

Two Year Progress Report On Securing Objectives in the Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021- 2027

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Kilkenny County Council
Forward Planning

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Chief Executive's Foreword

The Kilkenny County and City Development Plan came into effect in 2021 and this Progress Report sets out the progress made in realising the objectives of the Development Plan over the last 2 years. The Council will continue to endeavour to achieve the policies and objectives set out in the Plan over its six-year life. Furthermore, some strategic policies and objectives of the Plan 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.

Core Strategy

The Council continues to monitor the progress of the County's Core Strategy, in particular to ensure the availability of land for housing and economic development in appropriate locations. As part of this ongoing process, the review of the Ferrybank Local Area Plan is about to commence, and new draft Local Area Plan is expected to be published in 2024, while it is expected notice will be given in 2024 to extend the Local Area Plans for Callan and Thomastown, while the Castlecomer LAP is also likely to be reviewed.

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) in some parts of the county.

Economic Development

The Council adopted its *Local Economic & Community Plan*¹ (LECP) in 2023. 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 ensure the supports necessary for the implementation of the 10 goals and 25 objectives contained in the plan over the next 6 years. The delivery of the economic goals / objectives 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 goals and objectives. 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 challenges 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. A number of Council housing construction projects are currently being progressed, including at Crokershill, Kilkenny City (88 units and a community centre) and at Ladyswell in Thomastown (25 units). Applications are also being progressed under Section 179A of the P&D Act, 2000 (as amended) for housing at the former weather station site on the Dunningstown Road in Kilkenny City (6 units) and at Newtown in Thomastown (42 units).

A critical issue for housing delivery in some parts of the county is the lack of mains water and wastewater. The continued lack of this type of infrastructure provision is a significant constraint to housing delivery across Kilkenny. Areas of concern are Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh, and Bennettsbridge.

¹ *Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028*

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*² in 2023. The overarching objective of the community dimension of the LECP is to promote local and community 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 schools, permission was granted for a school campus comprising over 12,500 square meters, and containing 2 no. post primary schools in the Breagagh Valley of Kilkenny City. Circa 900 pupils will be accommodated within the 2 schools.

Permission was also granted for the CBS Secondary School in the Loughmacask area of the City which includes 37 classrooms and accommodate circa 1,000 pupils. The Planning Department continues to liaise with the Department of Education and Skills to facilitate expansion of school premises as required.

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. A range of recreation / tourism projects have been commenced and completed since the adoption of the development plan in September 2021 these include:

- Phase 1 of the South East Greenway (New Ross to Glenmore) has commenced
- Phase 1 of Kilkenny Countryside Park (commenced / sod turned)
- Woodstock Waterfall Loop Walk (complete)
- The Slievruie Linear Park (complete)
- Freshford Playground and Amenity Area (complete)
- Ferrybank Neighbourhood Park and Playground (complete)

Kilkenny Tourism, in conjunction with the Local Enterprise Office, launched a digital marketing competition campaign running for Autumn 2023. This joint initiative promotes Kilkenny as a shopping destination for visitors from outside Kilkenny.

Heritage

² *Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2028*

The Council has administered various schemes for grant funding for heritage projects, such as the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund. Examples of Heritage Plan projects implemented over the period 2021-2023 include the County Kilkenny Traditional Shopfronts Project, the Kilkenny Wetlands Audit, the Kilkenny Barn Owl Survey, the Kilkenny Holy Wells Survey (Phase 1) and the development of the first pilot study of its kind to survey mass paths in Co. Kilkenny

The Council also secured just under €670,000 under the Community Monuments Fund between 2021 and 2023 to carry out significant conservation, interpretation and to create conservation management plans on archaeological sites across Co. Kilkenny.

36 projects were funded as part of the Decade of Centenaries programme of commemoration across the county, which will come to an end in 2023. The Council also received funding for conservation works on the Black Friars Arch and further City Walls interpretation under the Heritage Council's Irish Walled Towns Network.

The History Fix radio series about Kilkenny's history and heritage won Silver at the IMRO Radio Awards 2021. The series is a collaboration between KCLR and the Heritage Office of Kilkenny County Council, and was funded under the Kilkenny Creative Ireland Programme. <https://kclr96fm.com/the-history-fix/>

Conservation projects involving Kilkenny's Built Heritage include: The Shee Alms House, Rose Inn Street where Historic Structures Funding was sourced for the repointing and re-roofing of the building while a laser scan culminating in a 3 D model of the building was also created, allowing the public to explore and engage with Kilkenny's medieval buildings in digital format. Further funding under the Heritage Council's Heritage Stewardship Fund was secured by the Conservation Office to record two sixteenth century buildings on Parliament Street, these too will be available for the public to access in the coming months.

Infrastructure & Environment

The Government Policy Paper – "*Uisce Éireann – Towards a national, publicly-owned, regulated, water services utility*" dated 23 February 2021 and the Workplace Relations Commission document "*Framework for the Future Delivery of Water Services*" dated June 2022 provided for a new agreement to replace the existing Service Level Agreement (SLA) with each Local Authority. On the 6th of September 2023 the original SLA between Irish Water and Kilkenny County Council was terminated and replaced by the Master Co-Operation Agreement.

The purpose of the Master Co-Operation Agreement is to provide for Uisce Éireann to have full accountability for Water Services Functions and for Uisce Éireann to have the necessary management and direction of local authority water services staff. The Council continues to work closely with Uisce Éireann to ensure appropriate transfer of responsibilities.

Details of some of the larger projects being delivered include:

- *Kilkenny Main Drainage – Satellite Dewatering Centre*; Under the National Sludge Management Plan a range of sludge treatment facilities were built and completed in July 2023 at Kilkenny's main wastewater treatment plant located at Purcellsinch in Kilkenny City. This new sludge facility accepts and treats sludge from all the Uisce Éireann wastewater treatment plants located within Kilkenny.

- *Kilkenny City Regional Water Supply Scheme*; Works are ongoing to upgrade to the Kilkenny City Regional Water Supply Scheme (RWSS). These works consist of upgrading the existing Troyswood Water Treatment Plant to increase the daily production capacity and to facilitate the decommission of the existing water treatment plant in Radestown and to address shortcomings in water quality within the existing plant. Works are scheduled for completion in Q1 of 2024.
- *Small Towns and Villages Growth Programme*; The Bennettsbridge Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) upgrade project, part of the Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme (STVGP) was handed over to IW's delivery team during 2022 and is currently in the concept design phase. A contractor has been appointed by Uisce Éireann. Subject to statutory approvals, including successful planning and land acquisition, the current programme for construction completion is 2028.

Climate Action and Renewable Energy

Work continues on preparing the Draft Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan, with actions that the Council will undertake over the next five years to reduce its carbon footprint in the delivery of services. The Draft Plan has just commenced public display in November for a period of consultation, from **Thursday 16th November 2023 until Wednesday 20th December 2023** inclusive.

The Draft Climate Action Plan sets out how the local authority can promote a range of mitigation, adaptation and other climate action measures, to help deliver on the Government's National Climate Objective, and its own reductions in GHGs by 2030.

Some of the many actions under the Plan include decarbonisation of the Council's fleet, developing a **Facility Management Strategy to reduce emissions, energy use, and waste** **Retrofitting Kilkenny County Council housing stock to B2 rating and implementing the Public Lighting Energy efficiency Programme.**

Transport

Smarter Travel was a strong theme in the Development Plan, some examples of completed schemes in the City over the plan period are outlined below:

- Completion of Medieval Mile Works (footpath & public lighting improvements)
- Ormonde Street, Kilkenny City (urban enhancement, footpath and public lighting improvements)
- Eastern Environs Cycleway Improvement (Pococke to New Orchard)
- Drakelands cycleway and toucan crossing provision
- New / improved crossing facilities (Penneyfeather Way, New Orchard Road, Outrath Road – 2 no., Callan Road, Kells Road)
- Dean Street (footpath improvements – including continuous footpaths and ramped junctions)
- Permeability Measures (e.g. upgraded laneways from Circular Road to Old Callan Road; Old Callan Road to Gaol Road)
- Junction Tightening (e.g. Blackmill Street, Kennyswell Road)
- Public Lighting Improvements (e.g. Lintown Hall / Garringreen walkway / cycleway, Loughboy Park)

In terms of maintaining the national road network the following major pavement schemes have been completed since mid-2021. These include:

- N77 Oldtown to Ballyragget Pavement Scheme
- N76 Riversfield to Ahanure North Pavement Scheme.
- N10 Dundaryark to Danesfort Pavement Scheme

- N77 Suttonsrath Pavement Scheme
- N78 Webbsborough Pavement Scheme
- N77 Knockroe to Littlefield Pavement Scheme

In terms of new national road infrastructure:

- The N24 Tower Road Junction Improvement Scheme commenced and is due to be completed by the end of 2023
- The N77 Ballyragget Village to Ballynaslee Road Improvement Scheme is expected to commence construction in early 2024.

Monitoring and Review

The Plan was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment. The SEA Report sets out the monitoring proposals for environmental categories. It was stated in the SEA 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 2021. Having evaluated the indicators above, there are no objectives having significant adverse impacts, therefore no variations are recommended.

Conclusion

There are 248 separate objectives listed in the City & County Development Plan. Each objective and the current status of its implementation is contained in the body of the report. The Council has made significant progress in implementing some of the most strategic and far reaching objectives of the current Plan, 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 Plan.

Lar Power:
Chief Executive
Kilkenny County Council

1 Introduction

1.1 Statutory Background

The Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021 – 2023 was formally adopted on the 3rd of September 2021, and came into effect on the 15th of October 2021. 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 Plan since the Plan 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 Volume 1, the County objectives and Part 2.2 deals with Volume 2, the City objectives. It should be noted that while this review is concerned with the last two years, the Development Plan has a six-year life. Furthermore, some strategic policies and objectives in the Plan 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 Plans³.

