure that appropriate mitigation and/or compensation measures are put in place, to conserve and enhance biodiversity and landscape character and green infrastructure networks.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7F	Kilkenny County Council will promote the planting of native tree and shrub species, by committing to using native species (of local provenance wherever possible) in its landscaping work and on County Council property.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7G	To carry out a TPO for lands identified around the former Ayresfield House on the Granges Road.	Proposed for commencement in 2016 with a Tree Survey.	
7H	Protect archaeological sites and monuments (including their setting), underwater archaeology, and archaeological objects, including those that are listed in the Record of Monuments and Places, and in the Urban Archaeological Survey of County Kilkenny or newly discovered sub-surface and underwater archaeological remains.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7I	To facilitate and support the implementation of existing (and any further) conservation plans, as resources allow.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7J	To ensure the protection of the architectural heritage of County Kilkenny by including all structures considered to be of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest in the Record of Protected Structures.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
7K	To respond to the Ministerial recommendation to include in the Record of Protected Structures, structures which have been identified as being of Regional, National or International significance in	There are c.1200 NIAH structures	Most of the structures recommended for

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	the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey of the city and county published in 2006, and to consider for inclusion those rated of local significance.	recommended for inclusion in the RPS of which to date c.400 have been added. A small number of those considered for addition were not added due to loss of character over the intervening years (since publication of the survey in 2006). There are c.700-800 structures therefore remaining to be considered for addition (City and County). A target of c.200 should be considered for addition in 2016-2017.	addition in the 2010 and 2014 rounds of addition are located outside the city. Attention needs to be focused on the city in any future rounds of additions to the RPS.
7L	To carry out a review of the Record of Protected Structures for the functional area of Kilkenny City and Environs.	To be commenced in 2016, structures within the city will be prioritised. An audit of KCC owned structures will be included.	
7M	To ensure the preservation of the special character of each ACA particularly with regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, building materials, historic street furniture and paving.	Ongoing	Ongoing. All planning applications for developments located

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			within ACAs are referred to and dealt with by the ACO and recommendations made concerning proposed works which may affect the character of the ACA.
7N	To designate ACAs where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the preservation of the character of these areas.	None proposed at present	The city currently has 9 ACAs.
<b>Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Environment</b>			
8A	Implement the programme as outlined in the Water Services Investment Programme.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8B	Prioritise the upgrading of the Purcellsinch wastewater treatment plant.	Full review of site operations at Purcellsinch, to reflect IW policy, to be carried out later this year.	
8C	Meet in full the requirements of the E.U. <a href="#">Urban Waste Water Treatment</a> and <a href="#">Water Framework Directives</a> and the <a href="#">Drinking Water Regulations</a> .	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8D	To update Noise Mapping in accordance with revised or updated thresholds for Noise Mapping.	Ongoing. A <a href="#">Noise Action Plan</a> was published for the period 2014-2018. A cost benefit analysis is recommended to be conducted to prioritise list of actionable works for noise mitigation. A review process to assess the impact of the measures adopted shall be implemented at regular intervals.	
8E	To promote compliance with environmental standards and objectives established—for bodies of surface water, by the European Communities (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009; for groundwater, by the European Communities (Groundwater) Regulations 2010; which standards and objectives are included in the South East River Basin Management Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8F	To complete the mapping of source protection areas and to map Source Protection Areas for any new public water supply schemes as appropriate.	Completed	Any new water schemes sourced from

			groundwater will have source protection areas mapped.
8G	To ensure that Source Protection Areas are identified for any multiple unit housing developments with private water supplies.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8H	To adopt a comprehensive risk-based planning approach to flood management to prevent or minimise future flood risk. In accordance with the <a href="#">Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities</a> , the avoidance of development in areas where flood risk has been identified shall be the primary response.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8I	To implement the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8J	To control the following for the purposes of reducing the risk or limiting the consequences of a major accident: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The siting of Major Accident Hazard sites</li> <li>• The modification of an existing Major Accident Hazard site</li> <li>• Development in the vicinity of a Major Accident Hazard site</li> </ul>	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8K	To set up and maintain a register of approved telecommunications structures which will provide a useful input to the assessment of future telecommunications developments and would also be useful from the point of view of maximising the potential for future mast sharing and co-location.	Ongoing	To be commenced in 2016.
<b>Chapter 9: Renewable Energy Strategy</b>			
9A	Investigate the feasibility of installing anaerobic digestion facilities at the Purcellsinch wastewater treatment plant.	Feasibility study completed by Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency in 2015. Submitted to Irish Water.	
9B	The Planning Authority will make available advice on Passive Solar Design in preplanning consultations for domestic and commercial buildings.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
9C	To review the progress of the Climate Change Strategy, report on the progress to date, and thereafter develop a new strategy and action plan in line with national policy.	2018	To be commenced in 2017.
<b>Chapter 10: Transport</b>			
10A	To review the Mobility Management Plan (2009) and adopt a new MMP for the period 2015-2020.	Ongoing	Current MMP remains valid and will be reviewed by 2017.

