



APPENDIX  
1

SEA STATEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL REPORT



Carrick on Suir Town Council

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## 1.0 SEA Statement

### 1.1 Introduction

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 require that following the adoption of a plan or programme, the plan making authority makes a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement available to the public and environmental authorities. The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:-

- 1) How environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan;
- 2) How the Environmental Report, submissions and observations made to the Planning Authority on the Plan and Environmental Report have been taken into account during preparation of the Plan.
- 3) The reasons for choosing the Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with and,
- 4) The measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

An Environmental Report was prepared by the Planning Authority on the potential significant environmental impacts of implementing the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013 and full details of same follow this SEA Statement. The Environmental Report highlighted key environmental pressures in Carrick on Suir as follows;

**Water-** including the need for restoration of surface water quality in the River Suir in order to meet the targets set out in the South Eastern River Basin District Management Plan and Bathing Water Quality Regulations standards and remedial action required to address water supplies on the Remedial Action List (RAL).

**Biodiversity-** including maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the River Suir SAC, conservation of sites of local biodiversity interest, enhancement of ecological corridors and management of invasive species.

**Cultural Heritage-** involving the need to maintain and promote the historic core and link it to the town centre without affecting the setting of key sites of archaeological and architectural interest e.g. Ormond Castle. A key challenge for the architectural heritage of the town is sustainable and sympathetic reuse, regeneration and development of the built environment whilst retaining and protecting the distinctive character of Protected Structures and the Architectural Conservation Area.

**Human Health-** continued promotion of green routes and access to recreation and amenity areas.

## 1.2 Alternatives

The preferred alternative was the application of phased zoning, with lands zoned for Phase 1 to be developed initially. This option is based on the principles of sustainable development including accessibility and serviceability, a sequential approach to the town's expansion and the core strategy criteria. Phase 2 lands may only be considered for development after satisfying a 'justification test' and demonstrating that where infrastructural deficiencies exist (e.g. sewers, roads) that these may be overcome. Section 3.6 of the Environmental report set out further detail on consideration of alternatives.

## 1.3 Environmental Report and Submissions and Observations

Pre-draft consultation on the Plan Issues Paper and SEA Scoping Report was carried out between 10<sup>th</sup> February and the 10<sup>th</sup> April 2012. A total of 12 submissions were received during this consultation period including three responses to the SEA Scoping document for the Plan. These were from the EPA, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Department of Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht.

The EPA recommended that consideration should be given to inclusion of the following issues in the SEA of the Draft Plan:

- Protection of Water Quality- Water Framework Directive, surface and ground water protection, drinking water, wastewater treatment, water conservation
- Protection of Biodiversity- Natura 2000 sites, pNHAs, non-designated habitats, riparian buffer zones, green infrastructure and Invasive Species,
- Integration of flood risk assessment into the Plan to ensure appropriateness of land use and inclusion of SUDS technology
- Consideration of potential impacts of climate change
- Promotion of renewable energy and energy conservation
- Sustainable transport
- Sustainable Planning for tourism

Inland Fisheries Ireland (IFI) advocated the value of rivers and watercourses as natural assets and recommended that the Development Plan provides for:-

- River Management Policies
- Aquatic Habitat Protection- incorporation and management of riparian buffer zones along waterways
- Maintenance and preservation of urban watercourses and associated riparian habitats as natural corridors for fish and wildlife movement and amenity.
- Promotion of integration and improvement of natural watercourses in urban renewal and development proposals.
- Policies to ensure that developments do not lead to spread of invasive species
- Consultation with IFI on proposals for river crossings

Recommendations from the DoAHG included the need to address in detail the potential archaeological impacts of any proposed development. A detailed submission was given on nature conservation and categories of protected species and habitat types which need to be taken into account in scoping for AA and SEA. These submissions informed the policy direction of the plan and scoping for the Environmental Report, Please refer to Appendix 3 of the Environmental Report for a further detail of consideration of submissions received during scoping and their effect on the plan making process.

#### **1.4 Submissions to Draft Plan**

The Draft Town Development Plan 2013 and Environmental Report were put on public display from **23<sup>rd</sup> November 2012 to 11<sup>th</sup> February 2013**. A total of 24 submissions were received in relation to the Plan.

The EPA recommended inclusion of the following in the Environmental Report;

- a summary environmental sensitivity map,
- further detail on assessment of alternatives,
- Strategic Development Sites, further details on monitoring and responsibility roles.

The inclusion of additional policies on protection of groundwater resources, adaptation measures for Climate Change and promotion of green infrastructure and ecological networks was also recommended. Amendments were accordingly incorporated into the Plan and Environmental Report as per recommendations detailed in the Manager's Report.<sup>1</sup>

Amendments proposed to the Draft Town Development Plan including amendments to existing policies and zonings and insertion of additional policies and objectives were screened for SEA. The SEA matrix did not identify any significant negative impacts arising from the amended policies or proposed zoning changes contained in the Draft Plan. Positive impacts were identified in strengthening of Policy AH4 regarding incorporation of an ecological buffer zone" a minimum of 10m where feasible" and addition of protection of ecological corridors in Policy AH6.

The finding of "uncertain" impacts in the SEA Matrix from policies with proposals in proximity to sites designated for nature conservation or of built heritage value (Action TC3, Policy Tour 1, Actions T2, T5, Policies INF2, INF3, Action AH1) was considered appropriate to be more accurately determined at a lower level of environmental assessment largely through EIA and AA at the project level. With regard to amendments proposed to wording of policies no significant adverse impacts were identified in the AA screening as compliance with the Habitats Directive is required for implementation of policies that give rise to project proposals that affect the River Suir SAC (Policy AH5).

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<sup>1</sup> Available from South Tipperary Co. Council Planning Section

## 1.5 Material Amendments

Material Amendments and the Environmental Report including the amended SEA screening matrix were put on display from the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2013 to 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013. Submissions related to retailing use on light industrially zoned lands. No submissions were received relating to SEA and no changes were required to the Environmental Report arising from same.

A Direction by the Elected Members to provide for Convenience Retail on out of Town Sites zoned for Light Industrial use, could lead to competition with the town centre for footfall. This direction could result in conflict with policies TC1 and TC2 to strengthen the town centre.

The Environmental Report highlighted the need to balance tourism interests with heritage interests and identified uncertain impacts from objectives such as T5 and INF2 in terms of potential for impacts on the curtilage of Ormond Castle and the Strand Walk. This will need to be addressed at the project level involving archaeological assessment (given the statutory protection that applies to the site through the National Monuments Act 1930-1994 and Part IV of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)), landscape assessment and flood risk assessment.

## 1.6 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

Table 2 below details the relevant policy and section in the Plan that addresses the key environmental issues identified in the Environmental Baseline and SEA Scoping as informed by the consultation process at pre-Draft and Draft Plan Stages. The SEA process has ensured inclusion of policies and objectives for the range of environmental topics and demonstrates a wider policy direction for environmental protection as compared with the previous Plan. This is a reflection of the stronger legislative and policy context that has developed since preparation of the previous Plan (e.g. Water Framework Directive, Flood Risk Guidelines and Habitats Directive Assessment).

Table 2. Integration of environmental issues in Development Plan policies.		
Key Environmental Issue		Relevant COSTDP policy
Water Quality	Protection of Water Quality - Water Framework Directive, incorporation of objectives and measures set out in the SERBMP, -Surface and ground water protection, -Estuarine water resources and their associated habitats and species including fisheries, -Drinking water, -Wastewater treatment, -Water conservation	Policies INF 8,9,10, 11 & 12
	Integration of flood risk assessment into the Plan to ensure appropriateness of land use and inclusion of SUDS technology	Appendix 3 of Plan-SFRA



	Increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change	Policies INF 12 and INF21
	Increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change	Appendix 4 in the Plan - Policy Context includes the National Climate Change Strategy No specific policy on climate change. Section 6.10 of plan relates to renewable energy Section 6.14 relates to Flood Risk. The Town Plan will be implemented by the Planning Authority and the County Development Plan refers to Climate Change issues in the written statement.
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Protection of Biodiversity- Natura 2000 sites, pNHAS, non-designated habitats, riparian buffer zones, green infrastructure	Section 8.2.1 Policies AH 4- inclusion of 10m buffer zone where feasible Policies AH5, AH6 & AH7
	Invasive Species	Section 8.2.2 No specific policy but written statement highlights issue and intent to monitor and apply use of planning conditions where appropriate
	Consideration of potential impacts of climate change	As per above
<b>Air and Climate</b>	Development of traffic management measures	Objective TC1
	Sustainable modes of transport	INF4, INF5, INF6 & INF7
	Consideration of potential impacts of climate change	As per above
	Promotion of use of renewable energy systems	Policy INF 16 and INF 17
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Sustainable Planning for tourism	Policies AH3, Tour 1
	Protection of archaeological heritage of Carrick on Suir	Policy AH3

### 1.7 Monitoring Measures

Annual monitoring of environmental protection objectives and resulting impacts on them that may arise from the implementation of the Plan will be carried out by the Planning Authority and published at the mid-term implementation review ((Section 15(2) progress report) post adoption of the Plan. Data sources that will be used include, NPWS Article 17 Conservation Assessment Reports, EPA and Local Authority water quality data, OPW flood reports, EPA data on carbon emissions and Local Authority planning data. The measures proposed as part of the SEA process to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013 are detailed in the Environmental Report in the monitoring table.

## **1.8 Conclusion**

SEA assessment of the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan policies and objectives and subsequent amendments has determined that no significant adverse impacts are predicted from the implementation of the Plan.

The management of “uncertain” impacts in the SEA Matrix will be addressed in detail at the project stage through EIA (where relevant) and AA. These assessments will involve application of AA screening, landscape appraisal, archaeological and architectural heritage appraisal and flood risk assessment to accurately determine the impacts as a result of any development proposal. Uncertain impacts may arise as a result of objectives such as Tourism Action T5 and Policy INF2 in terms of potential for impacts on the curtilage and setting of Ormond Castle and the Strand Walk.

The finding of uncertain impacts on Natura 2000 sites through the Appropriate Assessment screening process (INF3) will be offset by policies AH 5 requiring compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive. The findings of the AA Screening Report were incorporated into Section 6.2.2 of the Environmental Report.

Positive impacts from the implementation Plan will occur through policies for water quality (policies INF 11, INF12 and INF19), biodiversity (policies AH5, AH6 & AH7), heritage (policies AH1, AH2 and AH3) and for population (TC4, Obj TC2, Tour 1 and T6) and human health (AH10 and CS5).

## 2.0 Non Technical Summary

### 2.1 Introduction

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a formal process that is being carried out in parallel with the preparation of the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan (COSTDP) 2013-2019. It is a valuable tool that informs decision making in the consideration of the COSTDP, improving the environmental sustainability of the COSTDP and raising awareness of the potential environmental consequences of its implementation so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether. It also gives the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment and how they were made.

In accordance with the legislation, a 'scoping' exercise was carried out to determine the range of environmental issues and level of detail to be contained in the Environmental Report. This involved consultation with the relevant Environmental Authorities:

- The Environmental Protection Agency
- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government
- The Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht
- The Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine

A review was carried out of Environmental Reports for the Waterford County Development Plan (CDP) and South Tipperary CDP 2009 – 2015 to inform in-combination effects. The main output of SEA is the Environmental Report, which outlines the findings of the assessment process. This is the Environmental Report for the COSTDP 2013-2019 that has been prepared in accordance with the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 and SEA (Amendment) Regulations 2011. This report should be read in conjunction with the COSTDP 2013 and the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening Report on the COSTDP.

### 2.2 Contents and Main Objectives of the COSTDP 2013

The COSTDP 2013 provides a medium-term strategic planning framework for the development of Carrick on Suir. The COSTDP 2013 was prepared under the requirements of Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) and provides for the proper planning and sustainable development for Carrick on Suir for the years 2013-2019 and beyond. It contains a written statement of the vision for the town which goes on to define specific policies and objectives for the town centre, economic development, infrastructure, housing, heritage and amenity and community and social and development management. The COSTDP 2013 was required to include a Core Strategy Statement showing that the development objectives in the Plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives as set out in the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines and the South Tipperary CDP.

## 2.3 Current State of the Environment

### 2.3.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The Suir waterway provides the setting for a range of wildlife habitats and species and the is designated a Special Area of Conservation (SAC). Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) are designated for their conservation value at a national level. Tibberaghny Marsh is proposed as a NHA. Sites of local biodiversity interest in Carrick on Suir include the Glen River area and the Duckpond. There are 11 groups of listed trees within the Plan area.

A key objective is the maintenance of favourable conservation status for protected habitats and species within the River Suir SAC i.e. alluvial woodland, Twaite Shad, Crayfish, Lamprey Species, Crayfish and Otter. Maintenance of an appropriate buffer zone along the riparian habitat and enhancing green infrastructure and ecological corridors between key sites of nature conservation value are also required.

The issue of invasive species namely the proliferation of Japanese Knotweed and Himalayan Balsam is a significant one along the River Suir that needs to be monitored to avoid degradation of habitats by alien plants.

An AA screening was carried out on the Draft COSTDP and the findings of that process are integrated into the Environmental Report. The AA screening concluded that incorporation of mitigation measures involving ecological assessment at project design stage will mitigate for any potential adverse impacts from strategic infrastructure projects such as river crossings and linear parks that may affect the SAC.

### 2.3.2 Population and Human Health

The Census of 2011 shows the population of Ireland increased from 4,239,848 in 2006 to 4,588,252 in 2011 an actual increase of 348,404 persons or 8.2%. Over this time, the population of Carrick on Suir increased from 5,856 to 5,886 i.e. increase of 30 persons. The population of Carrick on Suir accounts for 6.6% of the population of South Tipperary. Health issues relate to maintenance of good standards of water quality including drinking water and river bathing waters.

### 2.3.3 Water

According to the South East River Basin District Management Plan (SERBDMP), in order to meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive (WFD), water quality in the River Suir need to be restored. These requirements will be achieved with regard to Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive (Section 4.4.8).

The River Suir and River Lingaun are both currently classified as being of moderate status (Q3-4) in 2011 under the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) classification. The River Suir is identified as "being at risk of not achieving good status" under the WFD (adjacent to the Plan area) by 2015 while the River Lingaun "is expected to achieve good status". The Upper Suir Estuary is currently classified as being potentially eutrophic while the Middle and Lower Suir Estuary are currently noted as being eutrophic. As part of the Catchment Flood Risk and Management Study (CFRAMS), action plans have been developed of all water management units within the South Eastern River Basin District (SERBD) including the Suir Estuary. The WFD deadline of achieving good status has been extended to 2021.

Waste Water Treatment capacity is adequate for the town's population and involves secondary and nutrient treatment. Two of the water supply sources for the town (Lingaun and Crotty's Lake) are on the 2012 Remedial Action List requiring improvements in treatment for aluminium and determination of levels of Cryptosporidium respectively and are currently being addressed. Along with other areas in the county water conservation is an ongoing issue to be addressed with regard to loss of water supply through leakage.

The Carrick on Suir Flood Alleviation Scheme has addressed flood areas through the construction of flood defences along the banks of the River Suir and along the Glen River. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was prepared as part of the preparation of the Draft COSTDP 2013 and recommendations integrated into policies of the Plan.

#### 2.3.4 Air Quality and Climate

Air quality in Ireland is generally of a high standard across the country. Carrick on Suir lies in Zone D i.e. rural areas outside zones of urban conurbations.

Climate change impacts may present challenges to future land use and location of development in the Town. Predicted impacts from projected temperature rises include more concentrated periods of higher rainfall and more exposure to flood risk. A Climate Change Strategy has been prepared for County Tipperary by the Tipperary Energy Agency.

#### 2.3.5 Geology and Soils

Due to the town's location in a limestone area and along the River Suir soils mainly consist of mineral soils and alluvium. A SFRA was prepared as part of the COSTDP. There are no Geological Heritage Sites listed for the town.

#### 2.3.6 Cultural Heritage

There are eleven sites listed as recorded monuments including the historic town of Carrick on Suir protected under the National Monuments Act 1930-2004. The historic town includes medieval town defences and associated gates (site of), medieval religious buildings, castle sites, tholsel, medieval bridge and late medieval buildings. A Famine Graveyard occurs north of the railway line in Townspark. Carrick on Suir contains a fine stock of architectural heritage. There are 39 structures listed in the Record of Protected Structures.

The sense of place within the historic core of Carrick on Suir around Ormond Castle is considered an asset and a reference point for future growth and development. There is a need to physically link the area around Ormond Castle to the town centre. A key challenge for the architectural heritage of the town is sustainable and sympathetic reuse, regeneration and development of the built environment whilst retaining and protecting the distinctive character of Protected Structures and the Architectural Conservation Area.