³ [Strategic Environmental Assessment \(SEA\) of Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027](#)

2 Assessment of Objectives

2.1 Volume 1 - County Development Plan Objectives

	Objective	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to date
Chapter 1: Introduction			
1A	To implement the provisions of Articles 6(3) and 6(4) of the EU Habitats Directive and ensure that any plan or project within the functional area of the Planning Authority is subject to appropriate assessment in accordance with the Guidance Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland – Guidance for Planning Authorities, 20091 or any subsequent version, 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	The Council implements the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive in all its plans and projects.
1B	To implement Development Management Requirements for new development as set out in Volume 1 and Volume 2 of the Plan as appropriate.	Ongoing	Development Management requirements set out in the Plan are implemented in the assessment of applications to the Council.
Chapter 2: Climate Change			
2A	To support and encourage sustainable compact growth and settlement patterns, integrate land use and transportation, and maximise opportunities through development form, layout and design to secure climate resilience and reduce carbon emissions.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through the Core Strategy and development management
2B	To support the implementation of the National Climate Action Plan and the National Climate Action Charter for Local Authorities, and to facilitate measures which seek to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by embedding appropriate policies within the Development Plan.	Ongoing	The Council has adopted the relevant policies and Objectives reduce emissions and has through several key

			projects set about meeting its legally binding targets. (See Draft Climate Action Plan)
2C	To promote, support and direct effective climate action policies and objectives that seek to improve climate outcomes across the settlement areas and communities of County Kilkenny helping to successfully contribute and deliver on the obligations of the State to transition to low carbon and climate resilient society.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
2D	To integrate appropriate mitigation and adaptation considerations and measures into all forms of development.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
2E	To ensure that the Development Plan transposes, supports and implements strategic objectives of the National Planning Framework and the Southern Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy to create an enabling local development framework that: (a) promotes and integrates important climate considerations in local development and the assessment of planning applications and (b) supports the practical implementation of national climate policy and targets to assist in the delivery of the national transition objective.	2021	(a) Complete (b) Draft Climate Action Plan published.
2F	To adopt nature-based approaches and green infrastructural solutions as viable mitigation and adaptation measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where feasible. The Council will promote and support physical activity, active recreation and an active lifestyle.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
2G	To reduce energy related CO2 emissions of Kilkenny County Council.	Ongoing	3.6% emissions reduction from 2021 to 2022. ⁴ Will be further monitored for Climate Action Plan.
2H	To achieve the commitment under the European Climate Alliance to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent every 5 years	Ongoing	14.6% decrease in emissions between 2018 and 2022 ⁵ . This will be further monitored over life of Climate Action Plan

⁴South East Energy Agency

⁵South East energy agency

Chapter 4: Core Strategy			
4A	To accommodate future population growth for County Kilkenny in accordance with projections contained in the Implementation Roadmap for the NPF and Appendix 1 of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy of the Southern Region.	Ongoing	The Core strategy in the Development Plan sets out the implementation of accommodating the growth.
4B	To ensure growth is achieved in a compact form, with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 40% of the projected growth of the County to be delivered in Kilkenny City and the towns and villages within the county • 30% of the new housing earmarked for the City and towns to be catered for within their built-up footprints¹ • 50% new housing earmarked for the Waterford MASP area catered for within the built-up footprint of the Waterford area, including that part within County Kilkenny 	Ongoing	Up to 2022 50% of the growth since 2016 has been delivered in Kilkenny City, Ferrybank,(Part of MASP) Castelcomer, Thomastown, Callan, Graiguenamangh/Tinnahinch All of that growth within the built up area of those settlements.
4C	To actively promote the redevelopment and renewal of areas in need of regeneration whether urban or rural through appropriate active land management measures during the period of the Plan.	Ongoing	Actively implementing the VSL, derelict sites register and identification of sites for RZLT through the Council's Active Land Management policy.
4D	To monitor the delivery of residential developments throughout the City and County in order to ensure alignment with the NPF, RSES and the Core Strategy and to adjust the approach as necessary where Core Strategy objectives are not being met.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Results delivered every quarter. Q3 in preparation.
4E	To strengthen the role of Kilkenny City as a self-sustaining regional economic driver with a significant zone of influence and a Key Town on Dublin – Carlow-Kilkenny Waterford M9 Road/Rail	Ongoing through the implementing of overarching	Redevelopment of Abbey Quarter, Economic promotion and inward investment and delivery

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		policies and objectives in the Plan.	of supports through LEO and support of the Tourism sector.
4F	To ensure investment and delivery of comprehensive infrastructure packages to meet growth targets that prioritise compact growth and sustainable mobility as per the NPF.	Ongoing	This has been achieved to date with successful bids through URDF, RRDF, ORIS, approvals under Failte Ireland funding. There are other Gov schemes which the Councils also accesses but are too numerous to list here.,
4G	To achieve a growth of more than 30% in population for Kilkenny City from 2016 to 2040 to 34,500, subject to capacity analysis and sustainable criteria under Section 3.3 of the RSES	Ongoing	Growth between 2016 & 2022 lower than anticipated. Given the level of housing activity now in place and planning permission in place this growth is anticipated to increase and mee the 2030 & 2040 population targets.
4H	To deliver 30% of that growth within the current built footprint of the city.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
4I	To commence the review of the Ferrybank/Belview Local Area Plan within 6 months of the coming into effect of this Plan having regard to the MASP and to incorporate into the Kilkenny City & County Development Plan by way of variation.	2022	Background work has commenced. Joint retail strategy to be completed in the coming months and commencement of Ferrybank Plan Q1 2024.
4J	To develop a programme for 'new homes in small towns and villages' in conjunction with, public infrastructure agencies such as Irish Water and local communities for the provision of serviced sites	2027	Work has commenced to look at a limited number of sites across the county,

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	with appropriate infrastructure to attract people to build their own homes and live in small towns and villages		to assess suitability for the 'Ready to Build' scheme (under housing for all). Limited landbank for this programme and limited resources are challenging.
4K	It is an objective of the Council to facilitate and assist Irish Water with the provision of a Water and Wastewater treatment plant upgrades in settlements, including the villages of Mullinavat, Paulstown, Bennettsbridge, Inistioge, Piltown, Fiddown, Kells and others where capacity is required.	Ongoing	Water Services continues to assist Uisce Éireann in delivering projects through its Capital Investment programme and various other funding schemes such as the Small Towns & Villages Growth Programme, Disinfection Programme etc. The identification of additional needs as they arise will continue to be identified to UÉ.
4L	It is an objective of the Council to prepare design and best practice guidelines for the provision of cluster housing in the rural settlements and rural nodes of the County.	2023	Recommended consultants have received a letter of offer and will be appointed shortly.
4LA	To develop a set of criteria and a programme to carry out an analysis of the Smaller Towns and Villages (Tier 4) to consider: (a) The provision of zoning maps where appropriate (particularly for Ballyragget, Mooncoin, Paulstown, Piltown, Kilmacow and Urlingford) (b) Developing specific objectives for core areas, focal spaces, amenities and opportunity sites etc., (c) Identify land with development constraints. This programme to be commenced within 12 months of the coming into effect of the Plan.	2023	Plan for Urlingford complete and approved by MD. Drafts for Ballyragget, Paulstown and Kilmacow under internal review at present.

4M	To support the recommendations of the town plans compiled under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme subject to compliance with the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directive and subject to the availability of funding.	Ongoing	All plans and projects are subject to the provisions of the Habitats and Birds Directive and subject to the availability of funding.
4MA	To monitor the implementation of the Core Strategy during the lifetime of the plan to ensure effective alignment with National and Regional policy and objectives and to adjust, where necessary, the policy and objectives of the Development Plan to secure effective alignment.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Using stats from census 2022 as they are available.
Chapter 5: Economic Development			
5A1	To review and complete a new Local Economic and Community Plan for the period 2021 to 2027.	2023	Completed.
5A	To ensure an adequate amount of employment land is available within the City and County for ICT and technology office-based industry at the appropriate strategic locations.	Complete	Completed as part of the CDP process. Also reviewed as part of LAP processes.
5B	To ensure that there is sufficient quantity of zoned land available and serviced at suitable locations within the City and County to maximise the potential for employment and Foreign Direct Investment in the County.	Development Plan process variations and masterplanning	Completed as part of the CDP process.
5C	To continue to develop sustainable high-quality tourism, leisure and complementary activities for the City & County with the key stakeholders enhancing the position of Kilkenny as a Hero site within Ireland's Ancient East branding.	Ongoing	Kilkenny County Council are working closely with Failte Ireland on supporting the delivery of the Failte Ireland Destination Experience development plan, which sets out their vision for Kilkenny for the coming 10 years. A Kilkenny Tourism Strategy 2023 to

			2028 will be adopted before the end of 2023 which will support the Kilkenny Tourism initiative.
5D	To implement the Woodstock Business Plan on a phased basis as resources permit subject to the outcome of environmental assessments and the planning process.	Ongoing	Options on the delivery of a business plan are being actively examined.
5E	Invest in public realm to create more multi-functional vibrant and inviting public spaces in urban areas and villages, which will greatly enhance the overall quality of place and act as a catalyst to stimulate private sector development. The public realm will be informed by the Kilkenny Access for All Strategy 2018-2021. The Council will ensure that the maintenance, cleanliness and animation of public spaces is managed in order to encourage visitors to dwell more in these spaces.	Ongoing	Range of projects completed and underway. Ormonde St. (complete), Vicar St. (commenced), Watergate Park, Kieran St / Market Yard (tender), Moate Field Callan (complete). Playground in Freshford.
5F	Development of the Kilkenny Greenway as part of the South East Greenway in South Kilkenny.	End of 2025	8km of 24km constructed. 6km was open to public in July 2023. Tender for next 5km phase awarded. Remainder at design stage.
5G	Development of the Waterford to Rosslare Greenway.	TBC	On hold pending finalisation of the all-Ireland Rail Review.
5H	Continue the development of projects for submission under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) and other funding schemes (e.g. LEADER Programme).	Ongoing	25 plus projects have been progressed through design to works completion under ORIS and other funding streams since 2021.

5I	To secure the development of a third and/or fourth level campus(es) in Kilkenny as part of the development of a Technological University for the South East) and to encourage the fostering of links between industry and education within Kilkenny.	Ongoing	Kilkenny County Council made a submission for consideration by SETU during the consultation phase of the development if the SETU 5 Year strategy. This Strategy included action 7.3.4 says - SETU will establish a working group to include Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Chamber to explore how SETU can support specific activity based in Kilkenny in a manner that creates beneficial additionality to SETU portfolio and is sustainable long term.
5J	To continue to work with Transport Infrastructure Ireland to finalise an approach for access to the zoned lands along the N29 at Belview (See Chapter 12 Transport objectives).	Commenced.	URDF funding in place. Currently finalising project proposals.
5K	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 through active land management, Forward planning, assessment of residential proposals and work through Town Renewal Officer.
5L	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.	Completed as part of the County Development Plan process.

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5M	To ensure that Kilkenny County possesses a clear policy framework that can adequately meet the retail needs of the County's residents over the plan period	Ongoing	See Appendix A of CDP – Retail Strategy
5N	To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the four District Towns and their retail offer, and to support their continued growth in accordance with the Core Strategy	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5O	To ensure all new development respect and enhances the historic environment	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through the Council's conservation policies and grant funding under Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund.
5P	To ensure that the synergies between tourism and retailing are taken advantage of	Ongoing -	Work ongoing on collaboration with #shopkilkenny brand
5Q	To improve the accessibility of each of the County's town centres and promote all sustainable modes of transport	Ongoing.	Projects being progressed countywide under active travel.
5R	To enhance and promote the vitality and viability of Kilkenny City Centre, and to support the centre's role as the dominant retail destination within the County	Ongoing through the assessment of development proposals.	Retail policy being implemented through the Development Plan. Sustainable transport projects being implemented. Town centre first being implemented through urban regeneration & Active Land Management
5S	Promote Kilkenny City Centre as a shopping destination that is competitive with other comparable shopping destinations in the South East and further afield	Ongoing -	Work ongoing on collaboration with #shopkilkenny brand and Kilkenny Tourism

5T	To promote a mix of uses within the County's centres, and, promote residential development on upper floors	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through urban regeneration policies.
5U	To ensure a town centre first approach is adopted for all future retail development across the County, whereby the order of priority for the sequential approach will be City and Town Centre sites first, then edge-of-centre sites, and then out-of-centre sites.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through development management assessments.
5V	To encourage the reduction in vacant floorspace, taking into account suitability, obsolescence, and potential alternative uses that may be appropriate where possible	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through town centre first policies. LEO also operates Small Business Vacant premises scheme to support new businesses in vacant properties.
5W	To facilitate the regeneration and reuse of derelict buildings in appropriate locations for town centre uses and support the retention and maintenance of heritage premises and shopfronts	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation of derelict sites. Number of sites now on register is 39 an increase from 13 in May 2022.
5X	To promote investment in Place-Making and high-quality public realm through new development, and the enhancement of existing public realm in the City as well as throughout the County's centres. The aim is to provide more attractive and vibrant urban centre and village locations, supporting retail activity and the wider commercial economy of our settlements and thereby increase footfall	Ongoing	Considered in assessment of projects as proposed.
5Y	Promote the adaptive reuse of existing units as a priority ahead of developing sites for additional retail floorspace, unless there is a demonstrated need	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
5Z	A joint Retail Strategy shall be undertaken between Kilkenny County Council and Waterford City and County Council for the area covered by the Waterford Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) in accordance with the retail guidelines and RSES and to carry out the Joint or Multi-Authority Retail Strategy for the Waterford Metropolitan Area within 12 months of the coming into effect of this Plan	2024	Work has commenced. On the joint strategy. Pre draft surveys underway. A draft strategy expected by the end of Q4 2023. (Waterford Co. Co. taking lead).