10B	Complete the demarcation of the Gateways as depicted on Figure 10.1 and prioritise pedestrian and cyclist movement within the Gateways.	Ongoing. Gateway demarcation complete at 4 locations (Patrick St at The Ormonde Rd, John St at the Dublin Rd Junction, James St at James Green, The Parade at the Castle Ped Crossing). One more to be erected at Parliament st/ Irishtown presently. Two pedestrian portals in place (Irishtown and John St) and 4 more to be erected this year (High St (3 locations) and at the Parade at the Design Centre).	
10C	To re-examine options for pedestrian prioritisation in the city centre following implementation of the Central Access Scheme.	Will take place following completion of CAS	
10D	Complete the improvements to the back lanes, including the lane from Fr. Murphy Square to Robertshill.	Completed.	
10E	Plan for the provision of the Greensbridge Way and the Ossory Bridge connection.	Ossory Bridge is completed.	Greensbridge Way to be reviewed after completion of CAS.
10F	Facilitate the provision of approved bus stops and shelters within the City and Environs as the need arises.	Ongoing	Number of bus stops including at McDonagh Shopping centre, the Watershed, St. Luke's & Bateman Quay. Bus shelters in place at Ormonde Road & Castlecomer Road.
10G	To facilitate parking provision for tourist buses within the city.	Tourist buses are currently accommodated on Castle Road. Provision is required in Irishtown to cater for demand generated by Smithwick's and St. Canice's. In accordance with Variation 1 objective 3N, parking options will be examined and	

**City & Environs Development Plan Objectives**

		proposals will be brought forward to Council in due course.	
10H	To carry out a Traffic Management Scheme at Loughboy Shopping Centre to include a stop for the City bus service.	Completed	Bus stop provided at Watershed on Bohernatounish Road.
10I	To develop and agree an appropriately planned policy response for access to Leggetsrath roundabout on the N10 in conjunction with the National Roads Authority.	KCC continue to engage with TII in relation to all national routes.	
10J	To preserve free from development proposed road realignment/improvement lines and associated corridors where such development would prejudice the implementation of National Roads Authority or Council plans (See Figure 10.2 Road hierarchy).	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10K	Reserve the line of Phase 2 and Phase 3 of proposed Central Access Scheme free from development and to complete Phase 1 of the Central Access Scheme within the plan period. (See Figure 3.3, R1).	Phase 1 underway	Ongoing implementation, Phase 1 to be completed in 2017
10L	To widen the Castlecomer Road to provide for two lanes south bound and one lane north bound carriageway (See Figure 3.3, R2).	Underway	Tender awarded and works commenced in 2016.
10M	Reserve the proposed line of the western by-pass for the city from the Castlecomer Road to the Callan Road free from development, including for a river crossing (See Figure 3.3, R3).	Long term project	Reserved in the Development Plan
10N	Reserve the proposed line of a new road link from the Callan Road to the Waterford Road roundabout free from development and seek approval from An Bord Pleanála for Phase 1 of the Western By-pass, the Kilkenny Northern Ring Road Extension (See Figure 3.3, R4).	The Environmental Impact Statement and the CPO for this scheme was approved by An Bord Pleanála in 2014.	A Judicial Review of that decision has been sought by local landowners and KCC awaits the outcome of that process.  The Western By-pass remains an objective and subject to staff resources it is proposed to undertake a route

**City & Environs Development Plan Objectives**

			selection review Q4 2016.
10O	Provide a second entrance to the Hebron Industrial Estate from the Hebron Road (See Figure 3.3, R5).	Ongoing	Objective 10O shown on Zoning map
10P	Complete the R697 Kells Road Improvement Scheme from Upper Patrick St. to the Kells Road Roundabout (R6)	Completed	Completed
10Q	Complete the N10 Road Improvement Scheme from the Dublin Road Roundabout to the Leggettsrath Roundabout (R7)	Completed	Completed
10R	The development of the lands located on the Waterford Road (known as the Murphy Machinery lands, see Figure 3.3, R8) to be dependent on an alternative access to the national route	Objective 10R shown on Zoning map.	No development proposal to date.
10S	Prepare and implement traffic management and calming schemes for the City & Environs in line with the 3 year Roads Programmes.	Ongoing	Schemes have been completed for Kennyswell Road, Fr. Murphy Square and Bateman Quay.
10T	Complete the Bohernatounish Road Traffic Management Scheme	Ongoing	To be completed in 2016
10U	Complete the Outrath Road Improvement Scheme	Ongoing	To be completed in 2016
10V	Complete improvement works from the Parade Plaza to Dean Street under the Medieval Mile Project.	Ongoing	Will be completed from the Parade to the Courthouse by 2016.