#### 2.3.7 Landscape

Carrick on Suir's riverside setting makes it an attractive landscape for accommodating a range of competing land uses. The Ormond Castle area offers a strong heritage resource and a key site on the Butler Trail.

Future developments will continue to be required to be sympathetic to the riverscape in terms of design and building height. Further down river the corridor is dominated by stands of Japanese knotweed. Protection of the waterway corridor is desirable by at least maintaining if

not increasing areas zoned as open space/amenity along the corridor and ensuring integration of green infrastructure principles in development proposals along the waterway corridor.

### 2.3.8 Material Assets

Material assets are taken to include infrastructure and utilities including rail, road, water supply and wastewater treatment facilities. It also includes economic assets such as lands and water resources which support fisheries and tourism industry. National routes running through the town include the N24 Waterford-Limerick route. Waste Water Treatment Works are located at Ballylnch Lower and a water intake is situated along the Lingaun.

## 2.4 Existing Environmental Issues

Key environmental pressures in the Town relate to:

- Water including need for restoration of surface water quality in the River Suir required to meet the targets set out in the SERBD Management Plan and the need to address maintenance of drinking water quality standards at Crotty's Lake and Lingaun Water treatment supplies and restore bathing water quality in the River Suir. The need for ongoing works to maintain higher rates of water conservation is also recognised.
- Biodiversity including maintenance of the favourable conservation status of sites designated for nature conservation (River Suir SAC, Tibberaghny Marshes pNHA), management of invasive species, conservation of sites of local biodiversity interest and enhancement of ecological corridors.
- Cultural Heritage involving the need to develop links between Ormond Castle and the town centre with associated consideration of infrastructural needs of the visiting tourist such as access and parking for coaches. Proposals for new road /traffic infrastructure will need to be carefully balanced with the needs to maintain the cultural heritage value and setting of sites that may be affected by such proposals. A key challenge for the architectural heritage of the town is sustainable and sympathetic reuse, regeneration and development of the built environment whilst retaining and protecting the distinctive character of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Area.
- Human Health: maintenance of drinking water quality bathing water quality and continued promotion of access to recreation and amenity areas.

## 2.5 Consideration of Alternative Strategies

Alternative strategy options are explored in the main report along with the do-nothing scenario. Zoning options were reviewed in the context of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Carrick on Suir and proximity to sites of nature conservation value (Table 4.6 main text).

### Alternative Strategy Option 1- Continue with existing zoning in COSTDP 2008

A review of the previous COSTDP 2008 showed that the existing area of residential zoned land comprises 19.05 ha zoned for Phase 1 development and a further 70 ha zoned for Phase 2 residential development indicating adequate availability of zoned land for the medium-long term for projected population growth in the town and in consideration that the current population is lower than previously anticipated.

### Alternative Strategy Option 2- Review zoning and apply phased zoning

It is proposed to reduce the area of residentially zoned lands to 17.58 ha in Phase 1 and 18.03 ha in Phase 2 in order to satisfy Core Strategy requirements. The Council will consider new

residential development on Phase 2 development only where relevant criteria set out in the plan and the requirements of a Phase 2 Justification Test are satisfied.

Preferred Option- Option 2

The proposed phasing is based on the principles of sustainable development including the likelihood of sites coming forward for development, a sequential approach to the town's expansion where practical and the core strategy criteria.

## **2.6 Environmental Protection Objectives**

The Environmental Protection Objectives provide a standard against which the goals, policies and objectives of the COSTDP 2013 can be measured in order to highlight those with the potential for environmental impact. They are as follows:

### **2.6.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

B1: Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of national and local importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of ecological networks.

B2: Control the spread of invasive species to avoid further encroachment along the riparian corridor along the River Suir.

### **2.6.2 Population and Human Health**

P1: Facilitate a good standard of quality of life for the population of Carrick on Suir through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.

### **2.6.3 Water**

W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plan and reduce discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters.

### **2.6.4 Air Quality and Climate**

AC1: To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.

### **2.6.5 Geology and Soils**

S1: Protect the quality of soils in the interests of avoiding environmental degradation in water quality and biodiversity.

### **2.6.6 Cultural Heritage**

C1: Protect and conserve features of archaeological heritage and their setting.

C2: Protect and conserve and promote the sustainable reuse of architectural heritage.

### **2.6.7 Landscape**

L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the River Suir waterway corridor and Carrick on Suir's townscape and minimise negative visual impacts.

### **2.6.8 Material Assets**

MA1: Maintain sustainable access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.



## **2.7 Likely Significant Effects on the Environment of Implementing the COSTDP and Mitigation Measures**

The full matrix and assessment of the COSTDP policies and development objectives against environmental objectives is included in Appendix One of the Environmental Report.

Assessment of the policies and development objectives in the Draft COSTDP showed that overall, these policies and development objectives will not pose a significant adverse impact on the environment. Many of the policies and objectives are considered positive, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as water quality, landscape, heritage resources and management of flood risk. Due to the strategic nature of the plan some of the broad range objectives cannot be accurately appraised to infer a definite positive or negative impact and so have been assessed as “uncertain” as a lower level tier assessment will be more appropriate to determine the precise nature of the impacts involved.

The finding of “uncertain” impacts in the SEA matrix will be determined at a lower level of environmental assessment largely through EIA at the project level. These assessments will involve application of Habitats Directive Assessment, Landscape appraisal, archaeological and architectural heritage appraisal and flood risk assessment to accurately determine the impacts under the range of environmental headings detailed above.

The findings of the Appropriate Assessment screening process were carried through the Environmental Report and were addressed through the incorporation of amendments to Draft COSTDP policies as recommended in Appendix 1 of the AA Report.

## **2.8 Monitoring Proposals**

Measures were proposed as part of the SEA process to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the COSTDP and these are presented in the Environmental Report in terms of the achievement of the environmental protection objectives and the impact on the environmental factors that the SEA legislation requires to be considered. Measurable indicators are included and targets are set. Monitoring for SEA will be carried out as part of the overall monitoring of implementation of the COSTDP and using existing assessment frameworks such as the South Eastern River Basin District Management Plan and Article 17 Habitats Directive Assessment.



## **3.0 Introduction**

### **3.1 Background**

The objective of the COSTDP is to provide for the proper planning and sustainable development for Carrick on Suir for the years 2013-2019 and beyond.

The purpose of this environmental report is to identify and evaluate the likely significant impacts on the environment of implementing the COSTDP 2013.

### **3.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment**

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is defined as 'the formal, systematic and comprehensive process of evaluating the effects of a proposed policy, plan or programme or its alternatives, including the written report on the findings of that evaluation, and using the findings in publicly accountable decision making'.

SEA is a process for evaluating at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental quality, and potential consequences, of policies, plans or programmes and to ensure that any potential consequences are assessed during their preparation and the findings taken into account before they are adopted. Its overall purpose is to contribute to sustainable development. SEA is intended to provide a framework for influencing decision-making at an early stage; to improve the environmental sustainability of the Plan and to raise awareness of the potential environmental consequences of its implementation so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether. It also gives the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed on decisions that may impact on the environment and how they were made.

The SEA process includes the following outputs:

- Scoping Report – stating how the scoping responses of the environmental authorities were taken account of in preparing the Environmental Report;
- An Environmental Report (a report containing the findings of the SEA) on the likely significant effects of implementing the COSTDP 2013.
- A SEA Statement (identifying how environmental considerations and consultation have been integrated into the final adopted COSTDP 2013).

This is the Environmental Report for the COSTDP 2013 and has been carried out in accordance with Schedule 2B of S.I. 436 of 2004 and SI 201 of 2011, which sets out the information that is required to be included in SEA and Environmental Reports. This report should be read in conjunction with the COSTDP 2013 and AA Screening Report.

### **3.3 The Contents and Main Objectives of the COSTDP 2013**

The previous COSTDP was adopted in 2008 and same has been replaced by the COSTDP 2013. Under Section 11 (1) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 this Plan is subject to review and sets the context for the COSTDP for the period 2013-2019.

The COSTDP 2013 has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 and provides for the proper planning and sustainable development for Carrick on Suir for the years 2013-2019. It contains a vision

statement and strategic issues for the Plan. These strategic aims then form part of each of the chapters which go on to define specific policies and objectives.

The vision statement for the plan is;

*“To develop Carrick on Suir as a balanced settlement centred on a strong and vibrant town centre, to build on the location and heritage strengths of the town to develop a sustainable tourism industry and to support the wider hinterland from an economic and service perspective. To promote the town as an attractive settlement in which to do business, reside, visit and recreate in and to balance the demands of a vibrant economy with the need for a healthy and sustainable environment and to ensure the protection of the unique built, cultural and natural heritage of the area”.*

### **3.4 Relationship of the COSTDP with other Plans**

#### **International Conventions and Agreements**

Ireland has ratified a range of international agreements in relation to the environment. Such agreements place legal obligations on the State in relation to the conservation and management of our environment and heritage. Appendix 1.1 includes details on the International Conventions and Agreements ratified by Ireland.

#### **National, Regional and Local Planning Policy Context**

Details of the national, regional and local planning policy context and hierarchy within which the COSTDP and the Environmental Report are located are set out under Section 1.3 and Appendix 4 of the COSTDP.

## 4.0 SEA Methodology

### 4.1 Steps in the SEA Process

The Environmental Report is an important element of the SEA process. The report is generated from a series of distinct steps taken in the assessment of the likely potential impacts of the proposed variation being implemented. The steps taken in the execution of this SEA process follow the layout of this document, and are as follows:

1. Introduction to and familiarisation with the SEA process.
2. Setting out the Background to the COSTDP 2013-2019.
3. Consultation with the Environmental Authorities, the public and officials with a range of expertise within the Local Authority: Scoping was carried out with the environmental authorities prescribed in the legislation:- the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and the Department for Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and adjoining Local Authorities. These were all consulted in order to determine the scope and the level of detail to be included in the environmental report. A scoping document was submitted to the authorities to facilitate this consultation. A scoping report was prepared to show how the responses received from these authorities were taken account of when preparing the Draft COSTDP and Environmental Report and this is contained in Appendix 2.
4. Establishment of Environmental Baseline and Trends for Carrick on Suir: Baseline data were collected based on the information included in the scoping report as well as having regard to the requirements of the SEA Directive. The various factors used to describe the current state of the environment include biodiversity, population and human health, water, air quality, landscape, soils and geology, archaeology and built heritage and the inter-relationships between these factors. Much of the data were extracted from existing data sources.
5. Identifying significant Existing Environmental Issues in Carrick on Suir: This was facilitated by the various forms of consultation that took place as part of the SEA process along with review of the SEA of the South Tipperary CDP, SEA of the Waterford CDP and AA of the Carrick on Suir Waste Water Treatment works.
6. Drafting of Environmental Protection Objectives from regional, national and international environmental policy, consideration of the significant environmental issues facing Carrick on Suir specifically and from best practice.
7. The Likely Significant Effects of implementation of the COSTDP 2013 were established through the identification of conflicts between the policies and objectives contained in the Plan and environmental objectives (assessed in matrix format).
8. Where conflicts are identified, opportunities to prevent, reduce, or offset the adverse environmental effects can be explored and policies altered or augmented where necessary to address / mitigate the effects.
9. Where conflicts and consequent adverse impacts cannot be prevented, reduced or offset, mitigation measures can be proposed.
10. Reasonable and realistic alternatives strategies were considered regarding options for future land use zoning in the town in terms of amount of zoning and location.
11. Monitoring measures were identified in order to quantitatively assess the consequences of the identified impacts.

12. Consultation. The Environmental Report and the Draft COSTDP 2013 was made available for public consultation as per the statutory process provided for under the Planning and Development Acts 2000 (as amended). Along with prescribed bodies the documents were made available to neighbouring Local Authorities. Consultation was also be carried out with the NPWS to review the Appropriate Assessment Screening of the plan due to the location of Carrick on Suir on the River Suir SAC.

#### 4.2 Difficulties Encountered in Compiling the Required Information

The SEA Guidelines produced by the DoEHLG in 2004 state that the SEA process “does not require major new research”. As such, the Environmental Report was prepared and informed by many already available data sources including Environmental Reports from SEAs of the existing South Tipperary CDP and Waterford CDP. The COSTDP 2008 was not subject to SEA thus no previous Environmental Report or SEA monitoring report was available.

Data sources that were used include; research that was carried out within the Local Authority, by the Central Statistics Office, by the Environmental Protection Agency and WFD River Basin District Management Plans and also the Heritage Data that has been collated by the DAHG.

Difficulties encountered in compiling data include the availability of spatial data for human health. Table 3.1 details data sources used relating to the Environmental Protection Objectives.

Table 3.1 Environmental Protection Objectives and Data Sources

<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	<b>Data Sources</b>
B1: Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of national and local importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of ecological networks.	Good data available 2010 Heritage Audit of the River Suir  Data gap re status of Twaite Shad, Allis Shad and Crayfish in River Suir
B2: Control the spread of invasive species to avoid further encroachment along the riparian corridor along the River Suir.	2010 Heritage Audit of the River Suir Site visit
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	
P1: Facilitate a good standard of health for the town's population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.	CSO EPA water quality Data
<b>Water Resources</b>	
W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plan and reduce discharges of pollutants or contamination to waters.	Good data available- EPA water quality Data
<b>Soils and Geology</b>	
S1: Protect the quality of soils in the interests of avoiding environmental degradation in water quality and biodiversity.	Data available- GSI, EPA
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	
AC1: To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.	Climate Change Strategy for Co. Tipperary
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	

C1: Protect and conserve features of archaeological heritage and their settings.	Good Data available through Record of Monuments and Places
C2: Protect and conserve and promote the sustainable re-use of architectural heritage	Good Data available through Record of Protected Structures
<b>Landscape</b>	
L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the River Suir waterway corridor and Carrick on Suir's townscape and minimise negative visual impacts.	Spatial data on open space zoning
<b>Material Assets</b>	
MA1: Maintain the quality of, and access to, assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure	Details on public amenity areas available

## 5.0 Current State of the Environment

### 5.1 Introduction

Ireland's Environment 2012- An assessment, the Environmental Protection Agency's fifth state of the environment report provides an overall assessment of Ireland's environment. The overall conclusion of the report is that the quality of Ireland's environment is generally high but there are some key environmental challenges facing Ireland and these include;

1. Limiting and adapting to Climate Change
2. Reversing Environmental Degradation
  - Preventing eutrophication and other water pollution
  - Protecting natural habitats and species populations
  - Remediation of contaminated land
3. Complying with Environmental Legislation and Agreements
4. Mainstreaming Environmental Considerations

The Assessment states that Ireland faces formidable challenges in meeting international obligations on water quality, air quality, GHG emissions and waste management.

Remediation of unsatisfactory quality in groundwater, rivers, lakes and estuaries is one of the main environmental challenges. The Water Framework Directive marked a new approach for the protection and improvement of water resources. Commenced in 2009, a six year cycle of river basin management plans is being implemented for the purpose of protecting and enhancing all waters- groundwater, rivers, lakes, transitional waters (estuaries) and coastal waters including protection for related terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands. Carrick on Suir is covered by the South East River Basin District Management Plan (Section 4.4.10).

Biodiversity loss is a serious threat to the quality of Ireland's environment as habitat degradation and species loss are often irreversible. Many of Ireland's most important habitats afforded protection under the EU Habitats Directive were assessed in 2008 as having bad conservation status. Certain species particularly those of wetland and aquatic environments such as the Sea Lamprey, Crayfish and Otter are considered to be of poor conservation status while the conservation status of Twaite Shad and Atlantic Salmon is rated as bad (Section 4.2.4).

The provision and maintenance of sufficient infrastructure in the areas of wastewater treatment, water supply, flood prevention and control, renewable energy, sustainable transport and waste management is critical to ensure maintenance of a good quality environment. The following baseline details the current status of the environment in Carrick on Suir in relation to these issues.

## 5.2 Baseline and Relevant Environmental Problems

### 5.2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

The need to conserve biodiversity is underlined in the National Biodiversity Plan and Convention on Biological Diversity which Ireland signed and ratified in 1996. Conservation of biodiversity in Ireland is directed by the EU Birds Directive, EU Habitats Directive (transposed into Irish law by the Natural Habitat Regulations amended by SI 233/1998, SI 378/2005, SI 477

Birds and Habitats Regulations 2011 and the 1976 and 2000 (Amendment) Wildlife Acts. A Local Biodiversity Plan was published for South Tipperary in 2010 with the aim of maintaining and enhancing biodiversity in the county through raising awareness, addressing information gaps and developing best practice through policy and work practices.