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5Aa	To appropriately manage car parking and accessibility in the short term, whilst also planning for the transition to sustainable modes of transport looking ahead to a future where private vehicle travel may not be the dominant form of transport	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Range of active travel projects completed. This will also be included in the SUMP.
Chapter 6: Housing and Community			
6A	To ensure the creation of attractive, liveable, well designed, high quality urban places that are home to diverse and integrated communities that enjoy a high quality of life and well-being.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
6B	To secure, through the application of Development Management Requirements within the Plan, the making of quality urban spaces embodying inclusive and universal access design principles for our building stock, public realm, amenities and transport services.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Considered through planning application process.
6Ba	To ensure that people are at the centre of all placemaking activities. To ensure that co-design and participatory processes are used to engage people in shaping their built environment, with a particular focus on supporting harder to reach communities to take part in public engagement processes.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through housing projects within KCC.
6C	To promote the redevelopment and renewal of areas identified having regard to the core strategy, that need regeneration, in order to prevent— (i) adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land, (ii) urban blight and decay, (iii) anti-social behaviour, or (iv) a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation via vacant and derelict sites levy and now via RZLT mapping.
6D	To identify vacant sites where appropriate zoning applies and maintain a Vacant Sites Register in the plan area for the purpose of the Vacant Site Levy.	2023	Executed and levies are being pursued for relevant periods. Sites are now being identified on the RZLT maps which will be pursued by the Revenue Commissioners

6E	To implement the provisions of the Housing Strategy contained in Appendix B.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Refer to Kilkenny County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan.
6F	To require 10% 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	Ongoing implementation. This is required under Part V of the P&D Act.
6G	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	The unit types in social housing developments by Kilkenny County Council Housing Section are determined by the needs of the approved housing applicants for that area. Affordable housing provision is based on surveyed need. For private developments a range of unit types are also required to fulfil market demand, Part v obligations and a mix of house types.
6H	To implement the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation programme 2019- 2024 and any updates thereof.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
6I	To ensure that all new housing developments and developments for renewal which includes housing, includes a mix of house types with universal design so as to provide for an aging population.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through the Development Management process.
6J	To ensure the widest possible range of housing options in each new development and to prevent the proliferation of limited option house types in any particular area.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Refer to comments 6G & 6I above.

6K	To seek that all new private residential developments on zoned lands in excess of 20 residential units provide for a minimum of 10% units that can be converted to Universal Design standards in accordance with the requirements of the 'Building for Everyone: A Universal Design' developed by the Centre for Excellence in Universal Design (National Disability Authority).	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through development management process..
6Ka	Acknowledge and support Community-Led Housing as a means of empowering communities to meet their specific housing needs affordability and collectively.	Ongoing	Has not been a priority since adoption of the Plan due to lack of resources. No knowledge of any enquiries about Community Housing.
6L	To continue to promote and facilitate the delivery of the objectives and actions set out in the Kilkenny Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 (or any subsequent replacement).	Ongoing	Now the LECP for 2021-2027. Implementation Plan approved.
6M	To identify and facilitate the provision of suitable sites for new educational facilities as the need arises throughout the City and County.	Ongoing	Sites designated for such purposes in the CDP, and in LAPs as they are reviewed.
6N	To complete the preparation of a masterplan for the lands at St Canice's campus in partnership with the Health Service Executive within the period of the plan (See Volume 2 Core Strategy).	2023	Draft Plan in preparation Draft to be finalised for public consultation in Q1 2024.
Chapter 7: Rural Development			
7A	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	The County Development Plan came into effect in October, 2021. The collection of data on numbers and locations of rural housing trends will be analysed as part of the next Dev Plan and policy adjustments as required..

Chapter 8: Open Space and Recreation			
8A	To develop a recreational and biodiversity park on the site of the now closed municipal landfill at Dunmore.	2027	Phase 1 completed, with phase 2 scheduled for completion Q1 2024, thereafter same will be open to public.
8B	To progress plans for the provision of a pedestrian bridge upstream of Greens Bridge including the provision of access along the eastern bank of the river up from Greensbridge, to the proposed biodiversity park at Dunmore as part of the River Nore Linear Park.	2024-2025	Feasibility study to be progressed on options.
8C	Construction of a Boardwalk at Greensbridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk at Riverside Drive with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk	End 2024	Planning application lodged with An Bord Pleanala Q4 2023 with a view to construction in 2024.
8D	To undertake a feasibility study to determine the optimal location for, and to develop, a water sports hub on the River Nore	Commenced.	Location agreed on grounds of County Hall, John St. Consultant appointed draft design being considered.
8E	To provide a pedestrian crossing along the northern side of Greens Bridge.	Commenced.	Consultants appointed by Active Travel
8F	To continue the development of new trails and walkways such as the Castlecomer, Knockdrinna Wood and Ballyhale Looped Walks and the upgrade of others such as the Freshford, Gathabawn and Kilmacoliver Looped Walks and the Nore Valley Walk.	Ongoing	Ardra Looped Walk Rehabilitated Scheme completed in Castlecomer Discovery Park. Working with Castlecomer Discovery Park stakeholders to develop new Bike Trail under ORIS – Planning

			<p>application lodged with Planning Section.</p> <p>Consultants engaged to undertake feasibility study and route selection report for missing section of Nore Valley Walk between Bennettsbridge and Thomastown, if this link is delivered the trail would extend from Kilkenny City to Inistioge.</p> <p>Upgrade works completed along Freshford trail</p>
8G	Investigate the development of a horse trail/bridle path at Woodstock estate.	TBC	No suitable route identified, Engagement will continue with Coillte, as landowners for alternatives.
8H	To complete the development of the linear park along the River Nore in the area of the Abbey Quarter.	June 2021.	Completed in 2021.
8I	To extend the linear park at the Abbey Quarter to link with the existing section of the River Nore Linear Park at Riverside Drive.	End 2024	Planning application lodged with An Bord Pleanála in Autumn, with a view to construction in 2024.

8J	To complete the construction of the Kilkenny Greenway, connecting New Ross to Waterford.	2025	Phase 1 open July 2023. New Ross to Glenmore. See 5F above.
8K	To promote and develop the Waterford to Rosslare Greenway in association with Waterford City and County Council and Wexford County Council.	Ongoing	Subject of all-Ireland Rail Review.-Awaiting outcome.
8Ka	The Council will investigate the potential of developing a Greenway from Kilkenny to Castlecomer and Ballyragget and onwards to Co. Laois as part of the development of Greenways and Blueways within the County.	Commenced.	A feasibility study and route options for Phase 1 – Kilkenny City to Kilkenny Countryside Park at Dunmore will be carried out (see . 8B)
8Kb	To undertake a metropolitan-wide Open Space, Recreation and Greenbelt Strategy to include the identification of a location for a regional scale park within the Waterford Metropolitan Area as well as the development of neighbourhood parks and open spaces.	2024.	Work has commenced with Waterford Co. Co. taking the lead. Consultants have been appointed.
8L	To complete the skate park as part of the Riverside Park at the Abbey Quarter.	Already complete.	Developed.
8M	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.	2024	Not commenced.
8N	To protect existing public rights of way that give access to estuary, mountain, lakeshore, riverbank or other places of natural beauty or recreational use.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
8O	To provide a playground at Rosbercon.	Not commenced.	Site yet to be identified and funding to be secured.
Chapter 9: Heritage, Culture, and the Arts			
9A	Continue to identify and map habitats and green infrastructure of county importance, and raise awareness and understanding of the county's natural heritage and biodiversity identifying green corridors and measures to connect them.	2024/2025	The newly appointed Biodiversity Officer will work on identifying and map habitats and green

			<p>infrastructure of county importance. This will form part of the Kilkenny Biodiversity Plan which will be prepared in 2024. A series of programmes have been running to raise awareness of the importance of biodiversity and the benefits green corridors can provide both in terms of a carbon sequester and ecological corridors.</p>
9B	To identify and map green infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan.	2027	<p>Mapping of green infrastructure is now being incorporated into Biodiversity Office work plan, adding it as an action to other projects as opportunity arise. Three green infrastructure maps will be generated in 2023 from the preparation of 3 Biodiversity Community Action Plans (Johnstown, Piltown and Ballyragget). Due to the large body of work, this objective will be completed over a phased period.</p>

9C	To 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
9D	To carry out further research on the eighteen archaeological landscapes as identified in the Preliminary Audit of Archaeological Landscapes in County Kilkenny.	2025	No progress to date, further research to be commissioned in 2024-2025.
9E	To develop an enhanced policy framework for the three priority sites identified in Section 9.3.1.1 above, plus for any additional sites identified through Objective 9D above.	2027	No progress to date, policy framework to be informed by 2024-2025 research.
9F	To provide assistance to owners of protected structures in undertaking essential repairs and maintenance by the provision of relevant information.	Ongoing	The Architectural Conservation Officer (ACO) provides an advisory service to home owners, community groups and colleagues regarding Kilkenny's architectural heritage. The ACO also administers the conservation grants for Kilkenny County Council, an annual funding stream for owners of protected structures who wish to undertake repairs to their properties.
9G	To respond to the Ministerial recommendation to include in the RPS, structures which have been identified as being of regional, national or international significance in the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage survey and to consider for inclusion those rated as being of local significance.	Ongoing	Ongoing as issues arise.