***City & Environs Development Plan Objectives***

## 3 Progress on Implementing the Housing Strategy

### 3.1 Introduction

The Housing Strategy for the period 2014-2020 was included in the Development Plans. Under Section 95(3)(a) of the Planning and Development Act, the Chief Executive is required to include a review of the progress achieved in implementing the Housing Strategy in the two year progress report on the Development Plan.

One key point of the 2014 Strategy was that 20% of the land zoned for residential, or a mix of residential and other uses would be reserved for social and affordable housing. Since the Development Plans were adopted, the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 came into force. This Act amended Part V of the Planning and Development Acts, and housing strategies now cannot require more than 10% of the land zoned for residential, or a mix of residential and other uses to be reserved for social and affordable housing. In addition, local authorities can no longer accept a monetary contribution to satisfy Part V.

Another key point was that the 2014 Strategy predicted that a total of 3,570 new units would be required in the period 2014-2020<sup>8</sup>. This works out at 595 units per year over the 6 years.

There are three elements to be examined here; the availability of sufficient zoned land, the supply of houses generally, and the provision of social and affordable housing, and housing supports, by the Council.

### 3.2 Zoning

The 2014 Development Plans zoned a total of 179 hectares of land throughout the county. There are a total of twelve zoned settlements at present; Kilkenny city, Ferrybank/Belview, Callan, Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh, Thomastown, Bennettsbridge, Kilmacow and New Ross Environs. There are also three other LAPs that will expire shortly; Fiddown, Gowran and Piltown. Applying the average housing densities as set out in the Core Strategy table of the Development Plan<sup>9</sup>, the total zoned land has a capacity of 4,384 units. This is sufficient to cater for the projected demand as set out in the Housing Strategy.

Zoning in the county has for the most part not changed since 2014 (other than a small scale change in Callan, see Amendment No. 2 to the Callan LAP), and there has not been a significant uptake in zoned land. There are a number of Local Area Plans due for review shortly; the Ferrybank, Callan, Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh and Thomastown Plans. The review of these plans will incorporate an examination of the Core Strategy to ensure zoning in the LAP areas is compatible with the County Core Strategy, and that it continues to meet the Housing Strategy.

### 3.3 Housing Completions

The Department of the Environment publishes Annual Housing Statistics which presents data on house completions from three separate sources. The first is house completions by area based on the number of new dwellings connected by the ESB to the electricity supply. The second is new house guarantee registrations from Homebond registrations. The third is commencement notices. A

<sup>8</sup> Section 3.2 of Appendix B Housing Strategy, Kilkenny City & Environs Development Plan 2014-2020

<sup>9</sup> See Table 3.4 Core Strategy 2014-2020, Chapter 3, Kilkenny County Development Plan 2014-2020

Commencement Notice (CN) is a notification to a Building Control Authority (BCA) that a person intends to carry out either works or a Material Change of Use to which the Building Regulations apply.

Table 3.1 sets out the annual house completions for the three year period 2013-2015 according to the Department of the Environment.

**Table 3.1: House completions in Co. Kilkenny 2013-2015**

Year	House completions	New house guarantee registrations	Commencement Notices
2013	179	8	78
2014	179	6	92
2015	196	16	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>554</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>270</b>

Sources: DoEHLG website<sup>10</sup>

As is evident, regardless of which dataset is examined, the numbers of completions are falling short of the projected demand as set out in the 2014 Strategy. The Housing Agency have identified that there is a persistent mismatch between the supply and demand for housing nationally and that this is a consistent challenge. In their *National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand 2014 and Outlook for 2015-2017*, they state that “Nationally, there was an undersupply of the required housing in 2014”<sup>11</sup>. However, the Report noted the increase in activity for the first three months of 2015, which is in line with the increased numbers for Kilkenny in 2015 as illustrated above. The Housing Agency has identified that “Access to finance and land for development, affordable construction and reasonable development profits are key drivers in unlocking future supply”<sup>12</sup>. The zoning of land has been addressed previously above, but the issue of **access** to land for development could be examined further. This will be possible within the upcoming review of the LAPs, and also an upcoming review of the development strategy for the City and Environs.