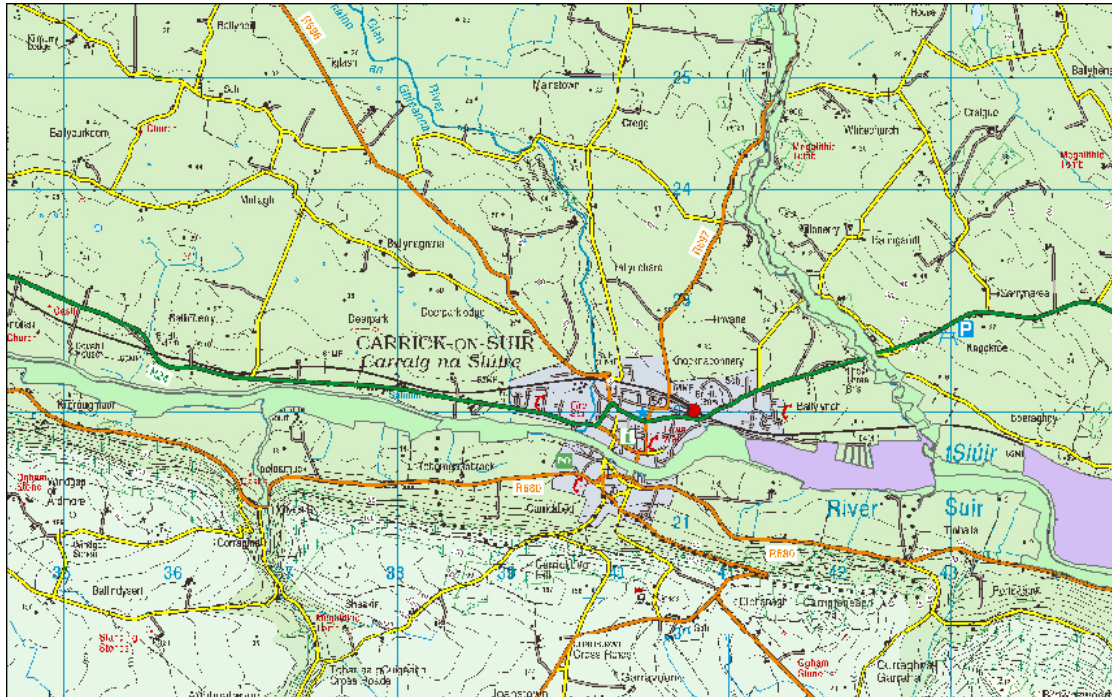
### **Designated Sites**

The Suir Waterway provides the setting for a range of wildlife habitats and species and the River Suir is designated a SAC. The SAC boundary includes the River Lingaun. This designation is in place to protect the favourable conservation status of habitats and species identified in the Habitats Directive e.g. Alluvial woodland, Eutrophic Tall Herbs, Sea Lamprey, Brook Lamprey, River Lamprey, Crayfish, Twaite Shad, Atlantic Salmon and Otter.

Alluvial woodland is an Annex 1 habitat listed as a qualifying interests for the River Suir SAC in Carrick on Suir. According to the NPWS site synopsis "Alluvial wet woodland is declining habitat in Europe as a result of drainage and reclamation. The best examples of this type of woodland in the site are found on the islands just below Carrick-on-Suir and at Fiddown Island. Species occurring here include Almond Willow (*Salix triandra*), White Willow (*S. alba*), Grey Willow (*S. cinerea*), Osier (*S. viminalis*), with Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*), Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*), Angelica (*Angelica sylvestris*), Pendulus Sedge (*Carex pendula*), Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*) and Valerian (*Valeriana officinalis*). The terrain is littered with dead trunks and branches and intersected with small channels which carry small streams to the river. There is a rich bryophyte and lichen flora. In the drier areas the wet woodland species merge with other tree and shrub species including Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*). This adds further to the ecological interest of this site. Eutrophic tall herb vegetation occurs in association with the various areas of alluvial forest and elsewhere where the flood-plain of the river is intact. Characteristic species of the habitat include Meadowsweet (*Filipendula ulmaria*), Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), Marsh Ragwort (*Senecio aquaticus*), Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*) and Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*).

Tibberaghny marshes, a pNHA to the east of the town is an extensive area of wetland on the northern floodplains of the River Suir covering an area of 370 acres and is of regional importance for its ornithological interest used by species such as Greylag Geese, Whooper Swans and Little Egrets. The site is comprised of very wet and undisturbed swamp, marsh and wet pasture. The main habitat is marshland colonised by reedbeds which support Common Reed and wet woodlands of Willow. There is also a fringe of deciduous woodland along the banks of the River Suir.





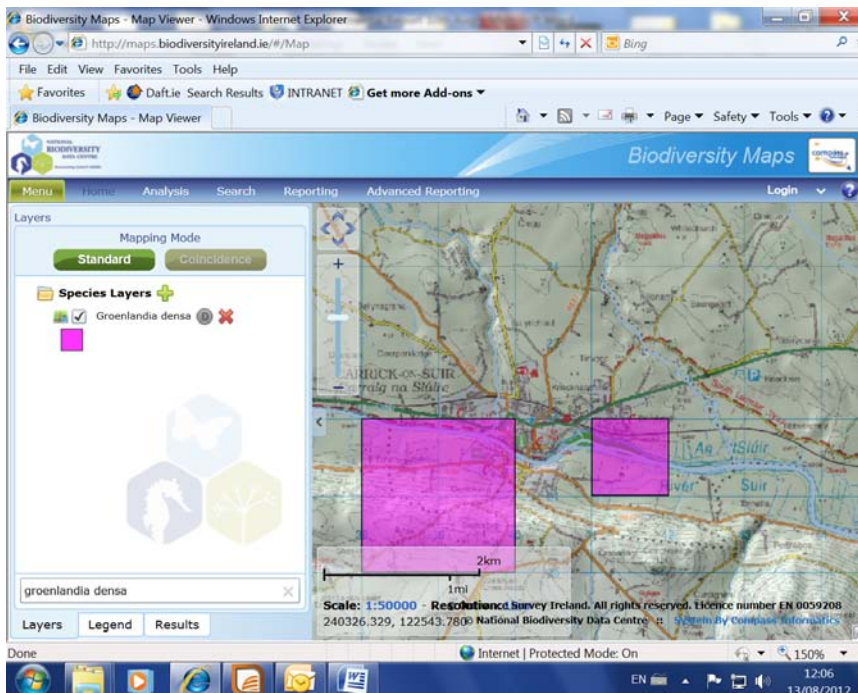
Map 1. Sites of Nature Conservation value in Carrick on Suir

River Suir SAC
  Tibberaghny Marshes pNHA

### Sites of local biodiversity interest

The Glen River flows through the western end of the town and is known to host a range of fish species. An artificial pond lies adjacent to the Glen River along Sir John's Road and is used by wetland waterfowl including Grey Heron and fringed by pond edge vegetation.

Opposite-leaved pondweed (*Groenlandia densa*) a plant species listed in the 1999 Flora Protection Order has been recorded in the Rivers Suir and Lingaun within the plan area.





## Map 2. Occurrence of *Groenlandia densa* in Carrick on Suir

Ecological corridors include the river bank, railway line, treelines and hedgerows which may be used as foraging areas by bats. The Old bridge and many of the older buildings in the town including houses, churches and warehouses may be used as bat roosts. All bat species and their roosts are protected under National and European law.

Bird species noted as birds of conservation concern in Ireland (BoCCI) that occur in Carrick on Suir include Black headed and Herring Gull<sup>2</sup>, Kingfisher, Mute Swan, Yellow Wagtail, Starling, Swallow and Swift<sup>3</sup>.

### *Aquatic Species*

Twaite Shad are known to occur in the Lower River Suir and migrate in May to spawning areas upstream of Carrick-on-Suir. According to Inland Fisheries Ireland, the main spawning activity of Twaite Shad seems to be concentrated along the North quays/North bank, i.e. from upstream of the Old Bridge in the town to at least 1 mile above this point and confirmed by local anglers. On the South quays in Carrick-on-Suir, IFI staff have reported sighting only limited numbers of Twaite Shad in the area along the quays.

The species is considered to be in serious decline on a national level. Without intervention, the future prospects of the Twaite Shad are considered poor and overall the conservation status of the species is bad.

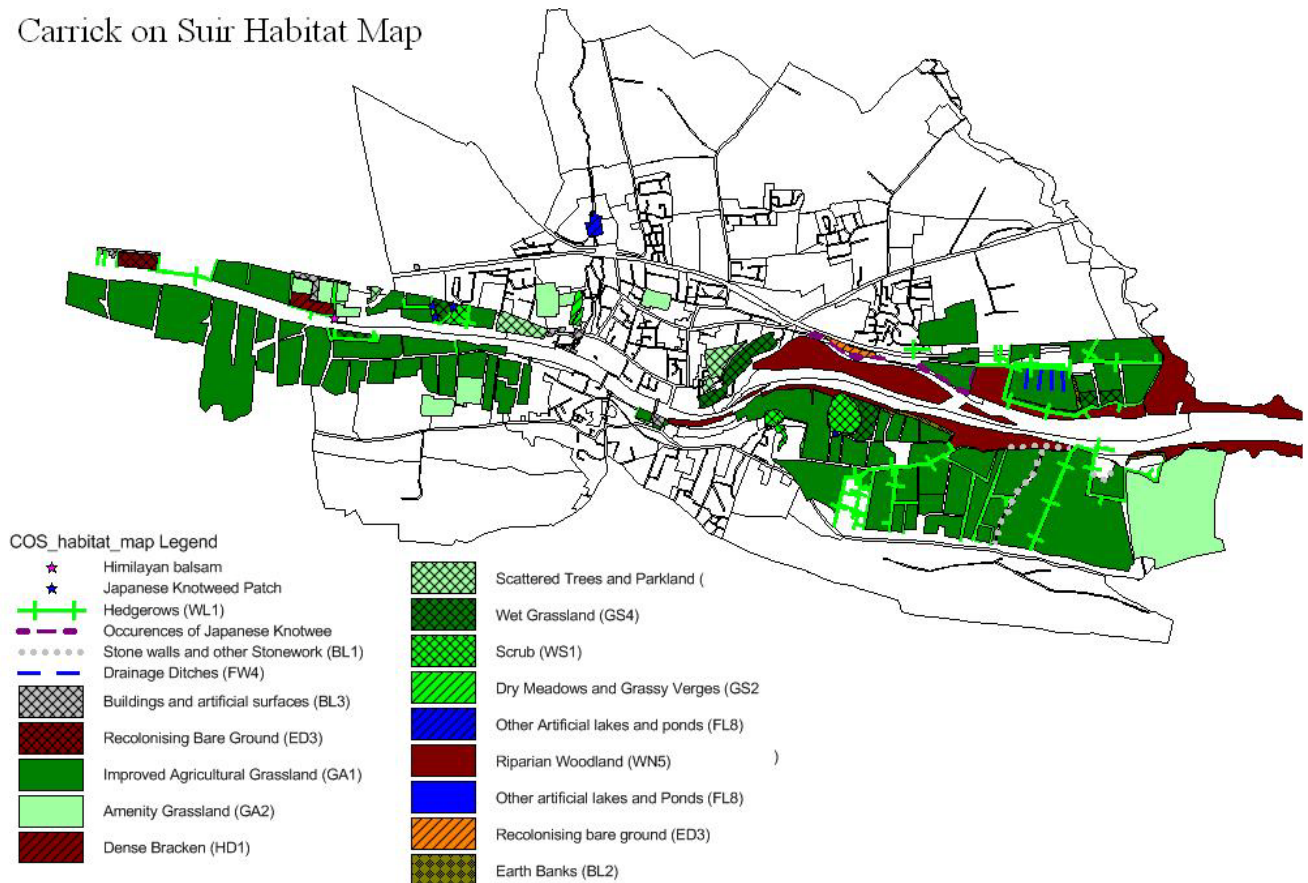
Three lamprey species, Sea Lamprey, River Lamprey and Brook Lamprey are known from the Lower Suir SAC. A survey of Lamprey was undertaken in the River Suir catchment by the NPWS in 2006. The survey reported that river/brook lampreys are presently at a favourable status in the Suir catchment. Sea lampreys have been observed throughout the Suir from Carrick on Suir as far up as the point of entry of the Nier (well above Clonmel). The status of sea lampreys in the catchment is unfavourable however. One commercial fish species, the Atlantic Salmon is also an Annex II species under the Habitats Directive.

Crayfish are also known from the River Suir and have been observed in the Anner River. In the NPWS 2004/2005 Otter Survey of Ireland the Suir is included in the list of the most important SACs for Otter.

<sup>2</sup> Red list BoCCI

<sup>3</sup> Amber list BoCCI

## Carrick on Suir Habitat Map



## Map 3. Habitat Map of Carrick on Suir

**Trees, Woodlands and Hedgerows**

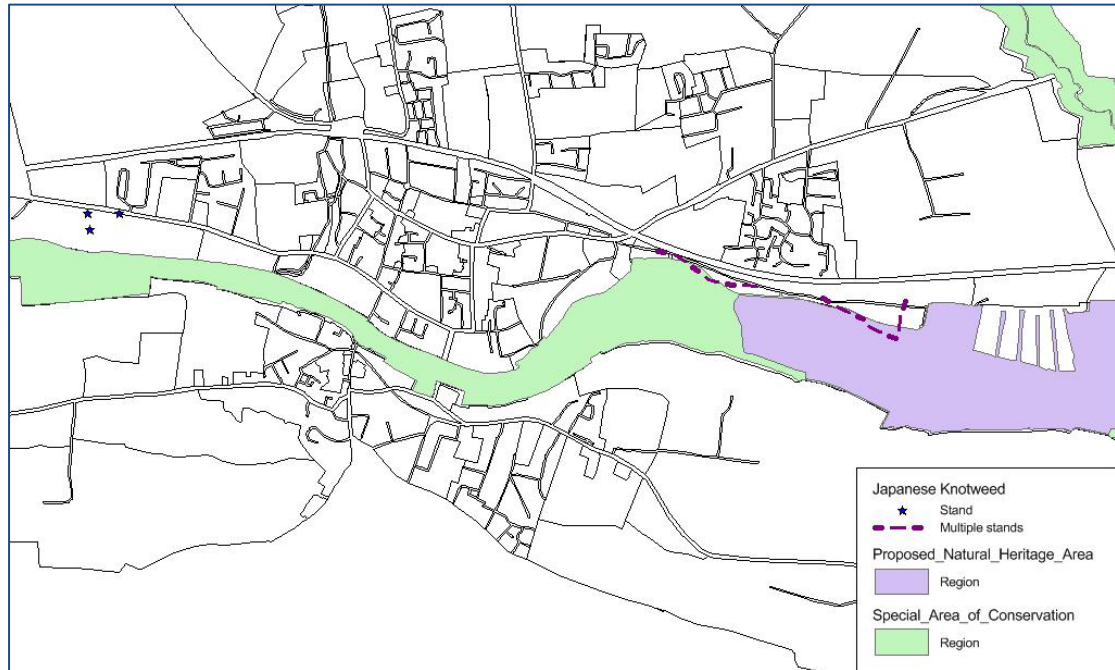
Trees provide great amenity value for the townscape and provide important ecological corridors connecting wildlife habitats. Eleven groups of trees are included in the Plan as listed trees.

**Invasive Species**

Invasive species represent a very significant threat to biodiversity, second only to that caused by direct habitat destruction. They do this by competitively excluding or out-competing our less robust native species, by preying on native species or by altering the natural aquatic or riparian habitat in which they reside. An invasive species of concern in Carrick on Suir is Japanese Knotweed occurring in large and dense areas along both banks of the River Suir and within areas of uncultivated ground within the town itself. Himalayan Balsam is also widespread and is of concern as it destabilises river banks. Within the wider plan area, Grey Squirrel is known to occur and is a threat to the native Red Squirrel by out competing for habitat and food resources. The presence of Pine Marten in similar habitats is considered to have some controlling influence on the spread of Grey Squirrel as indicated in ongoing survey work around the country <sup>4</sup>.

Under the 2011 Birds and Habitats Regulations it is an offence to aid the spread of invasive species. It is an objective of the South Tipperary Biodiversity Plan to raise awareness and promote the management of invasive species.

<sup>4</sup> NUIG and WIT/Waterford County Council MISE Project



Map 4. Occurrence of Japanese Knotweed in Carrick on Suir

### ***Existing Environmental Pressures/problems; Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna***

Availability of data on some Annex II species such as Crayfish, Twaite Shad and Allis Shad is poor but recent surveys on Otter and Lamprey indicate that they hold favourable conservation status in the River Suir catchment. A key challenge is the maintenance of favourable conservation status for all protected habitats and species avoiding encroachment of development on designated sites and sites of local biodiversity value, maintenance of appropriate buffers around these areas and also enhancing ecological corridors between key sites of nature conservation value.

The issue of invasive species is one that also needs to be monitored to avoid degradation of habitats by Japanese Knotweed and Himalyan Balsam. Carrick on Suir's location along a waterway corridor makes it susceptible as a vector site for introduction of new species.