9H	To continue to review the Record of Protected Structures and add or delete structures as appropriate.	Ongoing	Additions / deletions carried out as applicable structures are identified.
9I	To ensure all digital mapping for the Record of Protected Structures is up to date and current, and readily accessible to the public.	Up to date	All relevant structures plotted on GIS system updated to include additions / deletions.
9J	To ensure the preservation of the special character of each ACA listed in this Plan (See Table 9.2 and Volume 2 Heritage Strategy) with particular regard to building scale, proportions, historical plot sizes, building lines, height, general land use, fenestration, signage, and other appendages such as electrical wiring, building materials, historic street furniture, paving and shopfronts.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through the planning process.
9K	To designate ACAs where appropriate and provide a local policy framework for the preservation of the character of these areas.	Complete.	All relevant areas designated in County Development Plan process. Three new ACAs were approved during the development plan process.
9L	To prepare and introduce a set of Shopfront Guidelines.	2024	Commenced
9M	To provide a shared space facility for the creative sector within the Abbey Quarter.	2023	Former squash court reserved for a supporting use for Arts and Culture. Design of the public park around St. Francis Abbey has made provision for the use of space for outdoor events.
9N	To implement the Kilkenny County Council Cultural Strategy.	Ongoing.	The 2018-2022 Cultural Strategy has been carried out. Consultation on the new County Heritage Plan will begin in 2024.

9O	To progress and achieve completion of a City Library for Kilkenny City at the Mayfair ballroom.	2023.	Under construction. Nearing completion. Q1 2024
9P	Investigate and examine the redevelopment of library services in Thomastown and Callan.		This is at Tender stage
Chapter 10: Infrastructure and Environment			
10A	To facilitate Irish Water and to assist, subject to service level agreements, with the provision of water and wastewater infrastructure provision in accordance with the water services strategic plan, made in accordance with the Water Services Act 2007.		Water Services continues to assist Uisce Éireann with the provision of capital infrastructure throughout Kilkenny in accordance with the water services strategic plan.
10B	To implement the measures of the River Basin Management Plan, including continuing to work with communities through the Local Authority Waters Programme to restore and improve water quality in the identified areas of action.		This is being implemented through LAWPRO which is a shared service between Tipperary & Kilkenny.
10C	To complete the mapping of source protection areas and to map Source Protection Areas for any new public water supply schemes as appropriate.		Water Services and the Environment department will continue to ensure source protection mapping is issued and updated as appropriate
10D	To ensure that Source Protection Areas are identified for any multiple unit housing developments with private water supplies.		Water Services, Rural water and the Environment department continues to issue source protection mapping for multiple unit housing developments with

			private water supplies where required.
10E	To continue to update noise mapping in accordance with revised or updated thresholds for noise mapping.	Ongoing	Noise mapping carried out by EPA with some data from Kilkenny County Council.
10F	Develop priority list of actionable works to mitigate against excessive noise and implement subject to cost benefit analysis.	2024	A new noise action plan will need to be developed by Kilkenny County Council in 2024 which will analyse the need for mitigation.
10G	To implement the Southern Region Waste Management Plan.	2023	A National Waste Management Plan in preparation to replace regional plans.
10H	It is an objective of the Council to, with due regard to the provisions of the Major Accidents Directive and Regulations, give effect to the Directive by controlling development with respect to— <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The siting of Major Accident Hazard sites • The modification of an existing Major Accident Hazard site • Development in the vicinity of a Major Accident Hazard site 	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
10I	To support and facilitate the delivery of high capacity Information Communications Technology Infrastructure, broadband connectivity and digital broadcasting, throughout the County, in order to ensure economic competitiveness for the enterprise and commercial sectors and in enabling more flexible work practices e.g. remote working subject to other relevant policies and objectives of the Plan.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Digital Strategy being developed.
10J	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.	2024/2025	Comreg maintain a register / map all masts.
Chapter 11: Renewable Energy			

11A	To support and facilitate the provision of energy in accordance with Ireland's transition to a low carbon energy future by means of the maintenance and upgrading of electricity and gas network grid infrastructure and by integrating renewable energy sources and ensuring our national and regional energy system remains safe, secure and ready to meet increased demand as the regional economy grows over the period of the plan	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation. Policies in place to support and facilitate provision of energy.
11B	To identify and designate a Decarbonation Zone (DZ) in the Council's Climate Action Plan for a spatial area in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures are developed to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions and climate needs to contribute to national climate action.	2023	This has commenced. Area identified as part of the Draft Climate Action Plan
Chapter 12: Movement and Mobility			
12A	To plan for and progressively implement a sustainable, integrated and low carbon transport system by enhancing the existing transport infrastructure in terms of road, bus, rail, cycling and pedestrian facilities and interfacing different modes as the opportunity arises.	Ongoing	This is in progress through the development of the SUMP for the City and active travel mobility plans for the towns.
12B	To plan for a transition towards sustainable and low carbon transport modes, through the promotion of alternative modes of transport, and 'walkable communities' together with promotion of compact urban forms close to public transport corridors to encourage more sustainable patterns of movement in all settlements.	Ongoing	Through zoning of land, the Development Management processes, and provision of walking and cycling infrastructure. Also done through the SUMP for the City.
12C	To undertake appropriate traffic management measures within the City and County to reduce congestion and minimise travel times.	Ongoing	This analysis carried out through the SUMP for the City and through mobility plans for the District towns.
12D	To develop a 10-minute city framework for Kilkenny City to map and identify infrastructural requirements to support the '10 minute' city.	TBC	An objective of the SUMP for the City when adopted.

12E	To deliver on sustainable mobility with an accompanying investment in infrastructure to provide for integration between all modes of transport to support the use of sustainable travel choices.		On going and will be further enhanced through the SUMP for the City.
12F	Implement strategies to meet the mode share targets during the lifetime of the plan and develop, in conjunction with the NTA, an effective monitoring regime for the implementation and where required, adjustment of the Council's sustainable transport strategy in order to ensure the achievement of the modal share targets referred to under Objective 12G.		Targets to be achieved through implementation of smarter travel and the SUMP for the City.
12G	To achieve a modal shift from the private car to walking or cycling in accordance with the targets in Table 12.1 for County Kilkenny.		Targets to be achieved through implementation of smarter travel and the SUMP for the City and through mobility plans for the county.
12Ga	To prepare mobility management plans incorporating mobility objectives of the local area plans for Thomastown, Castlecomer and Piltown.		Mobility management plans have been prepared for a number of settlements and will continue to be developed.
12Gb	To undertake a mobility study for Bennettsbridge.	Not Complete.	No plans to advance at present. However, a feasibility study has been completed regarding a new pedestrian bridge across the river.
12H	To compile a Cycling Strategy for the County	2024	To be reviewed by Active Travel in 2024.
12I	To develop a network of cycling and pedestrian routes within Kilkenny City to provide connectivity and provide an alternative to car-based transport.		Feasibility / route selection being completed for a number of projects including Radial Cycle Routes, Inner Orbital Route and Ring

County Development Plan Objectives

			Road Cycle Facility Upgrade. Will continue to progress through preliminary design, planning, detailed design and construction subject to funding.
12J	To develop a cycle route between the Eastern Environs and the Breagagh Valley.		Funding in place for City Centre to Eastern Environs. Currently progressing through preliminary design and planning. Connection(s) from Breagagh Valley to City to be reviewed.
12K	To investigate the provision of a cycle route along the River Nore Linear Park connecting north of the City with the east and south of the City.		Consultants appointed with scheme being advanced through options stage. Will proceed through statutory processes subject to planning.
12L	To improve cycling infrastructure throughout the city in accordance with the recommendations of the Kilkenny Local Area Transport Plan as resources permit.		Ongoing. Schemes being developed through Active Travel in conjunction with the SUMP process.
12M	To reduce the Council's carbon footprint through the implementation of the Council's own cycle scheme, which will encourage staff members to discharge their official duties in a more sustainable way.		Implemented.
12N	To carry out an appraisal of each of the District Towns to determine measures to facilitate cycling and walking and improve connectivity within the town particularly from an age friendly perspective.		Mobility Management Plans have been completed for Callan,

			<p>Thomastown and Graiguenamanagh.</p> <p>A Draft Mobility Plan for Castlecomer to improve connectivity and walking facilities has finished public consultation and is being considered by members for adoption</p> <p>Ferrybank Mobility Management Plan has been prepared and will form part of background material for LAP.</p>
12O	To invest in cycling and other smarter travel projects in support of the compact '10-minute city' concept.		New Cycling Projects progressing (See comments on C5H & C5I for Vol 2 p39). SUMP being developed. Public Transport options introduced with plans to expand. Bus stops upgraded. E-bike rental scheme introduced.
12P	To provide connections to the Kilkenny Greenway to settlements along its route as the need arises and resources permit.	Obtain planning 2023/24. Delivery subject to funding and	Design Options and Route Selection Report completed for connectivity links from the Greenway to the villages of Glenmore and Slieverue.

		land acquisition.	<p>The Glenmore Link is currently under consideration as a Part 8 proposal.</p> <p>The Slieverue Link, is progressing in design detail and will be progressed through planning at a later stage.</p>
12Q	To, in combination with Waterford City and County Council, the NTA, TII and other stakeholders, undertake a Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy in accordance with Waterford MASP Objectives 6(a) and 6(b), covering the Waterford MASP area of County Kilkenny and to implement the adopted strategy to guide investment priorities in accordance with Waterford MASP Objectives 3.	Complete	This is complete.
12R	Support the improved regional connectivity of Kilkenny with Waterford and the South East Region generally through the development and maintenance of Strategic Transport Infrastructure in accordance with Waterford MASP Objective 7 and to prioritise transport investment accordingly.	Ongoing.	Progressed in combination with Waterford Co. Co. and includes N24 Waterford to Cahir scheme.
12S	Develop the Link Road from the Abbey Road to the Belmont Road.	2026	URDF. Design on-going. Planning in 2024. Construction 2025/26.
12T	To carry out improvements to the Abbey Road from the boundary with Waterford City and County Council to facilitate smarter travel improvements to Abbey Road and connect to the Link Road in objective 12S above.	TBC	URDF funding. Mobility management plan prepared and will be form part of LAP review.
12U	Construct a roundabout on the N29 at the L3412 (Rathculliheen) junction.	TBC	URDF funding in place. Currently finalising project proposals.
12V	Provide for traffic calming measures between the roundabout and the port gate on the N29.	TBC	URDF funding in place. Currently finalising project proposals.