### 3.4 Provision of Social and Affordable Housing

As at 2013, the housing waiting list was 2,852<sup>13</sup>. The Development Plan stated that the Council would seek to meet this demand, through:

- The sale of sites scheme
- The Voluntary housing sector and the Rental subsidy scheme
- The capital assistance scheme
- The disabled persons grant
- The essential repairs grant and other measures,
- The Homeless Forum Initiative

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.environ.ie/housing/statistics/housing-statistics-0>

<sup>11</sup> P.7 The Housing Agency, *National Statement of Housing Supply and Demand 2014 and Outlook for 2015-17*, 2015

<sup>12</sup> *ibid*

<sup>13</sup> Housing Section, March 2013

### 3.4.1 Part V Housing Acquisitions

The 2014 Strategy set out that a number of options are available to developers to satisfy the requirement for social and affordable housing;

- The payment of a monetary contribution
- The transfer of a portion of the site subject to the planning application,
- The transfer of completed dwellings elsewhere,
- The transfer of fully or partially serviced sites on the site which will enable the Council to provide the appropriate number of units thereon,
- The transfer of serviced sites at another location,
- The transfer of the required number of completed dwellings on the site,
- The transfer of land at another location

An agreement may provide for a combination of the above. Since the passing of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015, the payment of a monetary contribution is no longer an option.

A total of 8 units were acquired under Part V from 2014 to 2015.

**Table 3.2 Part V Housing Acquisitions**

YEAR	2014	2015	Total
<b>Part V Housing Acquisitions</b>	0	8	8

### 3.4.2 Local Authority Housing Provision

A total of 35 units were constructed or purchased from 2014-2015, see Table 2.2 below.

**Table 3.3 Local Authority Housing Provision**

YEAR	2014	2015	Total
<b>LA construction</b>	0	4	4
<b>LA direct purchase from market</b>	7	24	31
<b>Total</b>			35

### 3.4.3 Voluntary Housing

Under the Capital Assistance Scheme, a total of 21 units of voluntary housing were constructed in the period 2014-2015.

**Table 3.4 Voluntary Housing Provision**

YEAR	2014	2015	Total
<b>Voluntary Housing Scheme new build</b>	9	12	21



### 3.4.4 The Role of the Private Rented Sector

The private rented sector continues to play an important role in the provision of accommodation for persons with low incomes who are in receipt of rent subsidy.

The Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a form of social housing support for people who have a long-term housing need. In 2014 a total of 104 contracts were signed, and by the end of 2015 an additional 394 tenancies were established.

The Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) is a government initiative to cater for people who qualify for social housing supports and are in receipt of rent supplement (state support payment) and living in the private rented sector for 18 months or more. In 2014 a total of 59 applicants were accommodated, and in 2015, a total of 75 applicants were accommodated. A total of 532 RAS properties are now forming part of social housing options.

### 3.4.5 Long Term Leasing

Under this initiative, Kilkenny County Council leases private dwellings from private property owners. Properties are tenanted, managed and maintained by the local authority for leases of between 10-20 years. A total of 37 units were provided under this scheme in 2014 and 41 units in 2015.

### 3.4.6 Summary of Council Provision

Since the Housing Strategy was published in 2014, a total of 943 social and affordable units have been provided. Table 3.5 below gives the breakdown of these.

**Table 3.5: Total Social and Affordable Housing Provision, Kilkenny Local Authorities 2014-2015**

	Housing Source	2014	2015	Total
1	LA construction	0	4	4
2	LA purchase	7	24	31
3	Voluntary Housing Scheme new build	9	12	21
4	Part V Housing Acquisitions	0	8	8
5	Annuity loans	41	38	79
6	Rental Accommodation Scheme	59	75	134
7	Housing Assistance Payment	104	394	588
8	Long-term leasing	37	41	78
<b>Total: Social and Affordable Housing Provision</b>				<b>943</b>

### 3.4.7 The Housing Needs of Persons with Specific Requirements

The housing needs of the following categories require specific mention.

#### Travellers

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2014-2018 outlines the key strategies for the provision of accommodation over that period within the county. During 2014 10 units of accommodation were offered of which 7 were accepted. During 2015, 20 units were offered and 19 were accepted.

### Homeless

Services to homeless people in Kilkenny City and County are currently provided by Kilkenny Homeless Action Team (KHAT). This interagency team comprising of both the statutory and NGO sector was established in June 2007 with the aim of “developing and enhancing the delivery of Homeless Services in Kilkenny in an integrated, efficient and effective way”. The *South East Homelessness Action Plan 2013 –2016* was published in July 2013. This sets out the Action Plan for KHAT to 2016.

In 2014 there were a total of 373 homeless referrals. In 2015 there were a total of 399 homeless referrals.

### Older persons and disabled persons

A number of grant schemes were available over the course of the last strategy;

- Housing Adaptations Grants
- Housing Aid for Older Persons grants
- Mobility Aids Grants

Table 3.6 sets out the total amount spent on these grants over the period 2014-2015.