On a national and local level, wetlands have been subject to a number of damaging activities that undermine their important functions. This includes arterial drainage, infilling, dumping and land development. Drainage of wetlands above .1 ha is no longer exempted development following amendments to the Planning Regulations in 2011. Drainage modifications may threaten the habitat diversity and water quality of sites such as Tibberaghny Marshes pNHA.

#### **5.2.2 Population and Human Health**

The Census of 2011 shows the population of Ireland increased from 4,239,848 in 2006 to 4,588,252 in 2011 an actual increase of 348,404 persons or 8.2%. Over this time, the population of Carrick on Suir increased from 5,856 to 5,886 i.e. increase of 30 persons. The population of Carrick on Suir accounts for 6.6% of the population of South Tipperary.

Availability of spatial data on human health on a local basis is limited however human health issues in Carrick on Suir may be generally concerned with quality of life which can be affected

by factors such as drinking water and bathing water quality and provisions for recreation and amenity in the town.

Crotty's lake is on the 2012 Remedial Action List (RAL)<sup>5</sup> for inadequate treatment of *Cryptosporidium* and monitoring is being carried to determine whether Crotty's lake is a low *Cryptosporidium* risk. The Lingaun river public water supply is on the 2012 RAL due to excessive levels of aluminium in the treated water. An upgrade to the water treatment plant to include improvements to chemical dosing arrangements is proposed to address this.

The River Suir does not meet the EU Bathing Water Quality Regulations standards in 2012 and thus life guards are not being provided and swimming is not recommended at present in traditional swimming areas along the Suir including Carrick on Suir.

Flood Risk is also a potential issue for the town and has been recognised by the installation of flood defence along the banks of the River Suir and the Glen River.

Carrick on Suir is well served by access to amenity areas such as the Townpark, Sean Healy Park, Fair Green and Castle Park. The East Munster way a 70km linear walking trail starts at Carrick on Suir. The River Suir Navigation extends from Carrick on Suir to Waterford Estuary and a 150m marina is provided in the town centre.

### ***Existing Environmental Pressures/problems; Population and Human Health***

Due to the flood alleviation measures carried out along the River Suir it is considered that flood risk does not represent a significant risk to human health in Carrick on Suir. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been carried out as part of the review of the COSTDP. Air quality is not an issue within the town but localised impacts from traffic in town centre such as larger trucks may leave room for improved traffic management.

#### **5.2.3 Water**

An overview of water quality in the south east is provided in the 2012 EPA report "Integrated Water Quality Report South East Ireland 2011".

The main findings of the report were that "water quality in south-east Ireland is generally of reasonable quality compared with the rest of the country- 62% of rivers, 97% of groundwaters, 45% of transitional and coastal waters, and no lakes meet the target of good or better status as required under the WFD."

The report states "the biggest threat to water quality in the south-east is from excessive nutrients-phosphate in freshwaters and nitrate in transitional and coastal waters. The main sources of these nutrients are wastewater treatment plants, run-off from agricultural land and contamination from septic tanks. Improvements in collection systems and reduction of nutrient discharges will bring about an improvement in the status of all water bodies in the south-east".

### ***Surface Waters***

Surface Waters in Carrick on Suir include the River Suir which is monitored by the EPA under Hydrometric Area 16. The River Suir is only sampled downstream as far as Carrick on Suir as the Lower Suir is an estuarine waterbody (see Section 4.4.6). Data extracted from the EPA

<sup>5</sup> EPA Drinking Water Remedial Action List Q1 of 2012

state “overall 2006 to 2008 were bad years for water quality in the upper reaches of the River Suir while the lower reaches near Carrick on Suir are now rated as Eutrophic”.

The most recent assessment of water quality in the River Suir concludes “overall, biological monitoring indicates an improving situation with 4 stations improving from Q3 in 2008 to Q3/4 in 2011. Dissolved oxygen was recorded as elevated at Coolnamuck Weir and station 2900 d/s Carrick on Suir.

Table 4.2 details summary of river water quality in the River Suir extracted from EPA Hydrometric Data.

### Overall Trend of Water Quality in Catchment 16 (Suir) since 1980.<sup>6</sup>

Year	Number of Rivers Monitored	Total Number of Sample Stations	Number of Sample Stations in each category			Percent of Sample Stations in each Category		
			Un-Polluted	Moderately Polluted	Seriously Polluted	Un-Polluted	Moderately Polluted	Seriously Polluted
1980	27	157	113	19	25	72.0%	12.1%	15.9%
1981	29	164	112	22	30	68.3%	13.4%	18.3%
1982	29	167	108	39	20	64.7%	23.4%	12.0%
1983	29	167	114	29	24	68.3%	17.4%	14.4%
1984	29	167	121	20	26	72.5%	12.0%	15.6%
1985	30	169	117	22	30	69.2%	13.0%	17.8%
1986	31	171	111	36	24	64.9%	21.1%	14.0%
1987	32	177	125	27	25	70.6%	15.3%	14.1%
1988	32	168	106	41	21	63.1%	24.4%	12.5%
1989	32	169	109	37	23	64.5%	21.9%	13.6%
1990	32	171	112	36	23	65.5%	21.1%	13.5%
1991	32	172	116	34	22	67.4%	19.8%	12.8%
1992	32	172	113	38	21	65.7%	22.1%	12.2%
1993	32	174	123	34	17	70.7%	19.5%	9.8%
1994	32	173	122	30	21	70.5%	17.3%	12.1%
1995	32	172	110	39	23	64.0%	22.7%	13.4%
1996	32	173	116	36	21	67.1%	20.8%	12.1%
1997	32	173	121	35	17	69.9%	20.2%	9.8%
1998	32	173	127	29	17	73.4%	16.8%	9.8%
1999	32	177	117	40	20	66.1%	22.6%	11.3%
2000	32	177	115	40	22	65.0%	22.6%	12.4%
2001	32	175	114	41	20	65.1%	23.4%	11.4%
2002	32	175	113	45	17	64.6%	25.7%	9.7%
2003	32	174	114	46	14	65.5%	26.4%	8.0%
2004	32	174	113	41	20	64.9%	23.6%	11.5%
2005	32	174	115	42	17	66.1%	24.1%	9.8%
2006	32	176	103	48	25	58.5%	27.3%	14.2%
2007	35	133	88	32	13	66.2%	24.1%	9.8%
2008	35	135	89	36	10	65.9%	26.7%	7.4%
2009	35	144	86	43	15	59.7%	29.9%	10.4%
2010	36	143	96	29	18	67.1%	20.3%	12.6%

<sup>6</sup> Integrated Water Quality Report South East Ireland 2011 (EPA).



2011	36	143	99	31	13	69.2%	21.7%	9.1%
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The River Suir and River Lingaun are both currently classified as being of moderate status (Q3-4) in 2011 under the EPA classification. The River Suir is identified as “being at risk of not achieving good status” under the WFD (adjacent to the Plan area) while the River Lingaun “is expected to achieve good status”. The Upper Suir Estuary is currently classified as being potentially eutrophic while the Middle and Lower Suir Estuary are currently noted as being eutrophic.

As part of the CFRAMS, action plans have been developed of all water management units within the SERBD including the Suir Estuary.

### ***Groundwater***

Carrick on Suir lies on a poor aquifer, land to the east overlies a regionally important aquifer in an area of moderate-high groundwater vulnerability.

Groundwater protection schemes have been prepared by the GSI in conjunction with Local Authorities aiming to preserve the quality of groundwater, particularly for drinking water purposes. A Groundwater Protection Schemes was prepared for South Tipperary in 1998 (amended 2001), which identifies the main sources for groundwater within the county and the vulnerability of such resources to pollution. The report outlines the geology, hydrogeology and groundwater quality within the County. The Local Authority have used this information to prepare interpretive maps, which facilitates planning and resource development in the form of a Groundwater Protection Scheme and associated Groundwater Protection Response Matrices. The main purpose of the scheme is to enable initial screening of potentially polluting activities.

### ***Drinking Water Quality***

Carrick on Suir obtains a water supply from the Lingaun Treatment Plant, Knocknaconnery Reservoir, Seskin Reservoir, Crotty's Lakes and a bore hole at Coolnamuck with a high level reservoir located at Coolnamuck and at the Lingaun reservoir located at a height of 40.08 metres O.D. All these sources feed into the water supply network, which is divided into low and high level zones that service up to a maximum of 82.02 metres O.D. The current water supply for the town is sufficient, however, there is a need for a high level reservoir.

The European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2), 2007 came into force in March 2007. In accordance with these regulations, the Local Authority must notify the EPA where there has been a failure to meet a quality standard.

The EPA publish an annual Remedial Action List (RAL) which details water supplies requiring improvement in water quality standards to ensure compliance with the Drinking Water Regulations. Inclusion of a public water supply on this list does not mean that the water produced by the supply is unsafe to drink but that some environmental criteria are unsatisfactory. The list is a working list with the possibility of supplies being added or removed as work is completed and further information becomes available.

Crotty's lake is on the 2012 RAL for inadequate treatment of Cryptosporidium and monitoring is being carried to determine whether Crotty's lake is a low Cryptosporidium risk. The Lingaun river public water supply is on the 2012 RAL due to excessive levels of aluminium in the

treated water. An upgrade to the water treatment plant to include improvements to chemical dosing arrangements is proposed to address this.

### ***Waste Water***

The town is served by the Carrick-on-Suir Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) which is located to the east of the town, north of the River Suir, approximately 500m from the N24 at Ballylynch Lower. The WWTP has a population equivalent of 11,000 and is currently at 75% capacity with a future expansion to cater for a population equivalent of 16,500 PE being projected for phase two. The sewage generated in the town of Carrick-on-Suir and its immediate environs is collected by a series of six interconnected pumping stations. These pumping stations, together with the gravity sewer network and rising mains, deliver sewage to the WWTP where it receives nutrient and secondary treatment. The discharge point to the River Suir is located at (E242255, N121343). According to the AA report on the Carrick on Suir WWT works prepared by South Tipperary County Council and submitted to the EPA, "monitoring of the River Suir at Station No. 2800 Coonamuck Weir U/S Carrick on Suir STW and at Station 2900 D/S Carrick on Suir sewage works during 2010 demonstrates that Carrick on Suir WWTP discharge is not causing any impact on the River Suir or the cSAC due to the level of treatment provided and dilution capacity (235 factor) of the river at this location. The discharge from the treatment plant is consistently of a good quality and the wastewater treatment plant is in compliance with the requirements of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive."

In relation to assimilative capacity "the main conservation objective that relate to the discharge from Carrick on Suir WWTP must be to avoid impacts from high BOD, Suspended Solids and Nutrients by proper treatment of the effluent before discharge to the SAC. Both the current physio-chemical monitoring data from the EPA for stations 16S022800 (upstream) and 16S022900 d/s) confirm that no deterioration in quality is occurring or is likely to occur subject to the plant operating in accordance with design specification. The receiving water is compliant with the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI 272 of 2009) downstream of the wastewater discharge. The nature of the discharge location makes macroinvertebrate community assessment difficult to access for health and safety reasons.

### ***Estuarine and Coastal Waters***

Monitoring of the Suir Estuary shows a decline in estuarine water quality with the Middle Suir Estuary now classed as Eutrophic and the previous unpolluted status of the Barrow/Nore/Suir Estuary now rated as intermediate.

Table 4.3. Estuarine and Coastal water Quality (Trophic Status) in Water Quality in Ireland

Site	Trophic Status 2001-2005	Trophic Status 2007-2009
Middle Suir Estuary	Potentially Eutrophic	Eutrophic
Lower Suir Estuary	Intermediate	Intermediate
Barrow Nore Suir Estuary	Unpolluted	Intermediate
Waterford Harbour	Unpolluted	Unpolluted

### **Water Framework Directive**

Article 6 of the Water Framework Directive requires each Member State to establish a Register of Protected Areas. These areas are considered to need greater protection because they contain sensitive habitats or wildlife species or the need to protect human health including drinking water sources, shellfish growing areas and bathing areas. Protected areas must achieve standards relevant to their designation which may be stricter than good or high status as defined under the Directive.

Table 4.4. Protected Areas under Water Framework Directive in Carrick on Suir

Protected Area	Total Designated Areas
Drinking Waters	River Suir and Lingaun adjacent to Plan area
Economically Significant Aquatic Species	N/A
Recreation and Bathing Waters	N/A
Nutrient Sensitive Waters	River Suir- west of the Plan area
Water Dependant SACs	River Suir
Water Dependant SPAs	N/A

Under Article 4.7 of the Water Framework Directive Member States will not be in breach of this Directive when— failure to achieve good groundwater status, good ecological status or, where relevant, good ecological potential or to prevent deterioration in the status of a body of surface water or groundwater is the result of new modifications to the physical characteristics of a surface water body or alterations to the level of bodies of groundwater, or — failure to prevent deterioration from high status to good status of a body of surface water is the result of new sustainable human development activities and all the following conditions are met:

- (a) all practicable steps are taken to mitigate the adverse impact on the status of the body of water;
- (b) the reasons for those modifications or alterations are specifically set out and explained in the river basin management plan required under Article 13 and the objectives are reviewed every six years;
- (c) the reasons for those modifications or alterations are of overriding public interest and/or the benefits to the environment and to society of achieving the objectives set out in paragraph 1 are outweighed by the benefits of the new modifications or alterations to human health, to the maintenance of human safety or to sustainable development, and
- (d) the beneficial objectives served by those modifications or alterations of the water body cannot for reasons of technical feasibility or disproportionate cost be achieved by other means, which are a significantly better environmental option.

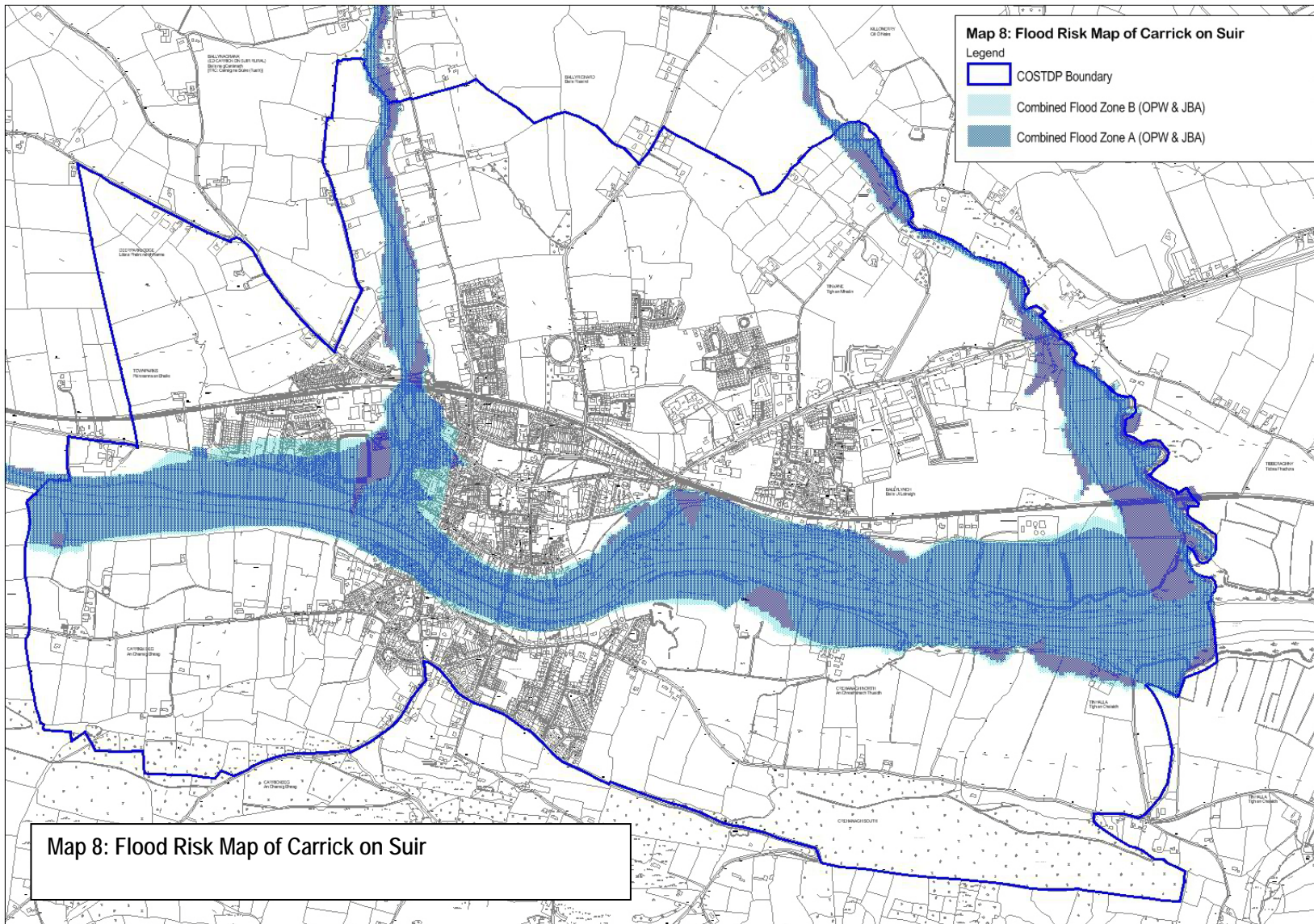
The Lower River Suir (Water Body Code 16 4135) is currently of “Moderate” status with the water quality objective set in the South East River Basin Management Plan to Restore to Good Status by 2015 now extended to 2021.