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12W	To introduce a 60km/hr speed limit on the section of the N29 between the roundabout and the port gate.	TBC	URDF funding in place. Currently finalising project proposals.
12X	To develop and agree an appropriately planned policy response to access the N10 roundabout at Blanchfieldlands near Hebron House in Kilkenny City.	2024	Under consideration as part of current Planning Application
12Y	To investigate a link between the Hebron industrial estate/business park to the link road, see objective above.	2024	Will form part of policy to be formulated in 2024.
12Z	To protect the study area, route corridor options and thereafter the preferred route corridor selected for the national road schemes being progressed in the Development Plan in accordance with National Development Plan Objectives and to prohibit development that could prejudice their future delivery.	Ongoing	N25 Tower Road (Under Construction), N77 Ballyragget Village to Ballynaslee (Construction 2024), N24 Carrick Road (Planning), N25 Waterford to Glenmore (Currently suspended), N24 Waterford to Cahir (Option Selection).
12AA	To progress a relief road for Thomastown.	Not complete	Not progressed as no funding available. This is a long term objective.
12AB	To seek an upgrade of the R700 between New Ross and Kilkenny to National Secondary status	Complete	Discussed with TII and unlikely to attract funding.
12AC	To seek an upgrade of the Kilkenny to Urlingford road (R693) to National Secondary status.	Complete	Discussed with TII and unlikely to attract funding.
12AD	Reserve the proposed line of the proposed Northern Ring road Extension in Kilkenny City and progress it through the planning process	TBC	Kilkenny County Council had submitted a Strategic Assessment Report to the Department of Transport in regard to progressing to preliminary

			assessment and feasibility for the Northern Ring Road Extension in late 2022. Further to subsequent revised guidelines, the Transport Appraisal Framework (June 2023), we currently in the process of revising this report for resubmission
12AE	Provision of a relief road from the Loughboy IDA estate to the Waterford Road including an upgrade to the Outrath Road.	2024	Investigation ongoing to advance as part of the overdevelopment employment lands in the area.
12AF	To implement the recommendations of the Kilkenny City Local Transport Plan.	Ongoing	Recommendations from this study inform the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) for the City and will be implemented through the SUMP.
12AG	Completion of internal roads in Kilkenny City to serve the Western Environs\Breagagh valley and Loughmacask. (The Central Access Scheme) See Volume 2, Figure CS3.	Ongoing	Western Environs complete, now working with consultants to investigate route options at Loughmacask.
12AH	To provide for a second access from the Hebron industrial estate/business park onto Hebron road	2024	Policy to be formulated in 2024, as 12Y above.
12AI	To investigate a connection between the internal roads within the Hebron industrial estate /business park.	Not complete	No progress to date.

County Development Plan Objectives

12AJ	To implement the traffic strategy and road cross sections for the Hebron area in accordance with the Hebron Urban Design Strategy ¹	Ongoing	Implemented as applications arise.
12AK	To improve substandard sections of regional\county roads throughout the County, in particular those most heavily trafficked, and those providing access to existing or proposed industrial, residential or commercial developments as required and as resources permit.	Ongoing	No projects being progressed at present.
12AL	To maintain, develop and improve existing roads and to construct new roads as needs arise and resources permit in accordance with the Annual Roadworks programme.	Ongoing.	This is done annually.
12AM	It is an objection of the Council to carry out road safety improvements measures at Victoria Bridge, Ahenny.	Complete	Completed as a Low Cost Accident Scheme in 2022.
12AN	To provide further age friendly parking spaces in Kilkenny City and the District Towns following consultation with the relevant stakeholders.	Ongoing	Ongoing as opportunities arise
Chapter 13: Requirements for Developments			
13A	To compile an analysis and a development guidance criterion for housing opportunities in Kilkenny City's backland areas, underutilised lands and brownfield sites.	Timeframe TBC	Not commenced.

2.2 Volume 2 - City Development Plan Objectives

	Objective	Timeframe for Completion	Progress to date
Chapter 1: Introduction			
C1A	To implement the Development Management Requirements set out in Volume 2 for Kilkenny City or as otherwise as set out in Volume 1 as appropriate.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
Chapter 2: Core Strategy			
C2A	To continue to implement the Abbey Quarter Masterplan and Urban Design Code and secure the overall development of the area in accordance with their objectives.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
C2B	To monitor the implementation of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan and Urban Design Code at least every 12 months from the adoption of this Plan.	Ongoing	Draft user guide adopted following public consultation.
C2C	To complete the master planning process for St. Canice's campus during the lifetime of the Plan in conjunction with the Health Services Executive	2023	Draft Plan being finalised for publication Q1 2024.
C2D	To complete a masterplan for the Fair Green area during the lifetime of the Plan.	2024	Consultants to be appointed in Q1 2024.
C2E	Develop a masterplan for the former Mart (Ref. Z10) site either by the Planning Authority or jointly with the developer to deal inter alia with the mix of uses, phasing of development, movement, public realm, design, building heights etc.	2024	Early stages, in discussion with landowner.
C2F	To implement the Urban Design Strategy for the Hebron Road as resources permit and as redevelopment opportunities arise.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation as opportunities development opportunities arise
C2G	To improve the public realm and introduce mobility/smarter travel options and shared spaces along High Street and Rose Inn Street; (A on Figure CS5)	In progress	In progress - part of Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

			(SUMP). Traffic modelling currently being undertaken to develop and assess options.
C2H	To upgrade the streetscape and public realm along Ormonde Street to include provision of a new one-way system; (B on Figure CS5)	Almost complete	Currently working on final phase - due for completion Q3 2023.
C2I	To upgrade the streetscape along the pedestrianised St Kieran's Street and the laneways and slips that connect it with High Street; (C on Figure CS5)		St. Kieran's Street Enhancement has progressed through planning and is currently at Detailed Design and Tendering. Commencement likely to be Q4 2023 / Q1 2024. Laneways to the west of High Street is just completing feasibility stage (public consultation in June '23). Detailed design and tendering to commence Q4 subject to funding.
C2J	To upgrade the streetscape and laneways in the St Mary's Precinct; (D on Figure CS5)	Ongoing	Awaiting confirmation of funding.
C2K	To upgrade the public realm in Carnegie Plaza and the streetscape along Barrack Lane, linking to John Street. (E on Figure CS5)	Ongoing	Awaiting confirmation of funding.

City & Environs Development Plan Objectives

Chapter 3: Economic and Retail Strategy			
C3A	To ensure an adequate amount of employment and enterprise land is available within the City at the appropriate strategic locations.	Complete	Sufficient quantum allocated in City Zoning Map.
C3B	Develop an urban street through the Abbey Quarter linking Bateman Quay and St. Francis Bridge and an urban park and public plaza around St Francis' Abbey (linking to the Riverside Linear Park) in accordance with the Abbey Quarter Masterplan.	Q3 2025	Expect to go to tender in Q4 2023, with a view to construction commencing in Q2 2024.
C3C	Improve Trails, Greenways and Walkways, (see Vol. 1 Chapter 8 Open Space), including the construction of a Boardwalk at Greensbridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk, and New urban park in Abbey Quarter.	End 2024	See ref to 8C, 8H and 8I above. Planning application lodged with An Bord Pleanala Q4 2023 for boardwalk with a view to construction in 2024.
C3D	Implement the Kilkenny City Orientation Study ¹ to rebalance the perceived centre of gravity of the City, attracting more visitors from the Castle into the City Centre, thereby increasing visitor dwell time.	Ongoing	Destination Towns funding of €500,000 received from Failte Ireland around way finding and orientation projects to be delivered by the end of 2024. Work is ongoing to finalise funding under URDF Call 2, City Centre Liveability project, this project will support rebalance visitors from the Castle down to High Street.
C3E	Provide for enhanced pedestrian facilities at the junction of The Parade, Rose Inn St, High Street and Patrick Street.	Complete	This is now dependant on the outputs from the Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (KSUMP). Traffic modelling currently being undertaken to

City & Environs Development Plan Objectives

			develop and assess options.
C3F	To provide high quality office accommodation in the Abbey Quarter appropriate to the needs of Kilkenny.	Complete	1 st building refurbished and now occupied by Tirlán and others.
C3G	To ensure that an adequate quantity and range of land is available for enterprise development and that the appropriate infrastructure is provided.	Complete	Sufficient quantum allocated in City Zoning Map. Volume 2.
Retail Objectives			
i.	To ensure that Kilkenny County possesses a clear policy framework that can adequately meet the retail needs of the County's residents over the plan period, and that will inform the preparation and assessment of retail proposals;	Complete	Appendix A – Retail Strategy which accompanies the CDP
ii.	To enhance and promote the vitality and viability of Kilkenny City Centre, and to support the centre's role as the dominant retail destination within the County;	Ongoing	# ShopKilkenny brand
iii.	Promote Kilkenny City Centre as a shopping destination that is competitive with other comparable shopping destinations in the South East and further afield;	Ongoing	work ongoing on collaboration with #shopkilkenny brand and Kilkenny Tourism
iv.	To sustain and enhance the vitality and viability of the four District Towns and their retail offer, and to support their continued growth in accordance with the Core Strategy	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
v.	To ensure a town centre first approach is adopted for all future retail development across the County, whereby the order of priority for the sequential approach will be City and Town Centre sites, edge-of-centre sites, and out-of-centre sites;	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
vi.	To promote flexibility and a mix of uses within the County's centres, and in particular, promote residential development on upper floors;	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation
vii.	To encourage the reduction in vacant floorspace, taking into account suitability, obsolescence, and the identification of alternative uses that may be appropriate where possible, facilitate the regeneration and reuse of derelict buildings in appropriate locations for town centre uses and support the retention and maintenance of heritage premises and shopfronts;	Ongoing	Town Regeneration Officer recently appointed. Implementing derelict

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			<p>sites and vacant sites legislation</p> <p>LEO operates Small Business Vacant premises scheme to support new businesses in vacant properties.</p>
viii.	To improve the accessibility of each of the County's centres and promote all modes of transport	Ongoing	In progress - part of Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). Traffic modelling currently being undertaken to develop options for core. Objectives also being developed to provide sustainable transport solutions for all, increase public transport, improve active travel routes, increase permeability.
ix.	To appropriately manage car parking and accessibility for the short term, whilst also planning ahead to a future where private vehicle travel may not be the dominant form of transport;	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through active travel projects and development management process
x.	To promote investment in Place-Making and high-quality public realm through new development, and the enhancement of existing public realm in the City as well as throughout the County's centres.		Considered in assessment of projects as proposed

	The aim is to provide more attractive and vibrant urban centre and village locations, supporting retail activity and the wider commercial economy of our settlements and thereby increase footfall;		
xi.	Ensure all new development respects and enhances the historic environment;	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through development management process
xii.	Promote the adaptive reuse of existing units as a priority ahead of developing sites for additional retail floorspace, unless there is a demonstrated need;	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation through development management process
xiii.	To ensure that the synergies between tourism and retailing are taken advantage of;	Ongoing	Work ongoing on collaboration with #shopkilkenny brand and Kilkenny Tourism
xiv.	A joint Retail Strategy shall be undertaken between Kilkenny County Council and Waterford City and County Council for the area covered by the Waterford Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) in accordance with the Retail Guidelines and RSES	2023	Work has commenced on the joint strategy. Pre draft surveys underway. A draft strategy expected by the end of Q4 2023. (Waterford Co. Co. taking lead).
Chapter 4: Heritage Strategy			
C4A	To identify and map green infrastructure assets and sites of local biodiversity value over the lifetime of the Plan	2027	Mapping of green infrastructure is now being incorporated into Biodiversity Office work plan, adding it as an action to other projects as opportunity arise. Three green

			infrastructure maps will be generated in 2023 from the preparation of 3 Biodiversity Community Action Plans (Johnstown, Piltown and Ballyragget). Due to the large body of work, C4A action will be completed over a phased period.
C4B	To develop a green infrastructure strategy integrating the existing assets and identifying new assets.	2024/2025	The development of a green infrastructure strategy will be linked in with the County Biodiversity Plan which will be developed in 2024 under the remit of the Councils new Biodiversity Officer.
C4C	To undertake an update of the Survey of Mature Trees in the City worthy of preservation.	2027	Not commenced to date. Timeframe for completion to be confirmed subject to availability of resources.
C4D	To facilitate and support the implementation of existing (and any further) conservation plans, as resources allow.	2027	As needs are identified and funding opportunities arise, conservation plans will