**Table 3.6 Total amount spent on Private Grants**

YEAR	Amount (€)
2014	1,530,223
2015	1,523,562

### 3.4.8 Assessment of Needs

As at 2013, the housing waiting list was 2,852<sup>14</sup>. By December 2014 this was 2,456 and by December 2015 this had increased to 2,744. Each local authority is required under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1988, to carry out an assessment of Housing Need every three years. The Assessment of Need was last carried out in May 2013, and this will be carried out again later this year.

## 3.5 Conclusions on implementing the Housing Strategy

The Council will continue to ensure that sufficient land is zoned, in the right locations, and continues to meet housing needs through a variety of measures. The Council are proposing a building programme of 100 units for 2017 on, located in Callan, Castlecomer and the city.

Based on the affordability analysis in the 2014 Housing Strategy, the maximum allowable proportion of 20% of residentially zoned land was to be reserved for social and affordable housing. The Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015 has now altered this to a maximum of 10%, which will now be applied.

Work has progressed on identifying under-utilised land within the County and through this, further opportunity lands can be identified for housing.

<sup>14</sup> Housing Section, March 2013

## 4 Monitoring of Plans under Environmental categories

The Plans were subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Section 8 of the SEA Report for both plans set out the monitoring proposals for environmental categories. Monitoring was based on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment. The monitoring frequency for each indicator was set out in Table 8.1 of the SEAs, which are reproduced here. (In most cases the indicators for the County encompass those for the city, but there are two additional city indicators relating to material assets and landscape which are listed separately.) It was stated in the SEA that this Progress Report would include an evaluation of monitoring. Where each indicator states “At monitoring evaluation”, this has been examined in detail and a response has been added in the ‘Update’ column.

Table 4.1 Environmental monitoring - update					
Environmental Category	Targets	Selected indicators	Data Sources	Monitoring frequency	Update
<b>Biodiversity -Flora and Fauna</b>	No loss of important and/or designated habitats	Number of sites.	Kilkenny County Council/National Parks and Wildlife Service/Fisheries Board (depending on available information from relevant statutory authorities).	At monitoring evaluation	Number of sites has remained the same (36).
	No deterioration in the quality of protected areas	Overall conservation status of habitats in Co. Kilkenny	The NPWS; For all European sites: Report on Overall Conservation Status of Habitats in Ireland listed under the Habitats Directive (NPWS).	Every 6 years	Updated report “ <i>The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland</i> ” published in 2013. Data has been incorporated into Table 4.2 below.
	No loss of protected species	Overall conservation status of species in Co. Kilkenny, distribution of protected species in Co. Kilkenny	NPWS, Report on Overall Conservation Status of Habitats in Ireland listed under the Habitats Directive. National Biodiversity Data Centre	Every 6 years	Updated report “ <i>The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland</i> ” published in 2013. Data has been incorporated into Table 4.2 below.
	All actions contained within the Biodiversity Plan to be achieved during the lifetime of the County Development Plan.	Number of actions achieved.	Heritage Officer	At monitoring evaluation	14 actions (or parts thereof) of the total 25 no. actions undertaken to date.
	No spread of invasive species within the County	Numbers of new cases identified over 2013	National Biodiversity Data Centre	At monitoring	National Biodiversity Centre provides data on invasive species

		levels		evaluation	distribution. The number of high impact invasive species records increased from 456 in 2013 to 554 in 2014 to 566 in 2015 <sup>15</sup> .
<b>Population and Human health</b>	No further loss of population within Kilkenny Borough boundary and Castlecomer; total population within Kilkenny Borough boundary and Castlecomer not to decrease on 2011 levels.	Total population within Kilkenny Borough boundary and Castlecomer.	Census	Next Census	Census to be published later in 2016
<b>Soil</b>	No significant increase in number of landslides	Total number of landslides	National Landslide Database	At monitoring evaluation	No additional landslides recorded for Kilkenny (GSI website accessed 31/3/2016)
	No significant reduction in peatland; total area not to reduce by 20% over 2013 level.	Total area of peatland	Corine mapping resurvey	Unknown	CORINE 2012 is now available for Ireland. According to CORINE 2006, peatland amounted to 1.3% of total land cover in county. CORINE 2012 now shows this at 0.5%. This exceeds national reduction in peatland of 0.3% over the same period <sup>16</sup> .
<b>Water</b>	No decline in river water quality; no increase in percentage of sample stations in seriously	Percentage of sample stations in seriously polluted rivers.	EPA Reports on River water quality	At monitoring evaluation	Most recent EPA report River Water Quality Report 2013 was published in 2014 <sup>17</sup> . According to this, chemical monitoring since

<sup>15</sup> The Council's Parks department tackles invasive species on an ongoing basis on lands within its ownership. In addition, there are two specific projects underway; a project to combat giant hogweed in Kilmacow, in conjunction with the Heritage Council, and there is also a project on the Lacken Walk in Kilkenny to combat Himalayan Balsam.