### **Flooding**

The main watercourse in Carrick on Suir is the River Suir. Carrick on Suir has a 1-in-50 year flood defence system with quay walls ranging in height from 1.2m to 1.5m. Currently the walls give protection from flooding caused by high tides. Map 8 present the Flood Zone Mapping for Carrick on Suir.



The OPW are currently involved in preparing catchment-based flood risk management plans (Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies (CFRAMs) with the relevant Local Authorities, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and other key agencies, providing an integrated and pro-active approach to flood risk and the mechanism through which predictive flood maps and Catchment Flood Risk Management Plans (CFRMPs) are being developed. These CFRAM studies will establish a prioritised set of flood risk management measures for their relevant areas, including the use of physical and management responses.



The South Eastern Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) study commenced in the South Eastern district in August 2011 and will run until the end of 2015. A pilot CFRAM study for the River Suir has been underway since 2007. The outputs of that study will be co-ordinated with the South Eastern CFRAM Study. A preliminary flood risk assessment was completed in 2011 to identify areas that need further assessment to determine their risk of flooding. The River Suir CFRAMS identified Carrick on Suir as an area of potential significant flood risk and it is indicated as a probable area for future assessment on the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Maps ([www.cfram.ie](http://www.cfram.ie)). For these risk areas, flood risk maps and flood hazard maps will be drawn up by 2013. Flood Risk Management Plans (FRMPs) will be developed by 2015.

### ***Existing Environmental Pressures and Water***

The Lower River Suir (Water Body Code 16 4135) is currently of "Moderate" status with the water quality objective set in South East River Basin Management Plan to Restore to Good Status by 2021. An extended deadline from 2015-2021 was sought and granted in the above plan.

Impacts to the receiving water i.e. the SAC from Carrick on Suir Waste Water Treatment Works are limited to the direct impact of the treated wastewater discharge and storm overflow discharges associated with the network.

Under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 a concentration of 2.6mg/l of BOD as a 95%ile and 0.14mg/l ammonia as a 95%ile must be met to enable 'good ecological status' to be achieved. Although the River Suir is not a designated salmonid water under the European Communities (Quality of Salmonid Waters) Regulations 1988 it is known to support Atlantic salmon. Since the water quality requirements of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 are more onerous than the water quality requirements set out in the salmonid regulations compliance with the former should ensure water quality requirements for the protection of salmon are met. Furthermore because the water quality requirements of Atlantic salmon are more onerous than the water quality requirements of lamprey and brown trout, compliance would also ensure the water quality requirements of all fish species supported by the River Suir are met. Similarly as the water quality requirements of the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 are more onerous for orthophosphorous (A mean value of 0.035 mg ortho-P per litre must be achieved) than the water quality requirements for floating river vegetation (0.06mg/l target concentration) so that compliance with the former should ensure the water quality requirements of the cSAC for floating vegetation are met.

Water supplies at Lingaun Water Treatment Plant and Crotty's lake require remediation to ensure exclusion from the EPA's Remedial Action List.

Water quality in the Suir requires to be addressed to attain Bathing Water Quality Regulations Standard.

Along with other areas in the country water conservation is an ongoing issue to be addressed with regard to loss of water supply through leakage.

#### 5.2.4 Air Quality and Climate

Air quality in Ireland is generally of a high standard across the country. Carrick on Suir lies in Zone D i.e. rural areas outside large conurbations and is in compliance with Air Quality standards.

Global climate change is now recognized as the primary environmental challenge of this century. The European Union is taking the lead in this regard with the adoption of climate changes strategies, including the Kyoto Protocol, aimed at reducing the level of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. Under the Kyoto Protocol, the EU has agreed to reduce its GHG emissions by an overall 8%. Ireland's target in the EU "burden sharing" agreement is to limit increases to 13% above 1990 levels by 2008-2012. For the period beyond 2012, the EU Council of Ministers has committed to achieving at least a 20% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020 compared to 1990 levels.

To ensure Ireland reaches its target under the Kyoto Protocol the Government published a reviewed National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012. Policy statements such as the White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland sets out the Government's Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 to deliver a sustainable energy future for Ireland. Local Authorities are working in collaboration with their local energy agencies to implement Climate Change Strategies at local level and a County Climate Change Strategy was prepared by the Tipperary Energy Agency in 2007.

#### *Existing environmental pressures air and climate*

Currently there are no significant concerns with regard to air quality in Carrick on Suir. However climate change impacts may present challenges to future land use and location of development in the Town. Predicted impacts from projected temperature rises include more concentrated periods of higher rainfall and more exposure to flood risk. A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared as part of the COSTDP review and site specific FRAs will be required for all developments that occur within Flood Zones A and B. The COSTDP 2013 includes policies for promotion of sources of renewable energy which serve to contribute to national objectives for these targets.

#### 5.2.5 Geology and Soils

Carrick on Suir stands on a bedrock of limestone along the alluvial flats of the River Suir. There are no geological heritage sites within the plan area. Geology shapes the landscape and determines the overlying soil types and vegetation. The principal soils to be found around Carrick on Suir are mineral soils, acid brown earths and alluvial soils along the river. There are no licensed waste facilities within the COSTDP area. IPPC licenced sites within the environs of Carrick on Suir include Merck Sharp and Dohme, Foran's piggery and de Vere Hunt. A landfill operated to the south of the River Suir in Carrick Beg but has been closed since before 2000. It is an objective of the Town Development Plan to install a cordon sanitaire around the historic landfill site.

#### *Existing Environmental Pressures and Soils and Geology*

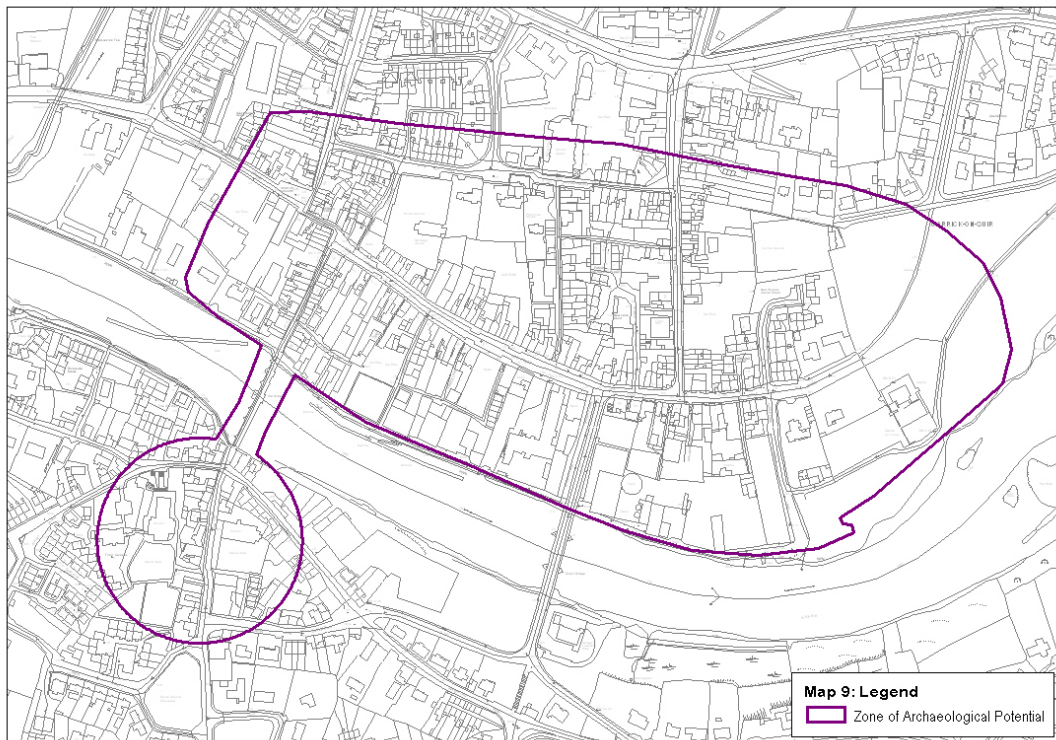
According to the Suir Estuary Water Management Unit Action Plan included in the CFRAMS there are no waterbodies at risk from dangerous substances within the WMU. It is an objective of the plan to install a cordon sanitaire around the historic landfill site.

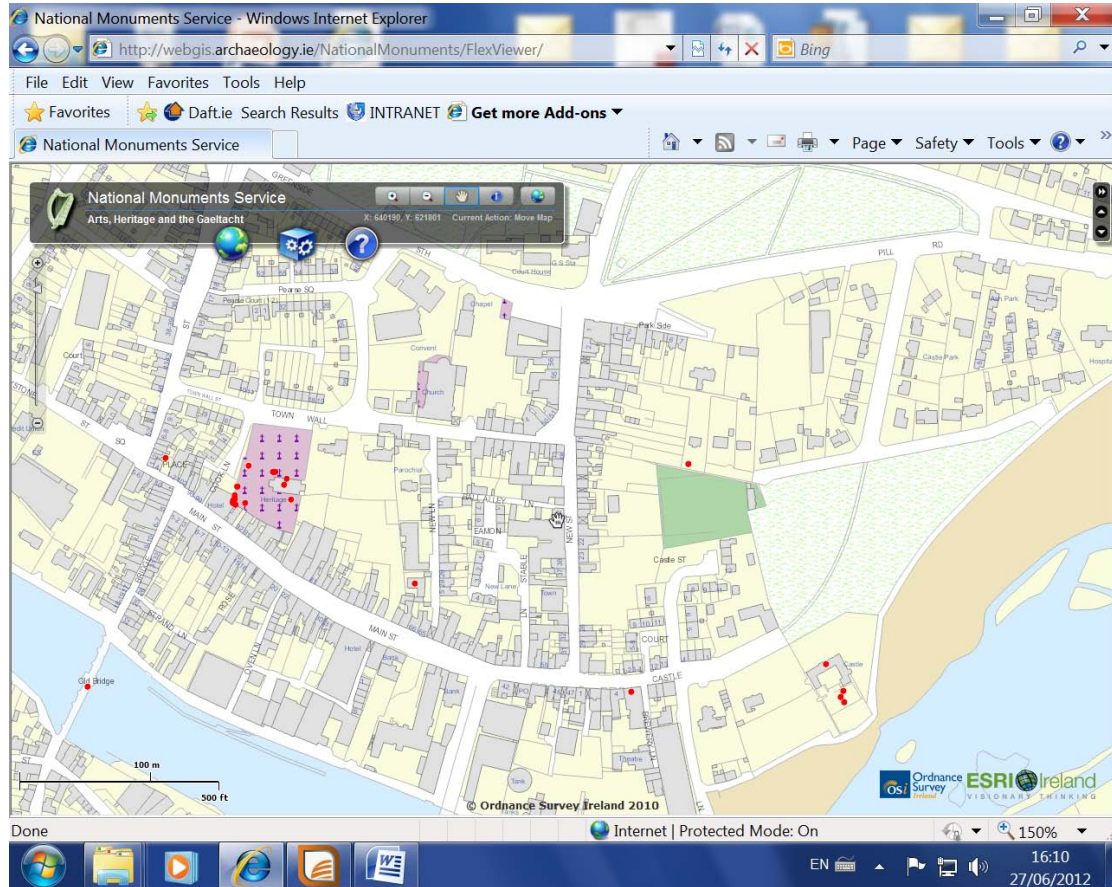


## 5.2.6 Cultural Heritage

### *Archaeological Heritage*

The historic town of Carrick on Suir is a Recorded Monument protected under the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. The historic town includes medieval town defences and associated gates (site of), medieval religious buildings, castle sites, tholsel, medieval bridge and late medieval buildings. Ormond Castle (built in 1560), is a rare survival of a Tudor house with many original features intact, including decorative internal plaster and is a national monument open to the public under the management of the OPW. Details of archaeological sites are available on [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie).





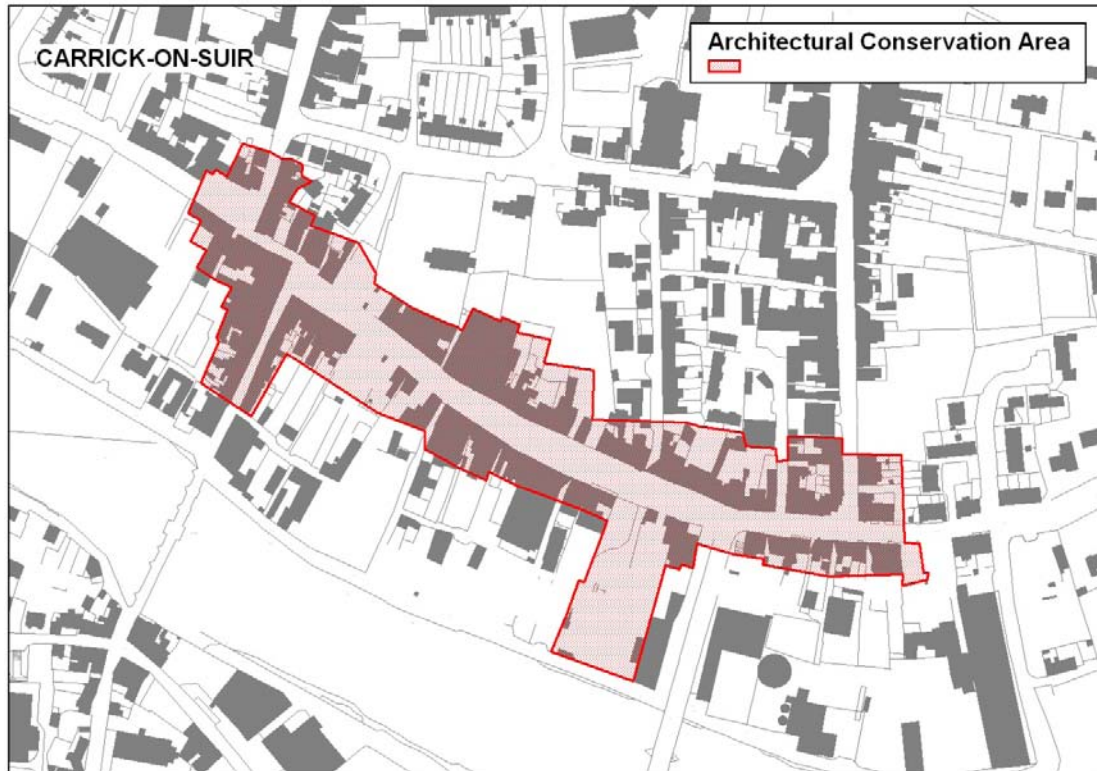
**Map 10. Archaeological sites and monuments in Carrick on Suir (extract from [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie))**

The Butler Trail stretches over 38km from Carrick on Suir through Clonmel and to Cahir. Each town has a strong connection with the river flowing through it and with the Butler family who have influenced their development over several hundred years. A famine graveyard linked to the former workhouse is known from near the level crossing along the railway track in the townland of Townparks.

### ***Architectural Heritage***

Carrick on Suir contains a fine stock of architectural heritage including the Town Hall, Old bridge and buildings along Main St. There are 39 Protected Structures listed in the COSTDP 2013. The area of Main Street, West Gate, Sean Kelly Square and parts of Bridge Street, New Street and Castle Street is designated an Architectural Conservation Area.

Tipperary has been surveyed under the National Inventory of Architectural Heritage and an inventory of architectural heritage was published by the DoEHLG in 2007.



**Map 11. Architectural Conservation Area in Carrick on Suir**

### ***Existing environmental pressures/ Cultural Heritage***

The maintenance and conservation of the town's Cultural Heritage is key in order to maintain an irreplaceable resource, sense of identity for the town and as a source of visitor interest and tourism revenue. The sense of place within the historic core around Ormond Castle is an asset and a reference point for future growth and development. There is a need to physically link the historic area with the town centre with associated consideration of infrastructural needs of the visiting tourist such as access and parking for coaches. Proposals for new road /traffic infrastructure will need to be carefully balanced with the needs to maintain the cultural heritage value and setting of sites that may be affected by such proposals. A key challenge for the architectural heritage of the town is sustainable and sympathetic reuse, regeneration and development of the built environment whilst retaining and protecting the distinctive character of Protected Structures and the Architectural Conservation Area.