			be resourced accordingly.
Chapter 5: Movement and Mobility Strategy			
C5A	To prepare a comprehensive Local Transport Plan for Kilkenny City in accordance with the Area Based Transport Assessment Guidelines (TII, 2018) within the concept of a 10-minute City addressing: - Walking, - Cycling, - Public transport - Motorised transport - Carparking strategy/Car parking demand management		Substantially completed by Planning and forming a key strategy informing the development and implementation of the Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Development Plan
C5B	To implement the recommendations of the Local Transport Plan for Kilkenny city once adopted.		The Implementation vehicle for the delivery of the LTP Strategy will be the SUMP which is in development lead by Kilkenny Municipal District.
C5C	To map and identify infrastructural requirements to support the '10-minute' city concept within the City.	To be completed following completion of the SUMP	Ongoing through the SUMP process.
C5D	To promote compact urban forms, close to public transport corridors to encourage more sustainable patterns of movement.	Ongoing	Ongoing Implementation
C5E	To undertake appropriate traffic management measures within the City to reduce congestion and minimise travel times.		In progress - part of Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). Traffic modelling currently being undertaken to develop options for

			core. Objectives also being developed to provide sustainable transport solutions for all, increase public transport, improve active travel routes, increase permeability, etc, etc...
C5F	Implement strategies to meet the modal share targets.		In progress - part of Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). Traffic modelling currently being undertaken to develop options for core. Objectives also being developed to provide sustainable transport solutions for all, increase public transport, improve active travel routes, increase permeability, etc, etc...
C5G	To achieve a modal shift from the private car to walking or cycling in accordance with the targets in Table 4.1 for Kilkenny City. This target will be subject to any refinements which may arise through the Local Transport Plan for Kilkenny City.		In progress - part of Kilkenny Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP). Traffic modelling currently being undertaken to develop options. Objectives also being developed to provide sustainable transport solutions for all, increase public transport, improve active travel routes, increase permeability, etc, etc. Also being

		implemented through the provision of active travel schemes	
C5H	To further improve and enhance the network of cycling and pedestrian routes in accordance with the recommendations of the Kilkenny Local Area Transport Plan as resources permit.	Feasibility / route selection being completed for a number of projects including Radial Cycle Routes, Inner Orbital Route and Ring Road Cycle Facility Upgrade. Will continue to progress through preliminary design, planning, detailed design and construction subject to funding.	
C5I	To develop a cycle route between the Eastern Environs and the Breaghagh Valley.		Funding in place for City Centre to Eastern Environs. Currently progressing through preliminary design and planning.
C5J	To investigate the provision of appropriate cycling facilities along the River Nore Linear Park connecting the north of the City with the east and south.		Consultants appointed with scheme being advanced through options stage. Will proceed through statutory processes subject to planning.
C5K	To reduce the Council's carbon footprint through the implementation of the Council's own cycle scheme, which will encourage staff members to discharge their official duties in a more sustainable way.	Implemented. New staff shower and changing facilities were installed at County Hall in 2022 to facilitate staff cycling to work or for work duties around the City and Environs. Staff bikes are also now available to staff including e-bikes. Additional bike shelters and bike shed have also been provided for staff.	

C5L	To invest in cycling and other Smarter Travel projects in support of the compact '10- minute city' concept.		New Cycling Projects progressing (See C5H & C5I). SUMP being developed. Public Transport options introduced with plans to expand. Bus stops upgraded. E-bike rental scheme introduced.
C5M	To monitor and assess the one-way traffic system introduced to Rose Inn Street, High Street and Bateman Quay to determine its suitability for the overall transport strategy for the City.		Being implemented through SUMP. Traffic modelling being undertaken to assess options for permanent city centre traffic management system.
C5N	Complete the demarcation of the Gateways and prioritise pedestrian and cyclist movement within the Gateways.		Preliminary design advanced to a point - but paused pending proposals from SUMP which may recommend amendments to Gateway Locations.
C5O	To progress plans for the provision of a pedestrian bridge at Talbotsinch, including the provision of access along the eastern bank of the river up from Greensbridge, to the proposed bio-diversity park at Dunmore as part of the River Nore Linear Park.		Consultants to be appointed for feasibility study. Will proceed to future phases once complete and subject to continued funding.

C5P	Construct a Boardwalk at Greensbridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk.		Being advanced under Abbey Quarter Development Team. Planning application to be lodged with An Bord Pleanála Q4 2023 with a view to construction in 2024.
C5Q	To progress plans for the provision of an additional pedestrian bridge between Ossory Bridge and John's Bridge to connect St. Canice's campus to the Canal Walk.		Part of Inner Orbital Cycling Route Project for which consultants are appointed for feasibility study. Will proceed to future phases subject to continued funding.
C5Qa	To identify a permanent coach park to serve Irishtown and the Abbey Quarter.		Not identified. Will be dependent on recommendations of SUMP
C5R	To develop and agree an appropriately planned policy response to access the N10 roundabout at Blanchfieldslands near Hebron House in Kilkenny City.	2024	Under consideration as part of current Planning Application
C5S	To develop a link road from the roundabout at Blanchfields lands on the N10/motorway access roundabout to the old Dublin road (R712) in conjunction with TII.	2024	Not complete. To be formulated in 2024.
C5T	To investigate the provision of additional cycle and pedestrian crossing facilities to connect across the Ring Road, in conjunction with TII.		Consultants have been appointed and are finalising a feasibility study. Discussions ongoing with NTA and TII re options.
C5U	To implement the following Roads Objectives: (See Figure MS7 Road Objectives)		

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R1	Reserve the proposed line of the western by-pass for the city from the Castlecomer Road to the Waterford Road free from development, including for a river crossing and seek approval from An Bord Pleanála for Phase 1 of the Western By-pass, the Kilkenny Northern Ring Road Extension.	Ongoing	Kilkenny County Council had submitted a Strategic Assessment Report to the Department of Transport in regard to progressing to preliminary assessment and feasibility for the Northern Ring Road Extension in late 2022. Further to subsequent revised guidelines, the Transport Appraisal Framework (June 2023), we currently in the process of revising this report for resubmission.(See 12AD p28)
R2	Complete the Outrath Road Improvement Scheme and link the Bohernatounish Road to the Outrath Road.	2024	Policy to be formulated in 2024
R3	To provide for a link road through development lands linking the Outrath Road through to the existing Smithlands business park and onto the Waterford Road.	2024	Policy to be formulated in 2024
R4	Reserve the proposed line of a new road link from the Callan Road to the Waterford Road roundabout free from development.	Ongoing	Continue to reserve line as outlined on figure MS7 in Vol 2.
R5	Reserve the line of Phase 2 of the Central Access Scheme from the Waterbarrack roundabout to the roundabout on the Kilcreene Road.	Ongoing	Continue to reserve line as outlined on figure MS7 in Vol 2.

R6	Provide for a road connection from the Freshford Road to the site reserved for a proposed secondary school within the Loughmacask masterplan area.	Ongoing	Design progressed and will be tied into School access Rd.
R7	To progress the route selection, planning and development of a road connecting the R695 Kilmanagh Road to the R693 Freshford Road.	Ongoing	Objective included in Loughmacask Masterplan. Working with consultants to investigate route options.
R8	To progress the planning and development of a route connection from the existing roundabout on the N10 to the R712 (old Dublin Road) and to reserve such route free from development.	2024	Policy to be formulated in 2024
R9	To progress the planning and development of a route connection from the Hebron Business park to the N10 and the R712 via R8 and to reserve this route free from development.	2024	Policy to be formulated in 2024.
R10	To provide a second entrance to the Hebron Business Park from the Hebron Road.	Not commenced.	Policy to be formulated in 2024, as 12Y & 12AH on page 29
R11	To implement the traffic strategy and road cross sections for the Hebron area in accordance with the Hebron Road Urban Design Strategy.	Ongoing	Implemented as applications arise.
Chapter 6: Placemaking			
	The Strategic Objectives related to placemaking as stated for Kilkenny County are also applicable to Kilkenny City and these (objectives 6A and 6B) are set out in Chapter 6, Volume 1 of the Plan.		
C6A	To implement the provisions of the Housing Strategy contained in Appendix B.		Ongoing. Refer to Kilkenny County Council's Housing Delivery Action Plan.
C6B	To require 10% 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.		This is required under Part V of the Planning and Development Act in any case and is ongoing.

C6C	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.	The unit types in social housing developments by Kilkenny County Council Housing Section are determined by the needs of the approved housing applicants for that area. Affordable Housing provision is based on surveyed need. For private developments	
C6D	To implement the provisions of the Traveller Accommodation programme 2019-2024 and any updates thereof.	Ongoing	Ongoing implementation.
C6E	To compile an analysis and a development guidance criterion with recommended interventions for housing opportunities in Kilkenny City's backland areas, underutilised lands and brownfield sites.	Timeframe TBC	Not commenced.
C6F	To promote the redevelopment and renewal of areas identified having regard to the core strategy, that need regeneration, in order to prevent: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. adverse effects on existing amenities in such areas, in particular as a result of the ruinous or neglected condition of any land, ii. urban blight and decay iii. anti-social behaviour, or iv. a shortage of habitable houses or of land suitable for residential use or a mixture of residential and other uses. 	Ongoing. Via Vacant and Derelict Sites Levy and now via the RZLT mapping	
C6G	To identify vacant sites where appropriate zoning applies and maintain and update a Vacant Sites Register in the plan area for the purpose of the Vacant Site Levy.	Complete	Levies are being pursued for relevant periods. Sites are now being identified on the RZLT maps which will be pursued by the Revenue Commissioners for collection RZLT.
C6H	To secure the development of two ETB secondary schools in the Breaghagh Valley neighbourhood in Kilkenny City during the lifetime of the plan.	Ongoing	Planning permission granted. Under detailed design by KCETB

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C6I	To secure the development of a new primary school in the Breagagh Valley neighbourhood in Kilkenny City during the lifetime of the plan.	Ongoing	Site secured by DOE. Outline permission granted.
C6J	To secure the relocation of the CBS secondary school from James Street to a new site in the Loughmacask masterplan area.	Ongoing	Planning permission granted. Under construction.
C6K	To secure the development of a third and/or fourth level campus(es) within Kilkenny city as part of the development of a Technological University for the South East.	Ongoing - Kilkenny County Council made a submission for consideration by SETU during the consultation phase of the development if the SETU 5 Year strategy. This Strategy include action 7.3.4 says - SETU will establish a working group to include Kilkenny County Council and Kilkenny Chamber to explore how SETU an support specific activity based in Kilkenny in a manner that creates beneficial additionality to SETU portfolio and is sustainable long term.	
C6L	To progress plans for the provision of a pedestrian bridge crossings at the northern side of Greens Bridge (upstream) proximate to Talbotsinch and between John's Bridge and Ossory Bridge.		Both bridge crossings are included as part of the Inner Orbital Active Travel Scheme. Consultants have been appointed for this scheme and an options report is being developed.
C6M	To develop access along the eastern bank of the river up from Greensbridge, to the proposed bio-diversity park at Dunmore (See Vol. 1 8.2.1 Regional Parks) as part of the River Nore Linear Park as opportunities arise and resources permit and link with the proposed pedestrian bridge at Talbots Inch.		Boardwalk link being examined at Greensbridge. Consultants to be appointed for

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			feasibility study. Will proceed to future phases once complete and subject to continued funding.
C6N	To construct a boardwalk at Greensbridge to link the River Nore Riverside Walk at Riverside Drive with the new Riverside Linear Park in the Abbey Quarter and onwards to the Canal Walk.	End 2024	Planning application to be lodged with An Bord Pleanala Q4 2023 with a view to construction in 2024.
C6O	To undertake a feasibility study to determine the optimal location for, and to develop, a water sports hub on the River Nore.	Commenced.	Location agreed on grounds of County Hall, John St. Consultant appointed draft design being considered.
C6P	To complete the development of the linear park along the River Nore in the area of the Abbey Quarter.	Complete	Developed
C6Q	To develop a pedestrian/cycle crossing at Greensbridge connecting the east and west banks of the River Nore	Consultants have been appointed for this scheme and an options report is being developed.	
C6R	To prepare and implement an amenity scheme for the Glendine Amenity area, to include drainage proposals.	TBC	Not commenced.
C6S	To prepare and implement an Amenity Masterplan for the Pococke amenity area beside the Pococke Valley Estate on the Johnswell road.	TBC	Not commenced.
C6T	To complete the skate park as part of the Riverside Park at the Abbey Quarter.	Complete	Developed

3 Progress on Implementing the Housing Strategy

3.1 Introduction

The Housing Strategy for the period 2021-2027 was included in the Development Plan. 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.