<sup>16</sup> P.35 CORINE Landcover 2012 Ireland Final Report

<sup>17</sup> <http://epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/integratedwaterqualityserbd2013/Kilkenny%202013.pdf>

	polluted rivers.				2007 indicates an improving trend in all Kilkenny rivers, see Table 4.3 below.
	No decline in estuarine water quality; no decline in status of estuarine waters from current status (good or moderate)	Status of estuarine waters	EPA	At monitoring evaluation	The only data available on the EPA MapViewer relates to Transitional Water quality to 2012, therefore there is no updated data available.
	No decline in surface water quality; no decline in status of surface waters from current status	Status of surface water	EPA	At monitoring evaluation	As at 11/4/2016, no river in the county is classified as Bad status, but a number are classified as poor. According to the EPA in 2011 there were 9 river sites with less than good status – that is they had a Q value of 3-4 or less <sup>18</sup> . The most recent EPA River Water Quality Report 2013 was published in 2014 <sup>19</sup> and this lists 19 sites that have a Q value of 3-4 or less.
	No decline in groundwater quality; no decline in status of groundwater from current status	Status of groundwater	EPA	At monitoring evaluation	As at 11/4/2016, groundwater is categorised as good throughout the county.
	No reduction in processing of waste water and treated	Number of waste water treatment plants that fail	EPA	At monitoring	In the SEA, of 21 plants listed, 8 passed & 7 failed. A total of 19

<sup>18</sup>Environmental Protection Agency Integrated Water Quality Report 2011 – South East Ireland Report on River Water Quality in County Kilkenny 2011  
[https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/integwaterqual/00389\\_EPA\\_IWQRSE11\\_Kilkenny.pdf](https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/integwaterqual/00389_EPA_IWQRSE11_Kilkenny.pdf)

<sup>19</sup><http://epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/integratedwaterqualityserbd2013/Kilkenny%202013.pdf>

	effluent quality; no increase in number of waste water treatment plants that fail recommended EPA limits.	recommended EPA limits.		evaluation	plants are listed in the 2014 report, 11 passed & 3 failed <sup>20</sup> .
	Improvement in treatment of waste water; Reduction in number of waste water treatment plants with no secondary treatment, which was 6 in 2013.	Number of waste water treatment plants with no secondary treatment	Kilkenny County Council Water Services/ Irish Water	At monitoring evaluation	This has improved: In the SEA, of 21 plants listed, 6 had no secondary treatment. A total of 19 plants are listed in the 2014 report, of which 5 had no secondary treatment <sup>21</sup> .
	Improvement in quality of drinking water; Reduction in numbers of public water supplies on the EPA's Remedial Action List, from 2 in 2012.	Numbers of public water supplies on the EPA's Remedial Action List.	EPA	At monitoring evaluation	According to the EPA Drinking Water Remedial Action List Q4 of 2015, two public water supplies are still on the list; Inistioge and Kilkenny city (Radestown).
	Improvement of application of ground water protection scheme.	Number of source protection areas that have been mapped.	GSI & Kilkenny County Council Environment	At monitoring evaluation	Additional source protection mapping carried out for Kilmacow.
<b>Air</b>	Increase in proportion of people using sustainable transport	Proportion of people walking, cycling or using public transport to get to school or work.	Census	Next Census	Census to be published later in 2016
	No decrease in air quality; no exceedances in Nitrogen Dioxide and Ozone.	Exceedances in Nitrogen Dioxide and Ozone.	EPA	At monitoring evaluation	There were no exceedances during 2015.

<sup>20</sup>EPA, [Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2014 A Report for the Year 2014](#)

<sup>21</sup>EPA, [Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2014 A Report for the Year 2014](#)