### **5.2.7 Landscape**

The landscape of the Plan area include urban, peri-urban and the rural landscape in the wider plan area. The town's riverside setting is important to Carrick on Suir's developing tourism. The East Munster way a 70km linear walking trail starts at Carrick on Suir. Views listed for protection are south from the N24 towards uplands, along Clonmel Road and Pill Road and views north towards Ormond Castle and Sliabh na mBan. The town is surrounded by pastoral and arable agricultural land. Areas of plantation forestry occur to the south of the town in Crehanagh and at Seskin.



**Existing environmental pressures/ Landscape**

The town’s riverside setting makes it an attractive landscape for accommodating a range of competing land uses. Future developments will continue to be required to be sympathetic to the riverscape in terms of design and building height. Further down river the corridor is lined by invasive species which needs to be addressed. Recognition and protection of this waterway corridor is desirable by at least maintaining if not increasing areas zoned as open space/amenity along the corridor and ensuring integration of green infrastructure principles in development proposals along the waterway corridor.

**5.2.8 Material Assets**

Material assets is taken to include infrastructure and utilities including rail, road, water supply electric grid, gas network and wastewater treatment facilities. A 110 kv line runs 4km south of Carrick on Suir connecting Cahir with Waterford City. Carrick on Suir is served by a gas pipeline running from Clonmel to Waterford.

Carrick on Suir is served by a train station on Cregg Road. It has a weekday passenger service of three trains to Limerick Junction and three to Waterford. There is no Sunday service

National routes running though the town include the N24 Waterford-Limerick route. There is a proposal for a Carrick on Suir By-pass and this route is outside the town plan area to the north of the town.

Water treatment works are located at Tinvane along the Lingaun River.

**Existing environmental pressures/ Material Assets**

Protection of the carrying capacity and the strategic transport function of the N24 is an objective of the COSTDP 2013.

**5.3 Interrelationships between the above environmental factors**

The interrelationships between the range of environmental topics is an important consideration in the environmental assessment. Table 4.10 below indicates the interrelationships identified between the environmental topics in this assessment. Green Infrastructure is now recognised as an important concept in land use planning and environmental protection. It relates to the network of open spaces, parks, gardens, green corridors, woodlands, waterways and urban tree lines. Green space and biodiversity provide environmental, social, economic and physical benefits and give added value for quality of life and flood attenuation where integrated in the development process.

**Table 4.5 Inter-Relationships between Environmental Topics**

Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	√					
Population/ Human Health	√	√				
Soil/Geology	√	√	√			
Water	√	√	√	√		
Air	√	√	√	X	√	
Climate	√	√	√	√	√	√



Material Assets	√	√	√	√	X	√	√		
Cultural Heritage	X	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	
Landscape	√	√	√	√	X	X	√	√	√
	Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna	Population/ Human Health	Soil	Water	Air	Climate	Material Assets	Cultural Heritage	Landscape

#### 5.4 Evolution of the Environment in the absence of the Plan (Do Nothing Scenario)

Under Section 10 (2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended) this Plan is subject to review and thus the absence of a review of the previous COSTDP 2008 would not be in compliance with statutory obligations under the Planning Acts.

#### 5.5 Conclusion – Significant Environmental Issues

In summary, key environmental pressures in the town relate to:

**Water** including restoration of surface water quality in the River Suir required to meet the targets set out in the SE River Basin District Management Plan and Bathing Water Quality Regulations standards and remedial action to address water supplies on the RAL.

**Biodiversity** including maintenance of the favourable conservation status of the River Suir SAC, conservation of sites of local biodiversity interest, enhancement of ecological corridors and management of invasive species.

**Cultural Heritage** involving the need to maintain and promote the historic core and link it to the town centre without affecting the setting of key sites of archaeological and architectural interest e.g. Ormond Castle. A key challenge for the architectural heritage of the town is sustainable and sympathetic reuse, regeneration and development of the built environment whilst retaining and protecting the distinctive character of Protected Structures and the Architectural Conservation Area.

**Human Health**- continued promotion of green routes and access to recreation and amenity areas.

#### 5.6 Consideration of Alternative Strategies

It is required in the legislation that the Environmental Report must consider “reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme” and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives selected.

Alternative strategies that were considered are outlined below.

##### Alternative Strategy Option 1- Continue with existing zoning in the COSTDP 2008

A review of the COSTDP 2008 showed that the existing area of residential zoned land comprises 19.05 ha zoned for Phase 1 development and a further 70 ha zoned for phase 2 residential development indicating adequate availability of zoned land for the medium-long term

for projected population growth in the town and in consideration that the current population is lower than previously anticipated.

**Alternative Strategy Option 2- Review zoning and apply phased zoning**

It is proposed to reduce the area of residentially zoned lands to 17.58 ha in Phase 1 and 18.03 ha in Phase 2 in order to satisfy Core Strategy requirements. The Council will consider new residential development on Phase 2 development only where relevant criteria set out in the plan a Phase 2 Justification Test are satisfied.

**Preferred Option- Option 2**

The proposed phasing is based on the principles of sustainable development including the likelihood of sites coming forward for development, a sequential approach to the town's expansion where practical and the core strategy criteria. Phase 2 lands to the south of the town are adjacent to the River Suir SAC. Phase 2 lands in the north west of the town are adjacent to and encroach on an area of flood risk so it is preferable that these lands are not prioritised for development as Phase 1 lands. Phase 2 lands (18.03 ha) may be considered for development providing that development proposals satisfy a core strategy justification and where applicable satisfactorily demonstrate that where infrastructural deficiencies exist (e.g. sewers, roads) that these have been addressed to facilitate the development.

## **6.0 Environmental Protection Objectives Relevant to the COSTDP 2013**

### **6.1 Introduction**

The use of environmental protection objectives fulfils obligations set out in Section F, Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The environmental protection objectives are distinct from the COSTDP objectives and provide a standard against which the policies and objectives of the COSTDP can be measured in order to highlight those with the potential for environmental impact. They are used as a tool to cross check the policies of the Plan in order to maximise the environmental sustainability of the Plan. The cross checking process will help identify policies that will be likely to result in significant adverse impacts, so that alternatives may be considered or mitigation measures may be put in place.

The environmental protection objectives for the Plan were generated from European, National and Regional Policy and Guidance. Sample objectives are given in Table 4B of the SEA Guidelines produced by the DoEHLG in 2004 and these were amended to reflect the specific issues that were considered relevant to the Draft Plan and the range of issues that are significant within Carrick on Suir. The scoping process informed the generation of appropriate objectives. The objectives are set out below, under a range of headings, which were taken from the SEA Regulations and the DoEHLG guidelines.

### **6.2 Environmental Protection Objectives**

#### **6.2.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna**

B1: Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of national and local importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of ecological networks.

B2: Control the spread of invasive species to avoid further encroachment along the riparian corridor along the River Suir.

#### **6.2.2 Population and Human Health**

P1: Facilitate a good standard of quality of life for Carrick on Suir's population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.

#### **6.2.3 Water**

W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plan and reduce discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters.

#### **6.2.4 Air Quality and Climate**

AC1: To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources.

#### **6.2.5 Geology and Soils**

S1: Protect the quality of soils in the interests of avoiding environmental degradation in water quality and biodiversity.

### 6.2.6 Cultural Heritage

C1: Protect and conserve features of archaeological heritage and their setting.

C2: Protect and conserve and promote the sustainable reuse of architectural heritage.

### 6.2.7 Landscape

L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the River Suir waterway corridor and Carrick on Suir's townscape and minimise negative visual impacts.

### 6.2.8 Material Assets

MA1: Maintain sustainable access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.

## 6.3 Use of Environmental Protection Objectives

The above Environmental Protection Objectives have been used to carry out the SEA in accordance with the legislation. They provide a standard against which the policies of the Draft COSTDP were measured for their environmental sustainability. A crosschecking process was used whereby the Draft COSTDP policies and development objectives were proofed against the Environmental Protection Objectives so that any policies/development objectives with the potential for significant adverse environmental impacts were highlighted in addition to significant positive impacts. Alternative strategic options were considered and mitigation measures proposed to counteract any adverse environmental effects identified, thereby maximising the environmental sustainability of the COSTDP 2013.

## 7.0 SEA of COSTDP 2013

### 7.1 Methodology for Assessment and Determination of Significance of Effects

Matrices are the mechanism by which conflicts or potential conflicts between the policies of the Draft COSTDP and the strategic environmental objectives were identified. These matrices are provided in Appendix 1.1 to this Environmental Report. The likely significant effects that the policies contained in the Draft COSTDP and proposed amendments could have on the environment were identified in this process.

Each strategic policy and objective proposed in the Draft Plan and proposed amendment was assessed against the agreed SEA objectives.

The Draft produced was then formally assessed using the matrix (see Appendix 1.1). The assessment of each was assigned a symbol;

- + Significant beneficial impact
- ? Uncertain impact
- X Significant Adverse impact
- O No relationship, or insignificant impact

Evaluation of significance requires consideration of various questions, which will establish the importance, or "significance", of the predicted impact:

1. Will the policies and objectives in the Draft COSTDP lead to a risk of environmental standards being breached?
2. Could it lead to failure to achieve environmental policies or targets?
3. Will it affect environmental resources, which are protected by laws or policies, e.g. Natura 2000 habitats, species, landscapes, water resources, agricultural resources and cultural heritage sites, etc.?
4. Could it lead to impacts on environmental resources, which, although not legally protected, are important or valuable?

As a follow on from the preparation and evaluation of the previous sections of the report, i.e. baseline data and trends, existing significant issues, environmental vulnerabilities, the above questions were considered in determining significance of environmental effects identified. Suggested alternatives, mitigation, and offsetting, to any potential adverse significant effects were identified and amendments recommended to the Draft COSTDP 2013 where required.

### 7.2 Summary of Likely Significant Effects of Implementing the COSTDP 2013 on the Environment and Measures Proposed to Prevent, Reduce or Offset

#### 7.2.1 Introduction

The full matrix and assessment of policies against environmental objectives is included in Appendix One of this report. A summary of the outcome of this assessment is provided in this section.

In accordance with the legislation, the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Draft COSTDP 2013 and proposed amendments are summarised under headings that include all of the issues required to be covered.

The previous COSTDP 2008 was not subject to SEA. Preparation of the COSTDP 2013 was required to be executed within a much stronger environmental policy and legislative context than the previous Plan e.g. the WFD River Basin District Management Plans, the requirement for Flood Risk Assessment and Appropriate Assessment, Water Quality Regulations, the National Climate Change Strategy and the Regional Planning Guidelines. Thus, it is to be expected in accordance with best practice that the policies and objectives of the Plan would comply with environmental standards and incorporate environmental considerations at the earliest stage. This is in contrast to plans that were subject to SEA the first time round where significant amendments were identified as being required to ensure environmental compliance in land use zonings policies and objectives at the Draft Plan Stage.

SEA of the review of the previous COSTDP involved best practice in an iterative process with key environmental issues being identified at SEA Scoping and Pre-Draft public consultation and policies, objectives and zonings drafted or amended to address these issues. The SEA Scoping Report details changes made to Pre-Draft Plan policies following identification of issues arising through the Environmental Report. Examples include objectives for invasive species, protection of fisheries habitat and compliance with the EU Habitats Directive.

Assessment of the policies and development objectives in the Draft COSTDP 2013 showed that most of the policies and objectives were considered positive or at least insignificant/neutral, setting out to manage and protect aspects of the environment such as water quality, heritage resources and management of flood risk, these policies and objectives will not pose a significant adverse impact on the environment.

The finding of mainly positive or at least insignificant/neutral impacts from the Draft policies and objectives demonstrates integration of environmental considerations into the Plan at an early stage and thus is in the spirit of and meets the intention of the SEA Directive.

Due to the strategic nature of the Plan some of the broad range objectives cannot be accurately appraised to infer a definite positive or negative impact and so have been assessed as "uncertain" as a lower level tier assessment will be more appropriate to determine the precise nature of the impacts involved. This may relate to strategic policies/objectives concerning specific projects such as river crossings where exact location has not yet been decided.

To qualify "uncertain" impacts the range of issues for consideration under the various environmental topics is detailed below.

### 7.2.2 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

In fulfilment of the requirements of Article 6 (3) of the Habitats Directive an Appropriate Assessment Screening was carried out to assess the impacts of the COSTDP on the River Suir SAC and other Natura 2000 sites within 15km of Carrick on Suir. Alluvial Woodland is a key habitat within the Plan area. It is imperative that policies and objectives in the COSTDP 2008 avoid any adverse impact on this habitat type and also protected species such as Otter and fish species (Twaite Shad, Lamprey, Crayfish and Salmon). This includes potential river crossings and linear parks. These will be mitigated by policy AH5 in section 8.2.1 of the Plan relating to



natural heritage and requirement for AA at the project level. AA screening informed Infrastructure Action 1 (section 6.15 of the Plan) regarding provision for “an appropriately designed and constructed river crossing ..and.. subject to further environmental assessment” (impacts on otter and other protected Wildlife in the River Suir SAC”).

Policy AH5 of the COSTDP provides for compliance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive by ensuring that all projects that may affect the River Suir SAC will be subject to AA Screening. Maintenance of water quality standards under the SE River Basin Management Plan (Policy INF11) will help protect habitat for riparian species such as Lamprey, Crayfish, Otter and Twaite Shad.

Assessment of the 4 Strategic Development Sites which are all located along the River Suir implies requirement for AA screening at the project level. These sites are all urban sites and will not cause loss of habitat from the SAC as such but impacts such as potential for impacts on water quality will need to be appraised at the project level should these sites be put forward for development. The addition to policy TC3 (Section 3.7) “to promote the *environmentally sustainable* development of the SDS in accordance with policies and objectives of the Draft Plan” will mitigate for any potential for adverse impacts from these sites.

Potential impacts from other strategic plans such as the SE Waste Management Plan will involve environmental/appropriate assessment screening under its own review process and not through the COSTDP assessment.

Positive impacts on biodiversity are identified through the Plan objective to protect and improve the natural amenity potential and accessibility of the River Suir and its tributaries to protect riparian habitats along the watercourses by maintaining an appropriate ecological buffer zone from the top of the watercourse riverbank and to protect and improve access to the River Suir without compromising the quality and setting of the river (Policy AH4), protect plant, animal species and habitats which have been identified by the Habitats Directive, Bird Directive, Wildlife Act (1976) and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Flora Protection order S.I. No. 94 of 1999 including the River Suir SAC and Tibberaghny Marshes pNHA (AH7) and to encourage the retention and creation of, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as hedgerows, earth banks and wetlands (AH6).

Management of invasive species was a key issue identified earlier in the report and many policies set the context for future development of sites and lands in the town where there is potential for movement of soil and spread of Japanese knotweed. Section 8.2.2 has been included in the Plan to address the management of invasive species in development management.

### 7.2.3 Population and Human Health

Generally, impacts on population and human health from the COSTDP are considered positive as the Plan seeks to provide for choice in housing, access to amenity and recreation and protection of the environment and heritage. Policy AH 10 seeks to ensure that all residents have reasonable access to a range of different types of open space and to seek the establishment of new public parks. A Core Strategy Statement has been drawn up in recognition of the existing and future proposed capacities in infrastructure and is designed to promote population growth in the interests of avoidance of environmental degradation and damage to human health.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment has been prepared as part of the Development Plan Review Process. Availability of detailed Flood Risk Zone mapping will significantly reduce the risk of adverse impacts from flooding in Carrick on Suir.

Assessment of the 4 Strategic Development Sites which are all located along the River Suir implies requirement for Flood Risk Assessment screening at the project level. The addition to policy TC3 “to promote the *environmentally sustainable* development of the SDS in accordance with policies and objectives of the Plan” will mitigate for any potential for adverse impacts from these sites.

#### 7.2.4 Water

Water Quality is a key environmental issue for the Plan area. Review of river quality data for this SEA indicate the River Suir as “being at risk of not achieving good status” under the WFD (adjacent to the Plan area) while the River Lingaun “is expected to achieve good status”. The Upper Suir Estuary is currently classified as being potentially eutrophic.

Chapter 6 (INF10) sets out policy to promote the achievement of good ecological status, good ecological potential and good chemical status for all waterbodies in the town by 2021 in accordance with the Water Framework Directive. The Plan also includes policies to promote the implementation of rainwater harvesting, SUDS and best practice guidance for the disposal and treatment of surface water- required to conserve water, protect water quality and regulate the rate of surface water runoff so as not to cause or exacerbate flooding (INF12). Policy INF9 seeks to implement a water conservation programme in order to conserve valuable resources by reducing wastage.

#### 7.2.5 Air Quality & Climate

Air quality in Carrick on Suir is considered to be of a very high standard and there are no issues arising from the Plan that would adversely impact on air quality. Objectives TC1 and 5.15.1.3 will contribute positively to reducing negative localised impacts from traffic in the centre of the town.