In the 2021 Strategy 10% of the land zoned for residential, or a mix of residential and other uses would be reserved for social and affordable housing, as required under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act 2015.

However, since the adoption of the plan, the Affordable Housing Act 2021 made a number of changes to Part V, which came into operation on 3rd September, 2021;

- Land purchased on or after 1 August 2021 will be subject to a 20% Part V requirement on planning permission granted after 3 September 2021. This is for the provision of social and affordable housing.
- Purchasers are advised to take this increased Part V obligation into account in relation to the price paid for residential development land.
- Different Part V requirements apply to land where planning permission was granted before 3 September 2021 and to land purchased before 1 August 2021, depending on the date of purchase; and
- Applicants for planning permission for smaller residential developments can continue to apply for an exemption certificate from Part V which will be available to developments of 4 houses or less.

Another key point was that the 2021 Strategy predicted that a total of 4,649 new units would be required in the period 2021-2027⁶. Of this it is projected that 1,627 units (35%) will be required in the City with the remainder distributed between the District Towns, Ferrybank MASP area, Towns, Villages, Rural Nodes and within the countryside. This works out at 775 units per year over the 6 years.

3.2 Zoning

The 2021-2027 City and County Development Plan zoned a total of 119.69 hectares of land in the City, District Towns (Callan, Thomastown, Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh) and Ferrybank / Belview for new residential development. In addition, there are 22 small towns / villages with identified settlement boundaries which can accommodate further housing development, however, specific zoning designations are not applied in these areas. Furthermore, development can also be considered in rural nodes of which there are 33 in the county. It should be noted settlement boundaries are not identified for nodes and zoning designations are not applied in these areas. Applying the There is sufficient development lands available to cater for the projected demand as set out in the Housing Strategy.

Zoning objectives for housing in the Plan are as set out in the adopted Plan 2021. LAP areas is compatible with the County Core Strategy, and that it continues to meet the Housing Strategy.

⁶ Section 3.2.3 of Appendix B Housing Strategy, Kilkenny City & County Development Plan 2021-2027

3.3 Housing Completions

The Central Statistics Office produces Housing Statistics which presents data on house completions per quarter over each year. Table 3.1 sets out the annual house completions for the three-and-a-half-year period from 2020 to mid-2023 according to the CSO New Dwelling Completions.

Table 3.1: House completions in Co. Kilkenny 2020-2023

Year	House completions	Commencement Notices
2020	283	
2021	325	
2022	421	
2023*	172	
Total	1,201	

Sources: Data.cso.ie

*Data available up to end of June 2023

The number of completions is falling short of the projected demand as set out in the 2021 housing Strategy.

In total within the City and County there are 106 multi-unit housing developments with planning permission secured. Within these schemes there are 3,151 permitted housing units. This equates to 67.7% of the housing units identified in the Housing strategy after 2 years in the 6 year cycle of the Development Plan 2021 to 2027.

3.4 Provision of Social and Affordable Housing

An analysis of the housing list in December 2021 indicated that the housing waiting list was 1,799⁷. It is notable that most of the need circa 80% is for 1 and 2 bed homes. The Development Plan includes objectives that seek to meet this demand, these are outlined below:

- To require 10% 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.
- 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.

3.4.1 Part V Housing Acquisitions

A total of 29 units have been acquired through the Part V process since 2021.

Table 3.2 Housing Acquisitions

YEAR	2021	2022	2023	Total
CAS Acquisitions (Capital Assistance Scheme)	24	17	4	45
LA Acquisitions (Local Authority)	11	6	9	26
Traveller Acquisition	2			2
TOTAL	37	23	13	73

⁷ Housing Delivery Action Plan submitted to Dept. of Housing 17th December 2021

3.4.2 Local Authority Housing Provision

The targets set for Kilkenny County Council under the Housing for All Plan require the provision of 803 new build social homes during the period of the plan. A total of 476 units were constructed since 2021, while a further 71 units were purchased. See table 3.3 below.

Table 3.3 Local Authority Housing Provision

YEAR	2021	2022	2023	Total
Construction	156	144	176	476
Direct purchase from market	35	23	13	71
Total	191	167	89	547

3.4.3 Approved Housing Bodies (AHB)

Approved Housing Bodies have built 163 new houses. See breakdown in table 3.4 below.

Table 3.4 Approved Housing Body Provision

YEAR	2021	2022	2023	Total
AHB new build	54	21	88	163

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 provided by local authorities for households that qualify for social housing support, including many long-term rent supplement recipients. The number of HAP tenancies has started to fall in recent years due to a number of landlords leaving the private rented market and it is challenging to source new HAP tenancies. At the end of 2022, a total of 694 HAP tenancies existed. This has reduced to 625 in October 2023.

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. Similar to HAP tenancies, there has been a reduction in RAS tenancies in recent years. There were 385 private RAS tenancies at the end of 2022. This has reduced to 342 tenancies in September 2023.

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 33 units have been provided under this scheme.

3.4.6 Summary of Council Provision

Since the Housing Strategy was published in 2021, a total of 578 social and affordable units have been provided, through a range of sources such as acquisition, building, and leasing. Table 3.5 below gives the breakdown of these.

Table 3.5: Total Social / Affordable Housing Provision, Kilkenny 2021-2023

Housing Source	2021	2022	2023	Total
1 Acquisitions	37	23	13	73

2	Build	156	144	176	476
3	Leasing	29			29
Social and Affordable Housing Provision		222	167	189	578

3.4.7 The Housing Needs of Persons with Specific Requirements

The housing needs of the following categories requires specific mention.

Travellers

The Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 outlines the key strategies for the provision of accommodation over that period within the county. It is an objective of the City and County Development Plan to implement the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024 and any updates thereof. In 2019 the number of approved Traveller households seeking assistance with accommodation further to the Housing Needs Assessment was 41, with a further 25 households estimated to June 2024. During 2021, 20 units of accommodation were provided to traveller families and 19 units were provided in 2022.

Homeless

Homeless Services in Kilkenny City and County are co-ordinated by Kilkenny Homeless Action Team (KHAT). This interagency team, which was formed in 2017, is managed by Kilkenny County Council and includes membership of both statutory and NGO service providers. The principle aim of KHAT is to “develop and enhance the delivery of Homeless Services in an integrated, efficient and effective way”, with a key objective to assist homeless persons in to their own homes as quickly as possible. Homeless Services are informed nationally through Rebuilding Ireland – Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and at a regional level by the South East Homelessness Action Plan.

The Housing Office continues to see an increase in the number of homeless presentations with 478 in 2022 compared with 370 in 2021 and 252 for 2020. In total there are 115 Homeless HAP tenancies in place with 45 of these created in 2021 and 2022.

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 2021-2022.

Table 3.6 Total amount spent on Private Grants

YEAR	Amount (€)
2021	€1,509,081
2022	€2,726,281
2023	€1,281,672 (to end of Sept)

3.4.8 Assessment of Needs

As at 2019, the housing waiting list was 1,988⁸. By December 2021 this number was reduced to 1,619 and by December 2022 this was 1,588. A Housing Need Demand Assessment is required under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1988. A Housing Needs Demand Assessment was undertaken in 2021 as part of the preparation of the Housing Strategy.

⁸ Section 4.4.2 of Appendix B Housing Strategy, Kilkenny City & County Development Plan 2021-2027

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.

Work was also undertaken on identifying under-utilised residential lands within the City and County through the Vacant Site Levy which was established under the Urban Regeneration & Housing Act 2015. This levy was a site activation measure, to ensure that vacant land in urban areas is brought into beneficial use. Some significant sites were activated in the city as part of this process. The levy is now being pursued by revenue through sites identified / mapped by the Council as part of the Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) process.

4 Monitoring of Plan under Environmental categories

The Plan was subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment, and Section 8 of the SEA Report 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 SEA, which is reproduced here. 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.

Environmental Category	Targets	Selected indicators	Data Sources	Monitoring frequency	Update
Biodiversity -Flora and Fauna	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 (39).
	No deterioration in the quality of protected areas	Overall conservation status of habitats in Co. Kilkenny	NPWS: Report on Overall Conservation Status of Habitats in Ireland listed under the Habitats Directive.	Every 6 years	Updated report “ <i>The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland</i> ” published in 2019. 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 2019. 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	A Biodiversity Officer was appointed in 2023. Kilkenny County Biodiversity Plan will be drafted in 2024
	No spread of invasive species within the County	Numbers of new cases identified over 2020 levels	National Biodiversity Data Centre	At monitoring evaluation	A Biodiversity Officer was appointed in 2023. The County Biodiversity Plan will incorporate

					the threat different invasive species pose to County Kilkenny.
Population and Human health	No further loss of population within Graiguenamanagh.	Total population within Graiguenamanagh.	Census	Next Census	The population of the Graiguenamagh ED was 1,834 in 2011, reducing to 1,811 in 2016. The 2022 Census was published in 2023. This showed the population of the Graiguenamanagh ED had increased to 1,860. The population of the town was 1,506.
Soil	No significant increase in number of landslides	Total number of landslides (3 recorded to date in Co. Kilkenny)	National Landslide Database	At monitoring evaluation	No additional landslides recorded for Kilkenny (GSI website accessed 4/10/2023)
	No significant reduction in peatland; total area not to reduce by 20% over 2012 CORINE level ⁹ .	Total area of peatland	Corine mapping resurvey	Unknown	CORINE 2018 is now available for Ireland. According to CORINE 2012, peatland amounted to 0.5% of total land cover in county. CORINE 2018 now shows this at 0.4%. This is less than the national reduction in peatland of 7% over the same period ¹⁰ .
Water	No decline in river water quality; no increase in percentage of sample stations in seriously polluted rivers.	Percentage of sample stations in seriously polluted rivers.	EPA Reports on River water quality	At monitoring evaluation	Most recent EPA report <i>Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021</i> was published in 2022 ¹¹ . This compared the Ecological Status of Rivers from 2013-2018 vs 2016-2021, and found that 44 had no