<b>Climatic factors</b>	Improved Climate Change Adaptation measures.	Completion of Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.	Kilkenny County Council.	At monitoring evaluation	Climate change adaptation strategy to be commenced in 2017.
<b>Material Assets</b>	Increase in afforestation of appropriate woodlands; increase in proportion of mixed and deciduous forest cover over coniferous forestry, as compared to 2006.	Proportion of mixed and deciduous forest cover.	Corine mapping resurvey	Unknown	The CORINE 2006 figures were broad leaved forests 14.2%, mixed forests 9.7% and coniferous 76.1%. According to CORINE 2012, broad leaved forests now account for 11.7%, mixed forests account for 11% and coniferous accounts for 77.4%.
	Improvements in energy infrastructure; upgrading of the Kilkenny city to Ballyragget line from 38 kv to 110 kv.	Status of the upgrade of the Kilkenny city to Ballyragget line.	Eirgrid	At monitoring evaluation	According to Eirgrid, the Laois Kilkenny Reinforcement project is fully consented and approved for construction following judicial review proceedings which were concluded in January 2015. The project is currently in the detailed design stage, which will be completed in 2016. It is anticipated that construction will commence in 2017.
<b>Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological)</b>	Addition in number of structures listed on the RPS; increase in number of protected structures over that listed in 2008 Plan.	Number of protected structures (887 in 2009).	Kilkenny County Council	At monitoring evaluation	As of April 2016, there are 250 structures in the city and 1052 in the rest of the county, total 1,302.
<b>Landscape</b>	No decrease in sensitive land cover; proportion of county comprising sensitive land cover should not decrease from 2006 level of	Proportion of county comprising sensitive land cover.	Corine mapping resurvey	Unknown	CORINE 2012 reports that the proportion of sensitive land cover in the county is at 7.25%, a decrease of 2.5% on 2006 levels.



	10%.				
	No reduction in number of protected views. Increase or no change in the number of protected views over that listed in the 2008 Plan – 13 views.	Number of protected views.	Kilkenny Local Authorities	At monitoring evaluation	Thirteen views listed in the 2014 Plan, and there are opportunities to open up new views through the development of the Smithwick’s site.

Table 4.2 Conservation status of Natura 2000 sites in Co. Kilkenny, updated in 2016

Site Name	Site Code/Ref	Habitats	Conservation Status		Species	Conservation Status	
			2008	2013 (Trend)		2008	2013
Cullahill Mountain cSAC	000831	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia)(* important orchid sites) [6210]	Bad	Bad (stable)			
Hugginstown Fen cSAC	000404	Alkaline fens [7230]	Bad	Bad (unknown)			
Galmoy Fen cSAC	001858	Alkaline fens [7230]	Bad	Bad (unknown)			
Lower River Suir cSAC	002137	Atlantic salt meadows (Glaucopuccinellietalia maritima) [1330]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)	Margaritifera margaritifera [1029]	Bad	Bad (declining)
		Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (stable)	Austropotamobius pallipes [1092]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)
		Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion fluitantis and Callitriche-Batrachion vegetation [3260]	Bad	Inadequate (declining)	Petromyzon marinus [1095]	Bad	Bad (stable)
		Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]	Inadequate	Bad (stable)	Lampetra planeri [1096]	Favourable	Favourable
		Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Bad	Bad (Improving)	Lampetra fluviatilis [1099]	Favourable	Favourable
		Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae,	Bad	Bad (Improving)	Alosa fallax [1103]	Bad	Bad (Stable)

		Salicion albae)[91E0]					
		* Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	Bad	Bad (Improving)	Salmo salar (only in fresh water) [1106]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)
					Lutra lutra [1355]	Inadequate	Favourable
River Barrow & River Nore/ Barrow Estuary/ Abbeyleix Wood Complex cSAC	002162	Estuaries [1130]	Inadequate	Inadequate (improving)	Vertigo moulinsiana [1016]	Bad	Inadequate (declining) <sup>22</sup>
		Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Inadequate	Inadequate (improving)	Margaritifera margaritifera [1029]	Bad	Bad (Declining)
		Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]	Inadequate	Inadequate (declining)	Austropotamobius pallipes [1092]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)
		Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)	Petromyzon marinus [1095]	Bad	Bad (Stable)
		Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Lampetra planeri [1096]	Favourable	Favourable		
			Lampetra fluviatilis [1099]	Favourable	Favourable		
			Alosa fallax [1103]	Bad	Bad (Stable)		
			Salmo salar (only in fresh water) [1106]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)		
			Lutra lutra [1355]	Inadequate	Favourable		
							Trichomanes speciosum [1421]
					Margaritifera durrovensis (Margaritifera margaritifera) [1990]	Bad	Bad (declining)

<sup>22</sup> According to p.142 of the NPWS Report, this is not an actual improvement.

River Nore SPA	004233				<i>Alcedo atthis</i> [breeding ] Kingfisher	Amber <sup>23</sup>	Amber <sup>24</sup>
Spa Hill & Clomantagh Hill cSAC	000849	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia)(* important orchid sites) [6210]	Bad	Bad (Stable)			
The Loughans cSAC	000407	Turloughs [3180]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)			
Thomastown Quarry cSAC	002252	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	Bad	Inadequate (Stable)			

In summary, the conservation status of two species found within Kilkenny (*Margaritifera margaritifera* (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) and *Margaritifera durrovensis* (Irish Freshwater Pearl Mussel) and two habitats found within Kilkenny (Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities and *Salicornia* and other annuals colonizing mud and sand), has declined. The conservation status of seven habitats and one species (found within Kilkenny) has improved.