#### 7.2.6 Geology and Soil

Assessment of policies and objectives in the Draft Plan show neutral impacts on geology and soils. The preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and objective to establish a cordon sanitaire around the former municipal landfill site (Specific objectives Map B) are positive aspects of the Plan for protection of soils.

#### 7.2.7 Cultural Heritage

The historic town of Carrick on Suir is a recorded monument and a key objective of the Plan is to promote its heritage as a tourism asset and increase visitors to the town and also enhance the connectivity between Ormond Castle and the town centre. There is a need to balance tourism interests with heritage interests and there are uncertain impacts from objectives such as E7 and INF2 in terms of potential for impacts on the curtilage of Ormond Castle and the Strand Walk. This will need to be addressed at the project level involving archaeological assessment, landscape assessment and flood risk assessment.

Assessment of Strategic Development Sites 2,3 &4 which are all located within a zone of archaeological potential implies archaeological assessment at the project level. The inclusion of policy TC3 “to promote the environmentally sustainable development of the SDS in accordance with policies and objectives of the Plan” will mitigate for any potential for adverse impacts from these sites.

Positive impacts are implied from policies such as T6 to market Carrick on Suir as part of a Walled Town Circuit in conjunction with Cashel, Cahir, Clonmel and Fethard. A number of policies provide for the protection and re-use of the architectural heritage of the town e.g. AH1 and AH2.

### 7.2.8 Landscape

Policy AH3 (Section 8.4) seeks to promote and protect aspects of the landscape while AH4 (Section 8.2.1) seeks to improve the natural amenity potential of the River Suir. A number of views and prospects are also protected in the Plan all which serve to protect the landscape value of the Town Plan area. There may be uncertain impacts arising from projects such as the potential additional river crossing but this will be more accurately assessed at the project level when design and exaction location are decided.

### 7.2.9 Material Assets

Objectives relating to strategic infrastructure projects such as river crossings will be more appropriately assessed at the project level by EIA and Appropriate Assessment. Potential impacts from other strategic plans such as the SE Waste Management Plan will involve environmental/appropriate assessment screening under its own review process and not through the COSTDP assessment.

## 7.3 In-combination Effects

Due to its location on the River Suir and adjoining land use areas with Waterford County Council (Carrickbeg) it is necessary to consider the COSTDP in combination with provisions of the Waterford County Development Plan. A review of land use zonings along the administrative areas of Carrick on Suir Town Council and Waterford County Council (Carrickbeg) shows compatibility between uses with open space zoned along the southern bank of the River Suir and agricultural greenbelt zoned at the edge of Carrickbeg. An area within County Waterford to the west of Carrick on Suir is zoned as Special Use- Biotechnology Park but no development has proceeded to date

Land use zonings do not encroach on any of the environmental vulnerabilities identified in Section 4.12 of this SEA. Environmental issues highlighted in the SEA of the Waterford CDP the need to maintain water quality for conservation of biodiversity and water dependant habitats and species and the need to restore surface water quality in Waterford Estuary and groundwaters around the River Suir. Environmental issues highlighted in the SEA of the South Tipperary CDP also include the need to protect surface and ground waters.

A number of sites in the catchment of the Suir, downstream of Carrick on Suir have IPPC licences:

- Mr Jimmy Foran, Code P0573-01.
- Messrs Pat Moloughney\ Philip De Vere Hunt, Code P0238-01
- Eastman Chemical Luxemburg S.A.R.L., Code P0002-01.
- Dawn Meats (Exports) Ltd., Code P0179-01.

- Queally Pig Slaughtering Ltd., Code P0175-01.
- Shamrock Aluminium Ltd., Code P0249-01.
- Waterford Stanley Ltd., Code P0520-01.
- Cherry's Breweries Limited Code P0449-02.
- Galco (Waterford) Ltd., Code P0385-01.
- Waterford Plating Company Ltd., Code P0280-01.
- IVAX Pharmaceuticals Ireland, Code P0698-01.
- Waterford Carpets Ltd., Code P0510-01.
- Novartis Animal Health Ireland Ltd., Code P0085-01.
- PPI Adhesive Products Ltd., Code P0093-01.
- AIBP t/a AIBP Waterford, Code P0205-01

IPCC licenced sites upstream of Carrick on Suir include:-

Merck Sharp & Dohme  
 Medite  
 Fair Oak Foods  
 John Ronan & Sons  
 Bulmers  
 ALZA

The cumulative impact on the conservation objectives of the Special Area of Conservation should not be significant provided that the facilities listed above comply with the terms of their licences.

The delivery of the N24 Bypass is now likely to be medium term and is dependent on the required funding being allocated. The route of the N24 realignment has also been revised and is now outside of the Plan Boundary. In terms of the environmental criteria discussed in this report, the road realignment will remove potential for increased noise from traffic and localised air quality issues that may have affected residential areas in the northern section of the Plan area and thus the new proposed route will reduce impacts on local population and human health. In terms of biodiversity, water, landscape and cultural heritage impacts from the N24 bypass will be required to be subject to EIA and AA screening if and when progressed.

## 7.4 Conclusion

SEA assessment of the Draft COSTDP policies and proposed amendments has determined that no significant adverse impacts are predicted from the Plan while positive impacts will be realised through proposed policies for biodiversity, population, water, and cultural heritage.

The findings of "uncertain" impacts in the SEA matrix (e.g. impacts on Cultural heritage from INF2 (Strand Walk routeway) and impacts on biodiversity from INF3 (River Crossing) will be determined at a lower level of environmental assessment largely through EIA and AA at the project level. These assessments will involve application of Appropriate Assessment, landscape appraisal, archaeological and architectural heritage appraisal and flood risk assessment to accurately determine the impacts under the range of environmental headings detailed above.

Compilation of the SEA Scoping Report, review of the SEA and AA of the South Tipperary and Waterford CDP's, AA Screening of Carrick on Suir WWWT works and Pre- Draft Plan public consultation process have all informed the Environmental Report to address key environmental issues in Carrick on Suir as highlighted in section 4.12 of the report. Table 6.1 below details the relevant policy and section in the Plan that addresses the key Environmental Topics as identified in the scoping process and recommendations made to further strengthen the integration of environmental considerations to the Plan.

Table 6.1

Key Environmental Issue		Relevant COSTDP policy
<b>Water Quality</b>	Protection of Water Quality - Water Framework Directive, incorporation of objectives and measures set out in the SERBMP, -Surface and ground water protection, -Estuarine water resources and their associated habitats and species including fisheries, -Drinking water, -Wastewater treatment, -Water conservation	Policies INF 8,9,10, 11 & 12
	Integration of flood risk assessment into the Plan to ensure appropriateness of land use and inclusion of SUDS technology Increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change	Appendix 3 of Plan-SFRA  Policies INF 12 and INF21
	Increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change	Appendix 4 in Plan-Policy Context includes the National Climate Change Strategy Main text of plan should include policy to demonstrate commitment to national policy on Climate Change
<b>Biodiversity</b>	Protection of Biodiversity- Natura 2000 sites, pNHAS, non-designated habitats, riparian buffer zones, green infrastructure	Section 8.2.1 Policies AH 4,5,6,7
	Invasive Species	Section 8.2.2 Text should be highlighted as a specific policy
	Consideration of potential impacts of climate change	As per above
<b>Air and Climate</b>	Development of traffic management measures	Objective TC1

	Sustainable modes of transport	INF4,5,6 &7
	Protection of air quality	
	Consideration of potential impacts of climate change	As per above
	Promotion of use of renewable energy systems	Policy INF 17
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Sustainable Planning for tourism	Policies AH3, AH11, Tour 1
	Protection of archaeological heritage of Carrick on Suir	AH3, AH11



## 8.0 Monitoring

### 8.1 Introduction

As part of the SEA process, measures envisaged for monitoring the likely significant effects of implementing the COSTDP must be included in the Environmental Report. The review of the COSTDP 2013 will include monitoring of any significant environmental effects.

Monitoring is often based on indicators, which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality. The Department of Environment Heritage and Local Government SEA Guidelines state that indicators that can be easily and realistically measured should be used. "Environmental indicators are key statistics, which describe an environmental issue. Their purpose is to communicate information on environmental issues in a simplified manner and over time to create a benchmark against which future progress towards sustainable development can be measured. To be effective they should be representative of the issue and be based on scientifically valid information. In this manner they can support policy development and reflect the interrelationship between society, the economy and the environment."

Several kinds of indicators may be used to fulfil particular functions and measure the quality/quantity of environmental resources:

- 1 State of the environment indicators reflect environmental quality, or quantity of physical and biological or chemical phenomenon;
- 2 Stress indicators reflect development effects;
- 3 Performance indicators may be used to evaluate long-term achievements in environmental management and protection;
- 4 Sustainable development indicators introduce a new dimension to the provision of information, in that they seek to describe and measure key relationships between economic, social and environmental factors.

In all cases, indicators should both quantify and simplify information, thereby making it more accessible to policy-makers and the public.

Where new or improved monitoring measures come to light during the course of the Guidelines review they will inform monitoring for SEA, to ensure that monitoring of effects during the course of implementing the guidelines can be meaningful and effective.

As the previous COSTDP 2008 was not subject to SEA there is no SEA monitoring report to inform the Plan review.

The following measures are proposed as part of this SEA process, to monitor the effects on the environment of implementing the COSTDP 2013, presented in terms of the achievement of the environmental protection objectives and the impact on the environmental factors that the SEA legislation requires to be considered. Measures include targets and thresholds that determine where remedial action may be required ("intervention") in order to achieve that target and fulfil the environmental protection objective.

## Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna

Biodiversity, Flora, Fauna					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency of Monitoring	Targets	Intervention
B1: Protect, conserve and enhance habitats, species and areas of national and local importance, including aquatic habitats and species and promote the sustainable management of ecological networks.	Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive.	NPWS of DAHG  Carrick on Suir Town Council  South Tipperary County Council Planning Section	Every 6 years. Next report due in 2014  Development Plan Mid-Term Review in 2015	Maintenance of favourable conservation status <sup>7</sup> for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation.  Identification of sites of local biodiversity and ecological corridors	Loss of favourable conservation status of protected habitats and species
B2: Control the spread of invasive species to avoid further encroachment along the riparian corridor along the River Suir.	Area of ground within Plan area affected by Japanese Knotweed/Himalyan Balsam.  No of planning application with conditions for management of invasive species	Carrick on Suir Town Council  South Tipperary County Council Planning Section	Annual  Progress update in Development Plan Mid-Term Review in 2015	Eradication of existing areas of Japanese Knotweed or at least no further spread to new sites	Increase in area of Japanese Knotweed by Mid-Term Review in 2015

Population and Human Health					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency of Monitoring	Targets	Intervention
P1: Facilitate a good standard of quality of life for Carrick on Suir's population through ensuring high quality residential, recreational and working environments.	<p>Increase in employment opportunities, services and public amenity areas, playgrounds and walkways within the Town Plan area</p> <p>Increase in Carrick on Suir's population</p> <p>Provision of walking routes and cycling lanes</p>	<p>Carrick on Suir Town Council</p> <p>South Tipperary County Council</p>	Development Plan Mid-Term Review in 2015	<p>Increase in employment opportunities, services and public amenity within Carrick on Suir and increase in population.</p> <p>Increase in length of cycle lanes and provision of riverside walkways</p>	<p>No increase in employment opportunities at Plan Mid-term review stage</p> <p>No increase in amenity areas or cycle lanes or walkways by end of Plan in 2018</p>
Water					
Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
W1: Achieve and maintain required water quality standards in the South East River Basin Management Plan and reduce discharges of pollutants or contaminants to waters.	<p>Water quality monitoring results by the EPA for:</p> <p>Surface Water Ecological and Chemical Status.</p>	<p>EPA</p> <p>Carrick on Suir Town Council</p>	Annual	Protect and Restore areas identified in the River Basin District Management Plan required to achieve "good" status, i.e. 4+ for water quality by 2021 in	<p>Deterioration in Water Quality Standards</p> <p>Non attainment of WFD standards in River Basin</p>

	<p>Trophic Status of Estuarine Waters. Groundwater Quality. Drinking Water Quality.</p> <p>EPA data under <i>Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland Population Equivalents Greater than 500 persons - Reports for the Years 2008 and 2009 and 2010-2011.</i> Agglomerations over 500 without Secondary Treatment.</p> <p>Performance of WWTP in relation to conditions of licence.</p>	<p>South Tipperary County Council</p>		<p>line with the Water Framework Directive objectives.</p> <p>No deterioration in levels of compliance with drinking water quality standards and maintenance of national average compliance rate.</p>	<p>Management Plan</p>
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**Soils**

Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
S1:Protect the quality of soils in the interests of avoiding environmental degradation in water quality and biodiversity.	Monitoring results from River Suir water quality	<p>EPA</p> <p>Carrick on Suir Town Council</p> <p>South Tipperary County Council</p>	Annual	<p>Full compliance with landfill remediation plan.</p> <p>Establishment of Cordon Sanitaire around landfill site.</p>	<p>Deterioration in water quality due to leachate.</p> <p>Absence of Cordon Sanitaire at end of plan period.</p>

**Air and Climate**

Environmental Objectives	Indicators	Responsible Body	Frequency	Targets	Intervention
AC1: To increase energy efficiency and the proportion of energy generated from renewable sources	Installed capacity for energy production from renewable source	Carrick on Suir Town Council South Tipperary County Council Tipperary Energy Agency	Ongoing	Increase in sources of energy production from renewable sources	Non-attainment of targets set out in National Climate Change Strategy and Tipperary Climate Change Strategy
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>					
C1 Protect and conserve features of archaeological heritage and their settings.	Number of Monuments in the RMP and areas of archaeological potential which have been recorded or subject to exploration as a result of development.  Number of archaeological monuments and their settings damaged due to development.	Carrick on Suir Town Council  South Tipperary County Council  DAHG  National Monuments Service	Ongoing	To maintain and increase the number of archaeological features recorded and protected.  No damage occurring to structures or monuments and their settings due to development  To increase visitor numbers to Carrick on Suir's heritage sites	Damage to or loss of area of recorded monuments or their setting
C2 Protect and conserve and promote the sustainable reuse of architectural heritage.	Number and conservation status of structures in RPS  Number of buildings	Carrick on Suir Town Council  South Tipperary County Council	Ongoing  Ongoing	To increase the number and maintain the conservation status of Protected Structures	Damage to or loss of Protected Structures

	conserved and re-used for new development  Number of protected structures damaged due to development.	DAHG  NIAH	Ongoing		
<b>Landscape</b>					
<b>Environmental Objectives</b>	<b>Indicators</b>	<b>Responsible Body</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Targets</b>	<b>Intervention</b>
L1: Protect and conserve the quality, character and distinctiveness of the River Suir waterway corridor and the townscape of Carrick on Suir and minimise negative visual impacts.	Area of land zoned as amenity/open space along the waterway corridor  Building height and design along the riverfront  Dereliction in townscape	Carrick on Suir Town Council  South Tipperary County Council	Ongoing	Increase in or at least no loss in area zoned as open space/amenity along the River Suir  Appropriate Heritage Appraisal and Landscape Capacity Assessment to inform any future development along the waterway corridor	Reduction or loss in area zoned as open space /amenity along the River Suir  Increase in derelict sites within the townscape
<b>Material Assets</b>					
MA1: Maintain sustainable access to assets such as open spaces, water resources and all other physical and social infrastructure.	Access to public amenities and visitor numbers.	Carrick on Suir Town Council  South Tipperary County Council	Ongoing	Increase in area of amenity space within the Town Plan area  Increased usage of River Suir as a public amenity.  Increased visitor numbers to cultural heritage sites.	No increase in area of amenity space within the Town Plan area by end of plan period.  Decrease in visitor numbers





**Appendix 1- SEA Matrix**

- 0- Neutral/Insignificant Impact
- 1- X-Negative impact
- +- Positive impact
- ?- Uncertain Impacts