⁹ CORINE 2012 shows this at 0.5%

¹⁰ P.33 National Land Cover Map of Ireland 2018 Ireland Final Report

¹¹ https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/EPA_WaterQualityReport2016_2021.pdf

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					change, 8 had declined and 11 had improved.
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 most recent EPA report <i>Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021</i> ¹² noted the Upper Barrow Estuary and Barrow Nore Estuary Upper were in the top 6 water bodies with the highest dissolved inorganic nitrogen concentration. Additionally, New Ross port showed a significant upward trend in winter median nitrogen concentrations.
No decline in surface water quality; no decline in status of surface waters from current status	Status of surface water	EPA	At monitoring evaluation		The most recent EPA report <i>Water Quality in Ireland 2016-2021</i> ¹³ classified one river, the King's River, as Bad status, and 10 were classified as poor.
No decline in groundwater quality; no decline in status of groundwater from current status	Status of groundwater	EPA	At monitoring evaluation		As at 5/10/2023, groundwater is categorised as good throughout most of the county, with the Durrow groundwater body to the north categorised as poor.
No reduction in processing of waste water and treated effluent quality; no increase in number of	Number of waste water treatment plants that fail recommended EPA limits.	EPA	At monitoring evaluation		In the SEA, which was based on Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2018 ¹⁴ , of 35 plants listed, 3 were included in <i>Appendix A: Priority</i>

¹² https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/EPA_WaterQualityReport2016_2021.pdf

¹³ https://www.epa.ie/publications/monitoring--assessment/freshwater--marine/EPA_WaterQualityReport2016_2021.pdf

¹⁴ EPA, [Urban Waste Water Treatment 2018](#), 2019

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	waste water treatment plants that fail recommended EPA limits.				<i>areas</i> . This has improved; in the most recent EPA report, <i>Urban Waste Water Treatment in 2021</i> , no plants in Kilkenny are included in the Priority list.
	Improvement in treatment of waste water; Reduction in <i>Appendix A: Priority areas</i> (3 in 2020).	Number of urban areas around where improvements are needed to resolve our environmental priorities.	Kilkenny County Council Water Services/ Irish Water	At monitoring evaluation	See above.
	Improvement in quality of drinking water; Reduction in numbers of public water supplies on the EPA's Remedial Action List, from 5 in 2018.	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 Q2 of 2023, two public water supplies are still on the list; Kilkenny city (Radestown) and South Kilkenny.
	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	No additional mapping of source protection areas.
Air	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	According to Census 2023 ¹⁵ , a total of 19% of commuters used sustainable means of travel, down from 21% in 2016. This compared to 27% nationally.
	No decrease in air quality; no exceedances in Nitrogen Dioxide and Ozone.	Exceedances in Nitrogen Dioxide and Ozone.	EPA	At monitoring evaluation	There were 3 exceedances during 2023.

¹⁵ From Census 2016, a total of 21% of commuters used sustainable means of travel (cycling, walking, bus or train). This compared to 32% nationally, and for Co. Kilkenny this was a slight decrease from 22% in 2011.

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Climatic factors	Improved Climate Change Adaptation measures.	Implementation of Climate Change Adaptation Strategy actions.	Kilkenny County Council.	At monitoring evaluation	The Council's Climate change adaptation strategy was published in 2019. A Climate Action Plan for 2024-2029 is currently being prepared.
Material Assets	Increase in afforestation of appropriate woodlands; increase in proportion of mixed and deciduous forest cover over coniferous forestry, as compared to 2012.	Proportion of mixed and deciduous forest cover.	Corine mapping resurvey	Unknown	Of the total forested areas, the CORINE 2012 figures were broad leaved forests 11.7%, mixed forests 11% and coniferous 77.4%. According to CORINE 2018, broad leaved forests now account for 15.17%, mixed forests account for 12.8% and coniferous accounts for 71.9%.
	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 2015. Civil and electrical works and commissioning have been completed at the Ballyragget station and minor upgrade works (civil and electrical) are completed at the Kilkenny station. Remainder upgrade works will take place during 2023.
Cultural Heritage (architectural and archaeological)	Addition in number of structures listed on the RPS; increase in number of	Number of protected structures (887 in 2009, 1,302 in 2016).	Kilkenny County Council	At monitoring evaluation	As at 2023, there are 1,476 protected structures in the county.

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	protected structures over that listed in 2014 Plan.				
Landscape	No decrease in sensitive land cover; proportion of county comprising sensitive land cover should not decrease from 2012 level ¹⁶ .	Proportion of county comprising sensitive land cover.	Corine mapping resurvey	Unknown	CORINE 2018 reports that the proportion of sensitive land cover in the county is at 6.3%, a decrease of just under 1% on 2012 levels.
	No reduction in number of protected views. Increase or no change in the number of protected views over that listed in the 2014 Plan – 13 views in City and 32 in County.	Number of protected views.	Kilkenny County Council	At monitoring evaluation	There has been no reduction in protected views, and there are opportunities to open up new views through the development of the Abbey Quarter site, and to designate new protected views through the Masterplans for the Fair Green, Loughmacask and St. Canice's areas.

¹⁶ CORINE 2012 reports that the proportion of sensitive land cover in the county is at 7.25%.

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Table 4.2 Conservation status of Natura 2000 sites in Co. Kilkenny, updated in 2019									
Site Name	Site Code /Ref	Habitats	Conservation Status			Species	Conservation Status		
			2008	2013 (Trend)	2019 (Trend)		2008	2013	2019 (Trend)
Cullahill Mounta in cSAC	0008 31	Semi-natural dry grasslands and scrubland facies on calcareous substrates (Festuco Brometalia)(* important orchid sites) [6210]	Bad	Bad (stable)	Bad (deteriorating)				
Hugginstown Fen cSAC	0004 04	Alkaline fens [7230]	Bad	Bad (unknown)	Bad (deteriorating)				
Galmoy Fen cSAC	0018 58	Alkaline fens [7230]	Bad	Bad (unknown)	Bad (deteriorating)				
Lower River Suir cSAC	0021 37	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritima) [1330]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (deteriorating)	Margaritifera margaritifera [1029]	Bad	Bad (declining)	Bad (deteriorating)
		Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (deteriorating)	Austropotamo bius pallipes [1092]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)	Bad (deteriorating)
		Water courses of plain to montane levels with the Ranunculion	Bad	Inadequate (declining)	Inadequate (deteriorating)	Petromyzon marinus [1095]	Bad	Bad (stable)	Bad (stable)

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		fluitantis and Callitricho-Batrachion vegetation [3260]							
		Hydrophilous tall herb fringe communities of plains and of the montane to alpine levels [6430]	Inadequate	Bad (stable)	Bad (deteriorating)	Lampetra planeri [1096]	Favourable	Favourable	Favourable
		Old sessile oak woods with Ilex and Blechnum in the British Isles [91A0]	Bad	Bad (Improving)	Bad (deteriorating)	Lampetra fluviatilis [1099]	Favourable	Favourable	Unknown
		Alluvial forests with Alnus glutinosa and Fraxinus excelsior (Alno-Padion, Alnion incanae, Salicion albae)[91E0]	Bad	Bad (Improving)	Bad (deteriorating)	Alosa fallax [1103]	Bad	Bad (Stable)	Bad (Stable)
		* Taxus baccata woods of the British Isles [91J0]	Bad	Bad (Improving)	Bad (stable)	Salmo salar (only in fresh water) [1106]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (stable)
						Lutra lutra [1355]	Inadequate	Favourable	Favourable
River Barrow & River Nore/	002162	Estuaries [1130]	Inadequate	Inadequate (improving)	Inadequate (declining)	Vertigo moulinsiana [1016]	Bad	Inadequate (declining) ¹⁷	Inadequate (deteriorating)

¹⁷ According to p.142 of the NPWS Report, this is not an actual improvement.

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Barrow Estuary / Abbeyl eix Wood Comple x cSAC	Mudflats and sandflats not covered by seawater at low tide [1140]	Inad equate	Inadequ ate (improv ing)	Inadequat e (deteriora ting)	Margaritifera margaritifera [1029]	Bad	Bad (Declining)	Bad (deteriorating)
	Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand [1310]	Inad equate	Inadequ ate (declini ng)	Favourabl e (stable)	Austropotamo bius pallipes [1092]	Inade quate	Inadequate (stable)	Bad (deteriorating)
	Atlantic salt meadows (Glauco-Puccinellietalia maritimae) [1330]	Inad equate	Inadequ ate (stable)	Inadequat e (deteriora ting)	Petromyzon marinus [1095]	Bad	Bad (Stable)	Bad (stable)
	Mediterranean salt meadows (Juncetalia maritimi) [1410]	Inad equate	Inadequ ate (stable)	Inadequat e (deteriora ting)	Lampetra planeri [1096]	Favou rable	Favourable	Favourable
					Lampetra fluviatilis [1099]	Favou rable	Favourable	Unknown
					Alosa fallax [1103]	Bad	Bad (Stable)	Bad (Stable)
					Salmo salar (only in fresh water) [1106]	Inade quate	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (stable)
					Lutra lutra [1355]	Inade quate	Favourable	Favourable
					Trichomanes speciosum/Killarney Fern [6985]	Favou rable	Favourable	Favourable
					Margaritifera durrovensis	Bad	Bad (declining)	Bad (declining)

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						(Margaritifera margaritifera) [1990 – now 1029)			
River Nore SPA	004233					<i>Alcedo atthis</i> [breeding] Kingfisher	Amber ¹⁸	Amber ¹⁹	
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)	Bad (deteriorating)				
The Loughans cSAC	000407	Turloughs [3180]	Inadequate	Inadequate (stable)	Inadequate (stable)				
Thomas town Quarry cSAC	002252	Petrifying springs with tufa formation (Cratoneurion) [7220]	Bad	Inadequate (Stable)	Inadequate (deteriorating)				

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ BoCCI List 2020-2026 <https://birdwatchireland.ie/birds-of-conservation-concern-in-ireland/>

Summary

The conservation status of one species found within Kilkenny (white-clawed crayfish) and thirteen habitats found within Kilkenny, has declined. The conservation status of three further species (including the pearl mussel) has remained as Bad, with a deteriorating trend. The conservation status of one habitat has improved.

In general, in relation to the cases of decline, the NPWS Report²⁰ 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 2025, when the next Status report in this series is due, and that these challenges will be further exacerbated by the effects of climate change, particularly on peatland habitats and fish species.

Much will depend on the identification and development of necessary conservation measures and the elaboration of mechanisms for the delivery of these measures in the next 6-year period. In addition, the continuing implementation of national and EU legislation will have positive impacts. Many of these measures are outside the scope of the City & County Development Plan.

²⁰ NPWS, *The Status of EU Protected Habitats and Species in Ireland*, 2019

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 and energy infrastructure. Many of the indicators have shown no change since the Strategic Environmental Assessment was carried out in 2020.

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 Plan.