For the Freshwater Pearl Mussel (found in a small section of the River Suir in Kilkenny), the NPWS have identified that the sediment and nutrients that enter mussel rivers come from a wide variety of sources (e.g. urban wastewater, development activities, farming and forestry), often well upstream of the location of the mussels. The species can also suffer direct impacts from in-stream works such as channelisation, bridge construction and recreational fishery structures. Ensuring the long-term future of the freshwater pearl mussel requires significant, integrated catchment management to prevent direct impacts and to reduce losses of sediment and nutrients from all indirect sources.

For the Irish Freshwater Pearl Mussel (the Nore Pearl mussel, only found in Co. Kilkenny to the north of Ballyragget), the NPWS have identified that sedimentation of the habitat has been the main cause of its decline and the habitat quality continues to be in bad condition. Young have failed to survive in the heavily silted riverbed since the early 1970s and high turbidity and sedimentation cause adult deaths. Significant conservation efforts have been made to save the Nore pearl mussel and further work is planned, however it is unlikely that its habitat will be restored before the extinction of the wild

<sup>23</sup> BirdWatch Ireland and the RSPB NI have agreed a list of priority bird species for conservation action on the island of Ireland. These Birds of Conservation Concern in Ireland are published in a list known as the BoCCI List. In this BoCCI List, birds are classified into three separate lists (Red, Amber and Green), based on the conservation status of the bird and hence conservation priority. The **Red List** birds are of high conservation concern, the **Amber List** birds are of medium conservation concern and the **Green List** birds are not considered threatened.

<sup>24</sup> BoCCI List 2014-2019 <http://www.birdwatchireland.ie/Ourwork/SurveysProjects/BirdsofConservationConcern/tabid/178/Default.aspx>

population. Recent successes in an assisted breeding programme provide some hope, however this project has also suffered episodic and catastrophic losses of both adult and juvenile mussels in captivity.

The future of the Nore pearl mussel remains very uncertain and therefore the Overall Status is assessed as Bad and declining.

For the Hydrophilous tall herb habitat, the NPWS have identified that threats to the lowland community include grazing, particularly by cattle. Grazing by sheep is possible for more accessible examples in the uplands. Invasives such as Indian balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*) is an aggressive invasive of riparian communities. Agricultural and industrial pollution of watercourses is likely to impact on this habitat. As a marginal habitat, agricultural intensification and land reclamation are also deemed to be pressures. For these reasons the Overall Status of this habitat is considered to be Bad. (Note, the NPWS have stated that the 2007 assessment was not underpinned by extensive survey and expert judgement was used to give an Overall Status of Inadequate. In light of current data it is likely that the 2007 assessment should have also been Bad.)

Salicornia mud is a pioneer saltmarsh community that may occur on muddy sediment seaward of established saltmarsh, or form patches within other saltmarsh communities where the elevation is suitable and there is regular tidal inundation (Barrow estuary). This habitat is highly susceptible to erosion. Its distribution can vary considerably from year to year and it can move in response to changing conditions, e.g. in estuaries with shifting river channels. Pressures include the invasion and on-going spread of common cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*).

In general, in relation to the cases of decline, the NPWS Report<sup>25</sup> notes that it is worth recalling that the habitats and species were considered threatened in Ireland and across Europe, and listed in the Directive for protection for that very reason. In its conclusions, *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland* states there are many challenges to address between now and 2019, when the next Status report in this series is due, and that much will depend on the development of measures and farm schemes under the next Rural Development Plan and national Operational Programmes using EU funding instruments. In addition, the continuing implementation of national and EU legislation will have positive impacts.

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<sup>25</sup> NPWS, *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*, 2013

Year	No. of Stations	Pass	Of Concern	Fail
2007-2009	73	23	50	0
2008-2010	74	27	47	0
2009-2011	75	41	34	0
2010-2012	75	45	30	0
2011-2013	78	45	33	0

Source: EPA Report on River Water Quality in County Kilkenny 2013

## 4.1 Environmental Indicator Summary

There are mixed trends overall for the environmental indicators, with some improvements, such as in relation to waste water treatment. Many of the indicators have shown no change since the Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out in 2013.

The SEA Statement states that where an indicator highlights a positive or neutral impact on the environment, it is likely that the objectives of the Plan are well defined with regard to the environment. Conversely, where the objectives of the Plan have a negative impact, it may be necessary to review the objectives, or take some other form of intervention. For example, if an objective is having a significant adverse impact, a variation may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan. Having evaluated the indicators above, there are no objectives having significant adverse impacts, therefore no variations are recommended as a result of the implementation of the Plans.