Policy /Objective	CHAPTER 3	B1	B2	P1	W1	S1	AC1	C1	C2	L1	MA1	AA
	<b>TOWN CENTRE STRATEGY</b>											
TC1	It is a policy of the Council to strengthen the retail/commercial, residential and recreational functions of the town centre, retaining high value uses at ground floor level within the Primary Retail Area, to seek improvements to the visual quality of the town centre as part of new development and to facilitate the appropriate and desirable development of the town centre.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TC2	It is a policy of the Council to encourage and facilitate the consolidation and enhancement of the retail function of the town centre and its role as a secondary service centre in the County Retail Hierarchy. In this regard the Council will implement where appropriate the objectives of the South Tipperary County Retail Strategy and any review thereof, and the South Tipperary Retail Action Programme when assessing applications for new retail development in the town.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TC3	It is a policy of the Council to implement the provisions of the Derelict Sites Act, 1990, the Sanitary Services Act 1964 and the Planning and Development Acts 2000-2011 to prevent or remove injury to amenity arising from underutilisation and dereliction.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
TC4	It is a policy of the Council to encourage the retention of existing shop fronts which area of high quality, exhibit unique features or add to the character of the streetscape. Applications for replacement or repair of shop fronts will be assessed, according to their visual quality, and where developments are located in the ACA the requirements of the ACA Statement will be applied.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
TC5	The Council will facilitate advertising and support structures where the following criteria are met: The proposed development would not detract from the visual appearance of a building, a Protected Structure or the character of the ACA or the proposed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0

	location by reason of size, siting, design, materials or illumination and The proposed development would not adversely affect public/traffic safety: and The proposed development is appropriate in terms of scale and mass to the principal structure and its size											
Action TC 1	To reduce traffic volumes in the town centre using a number of measures (a) through removal of trucks which are not making town centre deliveries from Main Street and (b) improved traffic movement (or by implementing the objectives of the Transport Strategy)	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
ActionTC2	The Council will, where funds allow, provide for the enhancement of existing pedestrian linkages and the provision of new pedestrian linkages and public open spaces as set out in Figure 5. The Council will require that development proposals incorporate measures for the provision and upgrade of these pedestrian routes where appropriate.	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	0	0
Action TC3	The Council will promote the development of the identified Strategic Development Sites in accordance with the policies, objectives and standards of the Plan.	0	?	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
ActionTC4	The Council will promote and encourage the use of vacant shop fronts for the display of local crafts and produce.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ActionTC5	Identify sites which are not currently on the Derelict Sites Register but which would benefit from enhancement and the Council will initiate the process of having these sites added to the Derelict Sites Register and will use its powers to address dereliction.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
ActionTC6	The Council will endeavour to deliver the objectives of the South Tipperary Retail Development Programme 2012 as and when funding permits and lands are brought forward for development.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ActionTC7	Town Council will initiate a competition in conjunction with Tidy Towns for Best Kept Shop Front/Maintained Building to encourage well maintained and clean	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	0	0

<sup>8</sup> Proposals may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

	streetscapes.											
Action TC8	To identify suitable locations for coach parking within the town and examine the possibility of adapting existing car parks to provide for coach parking bays	0	0	+	0	0	0	?	?	0	0	0
	<b>CHAPTER 4 ECONOMIC DEV.</b>											
ECON 1	It is the policy of the Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient lands are zoned to facilitate various types of employment generating industries at appropriate locations having particular regard to small start up industries and new businesses requiring easy access to strategic route corridors.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECON2	Where commercial/employment /industrial enterprises exist as non-conforming but long established use, it is the policy of the Council to facilitate their continued operation where appropriate. Where such uses have ceased, the Council will generally only consider redevelopment for new uses that conform with the land use zoning for the area.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E1	To engage and support all relevant stakeholders in creating a Carrick on Suir Brand and in the successful marketing of the town as an attractive location for new enterprise and tourism ventures.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E2	To support the development of start-up, innovative style units at the Mill Business Park	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E3	To improve the quality of life of employees and residents by developing the public realm and amenities of the town, in particular the orientation and interpretation of the town centre and the river.	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	+
	<b>CHAPTER 5 TOURISM</b>											
TOUR 1	It is the policy of the Council to improve the visitor experience to the town and to co-operate with all stakeholders and appropriate agencies in promoting sustainable tourism and securing the development of sustainable tourist based attractions and products,	?	? <sup>9</sup>	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	? <sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Proposals may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

<sup>10</sup> Impacts from river-based tourism will be required to be subject to AA



	enterprises, facilities and related services in the town.											
Action T1	To engage and support all relevant stakeholders in creating a Carrick on Suir Brand and in the successful marketing of the town as an attractive location for new enterprise and tourism ventures.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Action T2	Work with all relevant stakeholders to improve the tourist product of the town and increase visitor numbers	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
Action T3	To continue to work with the Town Wall committee in promoting membership of the IWTN and in preparing funding applications for a Conservation Report and subsequent conservation projects.	0	0	+	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0
Action T4	To improve pedestrian linkages between Ormond Castle and the Town Centre by addressing signposting, footpaths, street furniture and lighting	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
Action T5	To develop an appropriately located coach parking facility within easy walking distance to the Ormond Castle and the Town Centre.	0	? <sup>11</sup>	+	0	0	0	? <sup>12</sup>	+	0	0	0
Action T6	To market Carrick on Suir as part of a Walled Town Circuit in conjunction with Cashel, Cahir, Clonmel and Fethard	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	+	+	0
	<b>CHAPTER 6 INFRASTRUCTURE</b>											
INF1	The Planning Authority will ensure that the carrying capacity and the strategic transport function of the N24 is protected. Planning applications for significant development proposals on the N24 will be required to be supported by Traffic and Transport Assessment and a Road Safety Audit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
INF2	The Planning Authority will reserve the route of the proposed new road to the south of the Ormond Castle free from development	0	0	+	0	0	0	? <sup>13</sup>	0	0	+	0
INF3	The Planning Authority will reserve the route of the proposed new river crossing free from development	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	? <sup>14</sup>
INF4	It is the Council's policy to	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>11</sup> Proposals may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

<sup>12</sup> Project may be subject to archaeological assessment

<sup>13</sup> Existing road is within the zone of archaeological potential and may be considered part of the curtilage of the National Monument. Proposal will require approval of the National Monuments Service and the OPW and be subject to archaeological and architectural assessment

<sup>14</sup> Exact location of river crossing not defined. Proposal will be subject to AA at the project level but will be located upstream and away from the Annex 1 habitat alluvial woodland.

	improve facilities for pedestrians and access facilities for people with special mobility needs in line with the aims of the European Charter of Pedestrian Rights											
INF5	The Planning Authority will also require that all new development proposals provide for pedestrian and cycle infrastructure and facilities ( i.e. bicycle parking) where appropriate	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
INF6	It is a policy of the Planning Authority to ensure that land adjacent to Carrick on Suir Railway Station and the Railway Line Corridor is protected for potential expansion of the rail network and other associated uses.	0	? <sup>15</sup>	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0
INF7	The Council will support and promote the continued development of a sustainable and integrated public transport network in order to enhance general accessibility and social inclusion. In this regard the Council will work with all transportation and development agencies to upgrade and improve public passenger and freight services serving the Plan area. The Council will also protect lands adjacent to the rail station and along the rail line against encroachment by uses that could compromise the long-term development of the rail facility.	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
INF8	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate the provision and upgrading of the Water Supply Network and in assessing planning applications will require: Proposed developments to connect to the public water mains where available or likely to be available. Financial contributions in accordance with the relevant Dev. Contribution Scheme for water services from developers towards existing and/or future developments. Where insufficient water supply exists the Council will require the deficit to be addressed at planning stage by the developer in consultation with the Council.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INF9	It is a policy of the council to implement a water conservation programme in	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>15</sup> Proposals may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

	order to conserve valuable resources by reducing wastage											
INF10	It is a policy of the Council to comply with the 2009 Surface Water Regulations, Waste Water Discharge Regulations (2007) Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2004) and the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems serving Single Houses (2009) and to facilitate the provision and upgrading of the Waste Water Service Network in the town and in assessing planning applications will require: Proposed developments to comply with the detailed requirements of the Council. Proposed developments to connect to the public sewer where available or likely to be available.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
INF11	It is the policy of the Council to promote the achievement of good ecological status, good ecological potential and good chemical status for all waterbodies in Carrick on Suir by 2015 in accordance with the WFD and it is a policy of the Council to comply with the objectives policies and Programme of Measures of the WFD and the SERBDMP.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
INF12	The Council will seek the implementation of rainwater harvesting, SUDS and best practice guidance for the collection and reuse or disposal and treatment of surface water. Such systems will be required to conserve water, protect water quality and regulate the rate of surface water runoff so as not to cause or exacerbate flooding on the relevant site or elsewhere.	0	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
INF 13	The Council will facilitate proposals for telecommunications masts, antennae and ancillary equipment where it can be established that there would be no negative impact on the surrounding area and that no other location can be identified which would provide adequate telecommunication cover save in:- All locations detrimental to listed views; Within significant views of national monuments or	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	protected structures; In close proximity to schools, churches, crèches, community buildings, other public and amenity/conservation areas and residential areas.											
INF14	The Council will proactively work with key stakeholders to address deficiencies in broadband coverage and will facilitate the continued development of broadband infrastructure in the town in line with the policies of the National Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines in the South East Region.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INF 15	It is the policy of the Council to permit satellite dishes except: On protected structures On the front or side of buildings in the ACA In other parts of the town where they would be detrimental to the visual amenities of the area.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
INF 16	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate and encourage sustainable development proposals for alternative energy sources and energy efficient technologies.	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
INF 17	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate, where appropriate, small scale wind energy development by auto producers/micro renewable where energy generated is required in order to meet the immediate needs of the development provided : The energy will be generated to be used on site. The impact of noise, shadow flicker and visual on nearby residents will not be significant.	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
INF 18	It is the policy of the Council to promote the increased re-use and recycling of materials from all waste sources and to implement the policy objectives of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006. During the life of the Dev Plan the Council will implement the policy objectives of the Joint Waste Management Plan for the South East Region 2006 as they relate to Carrick on Suir.	0	0	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	? <sup>16</sup>
INF 19	It is the policy of the Council to implement the	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>16</sup> Joint Waste Management Plan is subject to review and SEA and AA in 2012

	polluter pays principle with particular regard to industrial discharges and to implement the provisions of the various water pollution and environmental protection legislation and regulations thereunder.											
INF20	The Planning Authority may require as part of development proposals on or within the vicinity of the former municipal landfill site, the developer to implement mitigation measures as deemed necessary, to offset any potential risk which may result from the closed landfill. The extent of any measures required will be predicated on the status of the Council's remediation plan. As such the developer is required to develop such measures with South Tipperary County Council.	+	+	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
INF 21	The Planning Authority will require development proposals within Flood Zone A and Flood Zone B to comply with the recommendations of the SFRA. Applications will also be required to be accompanied by a comprehensive Stage 3 FRA for proposals in an area at risk of flooding, adjoining same or where cumulative impacts may result in a flood risk elsewhere.	+	0	+	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+
6.15.1 Specific Infrastructure Actions	Protection of reservation corridor for an appropriately designed and constructed river crossing and provision of a new bridge and associated road network as and when appropriate funding is identified and subject to further environmental assessment	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
2	Protection of reservation corridor for new river crossing and provision of a new bridge and associated road network as and when appropriate funding is identified.	?	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
3	Removal of trucks that are not making deliveries in the town centre for Main St. through the use of by-laws.	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
4	Examination of parking on Main Street to a staggered herringbone parking layout.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	Design and Implementation of Public Realm works at Sean Kelly Square.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
6	Implementation of traffic calming measures at Greenhill.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

7	Improved signage for Town Centre Car Parks.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8	Erection of signage for alternative Clonmel Route from New Street to Castle Street or Barrack Lane and North Quays.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
9	Investigate possibility of providing a roundabout and/or right hand turning lane at the north quays/N24 junction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10	Redevelopment of Carrick on Suir Railway Station and reservation of light industrial lands to the north of the railway station for expansion of the Railway Station and associated uses.	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
11	To promote the integration and balanced development of all transport modes through the identification and facilitation of designated and shared bus-stops and to support stakeholders where appropriate in the delivery of websites; integrated ticketing and signage for both urban and rural transport services within the town and its environs	0	0	+	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0
12	As part of new development the Council will seek the provision of bus lanes and bus stops where appropriate.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13	The Council will liaise with Iarnród Éireann in order to improve the existing rail crossing on the R697 Cregg Road.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>CHAPTER 7 HOUSING</b>												
HSG1	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate housing development on new residentially zoned lands identified as Phase 1 subject to relevant criteria set out in this Plan being satisfied. Where Part V of the P&D Acts applies the applicant must also be supported by a Development Impact Assessment.	0	? <sup>17</sup>	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HSG2	It is the policy of the Council to encourage a range of densities and housing types having regard to neighboring developments, the urban form of the town and the objectives of proper planning and sustainable development in order to provide a balanced pattern of house types throughout the town and within	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>17</sup> Development may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed



	developments.											
HSG3	It is the policy of the Council to seek the provision and sustainable management of Local Areas for Play and Local Equipped Areas for Play in new residential developments in accordance with the criteria set out under the Development Management Section. Furthermore the council will investigate suitable sites for the provision of these facilities in existing residential development. All new residential development will be required to comply with the amenity/open space standards set out under the Development Management Section of this Plan.	0	? <sup>18</sup>	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HSG4	It is the policy of the Council to encourage and facilitate the development of Serviced sites at appropriate locations within the Plan boundary.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HSG5	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate the implementation of the South Tipperary County Housing Strategy (and any future review thereof) as it applies to Carrick On Suir when implementing Local Authority housing programmes and when assessing proposals for private residential development. The Council will facilitate the provision of appropriate housing accommodation to meet the needs of the community in a way that achieves social integration.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HSG6	It is the policy of the Council to ensure the provision of appropriate neighbourhood centres incorporating retail, commercial and community facilities in conjunction with new residential development where required and appropriate. Such Neighbourhood Centre type shops shall not take from the town Centre commercial standing and will be assessed under the provisions of the Guidelines for Planning Authorities- Retail (2012), the County Retail Strategy 2010 and any amendment thereof.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HSG7	The Council will support the	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>18</sup> Development may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

	provision of high quality affordable childcare facilities at easily accessible central locations in association with housing and other development in compliance with the County Childcare Strategy and the Childcare Facilities Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2001 (DoEHLG) or any amendments thereto.											
HSG8	It is the policy of the Council to encourage and facilitate the sustainable development of nursing homes and retirement villages on appropriately zoned land. All proposals will comply with the Development Management Standards set out in Section 9.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HSG9	It is the policy of the Council to facilitate individual houses on agriculturally zoned lands at locations removed from the following pressure areas:- Primary/secondary amenity areas National Primary/secondary and Regional roads On the approach roads to the town and On local roads where there is an existing pattern of ribbon development as set out in the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005 and any amendment thereof.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R1	To ensure community, recreational and amenity provision as part of new development as appropriate in accordance with the policies, actions and standards of the Plan.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R2	To encourage the development of executive housing development to cater for high end up scaling housing options.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
R3	To provide "serviced sites" options to enable potential buyers to design and construct houses to their specific requirements whilst remaining within the town environs.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	<b>CHAPTER 8 Amenity, Built and Natural Heritage</b>											
AH1	It is the policy of the Council to conserve and protect buildings, structures and sites contained in the RPS that are of special interest and to ensure any development is appropriate and sensitively undertaken. In assessing development	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

	<p>proposals the council will, where applicable, have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities and any relevant Conservation and Management Plans. The Council, will proactively work with developers/applicants to facilitate the appropriate reuse/redevelopment of Protected Structures. The Planning Authority will resist:</p> <p>Demolition of protected structures, in whole or part</p> <p>Removal or modification of features of architectural importance.</p> <p>Development that would adversely affect the setting of a protected structure</p>											
AH2	<p>It is the policy of the Council to ensure the enhancement and management of the ACA. Within the ACA the Council will have regard to:</p> <p>The impact of proposed development on the character and appearance of the ACA in terms of compatibility of design, colour and finishes, and massing of built form;</p> <p>The impact of proposed development on the existing amenities, character and heritage of these areas and</p> <p>The need to retain important architectural and townscape elements such as shopfronts, sash windows, gutters and down pipes, decorative plasterwork etc</p>	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
AH3	<p>It is the policy of the Council to safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally and the Council will protect (in-situ where practicable or as a minimum, preservation by record) all monuments included in the RMP and sites, features and objects of archaeological and historic interest generally.</p>	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	0	0	0	0
AH4	<p>It is a policy of this Council to protect and improve the natural amenity potential and accessibility of the River Suir and its tributaries, to protect riparian habitats along the</p>	+	0	+	+	0	0	0	0	+	+	? <sup>19</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Linear park proposal will be subject to approval of IFI and NPWS

	watercourses by maintaining an appropriate ecological buffer zone from the top of the watercourse riverbank and to protect and improve access to the River Suir without compromising the quality and setting of the river.											
AH5	To conserve the favourable conservation status of species and habitats within the River Suir SAC and ensure that development is not permitted that adversely affects the integrity of the site unless of overriding public interest and subject to compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
AH6	To encourage the retention and creation of ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as hedgerows, earthen banks and wetlands.	+	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
AH7	It is a policy of the Council to protect plant, animal species and habitats which have been identified by the Habitats Directive, Birds Directive, Wildlife Act (1976) and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Flora Protection Order 1999 including the River Suir SAC and Tibberaghny Marshes pNHA	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
AH8	It is the policy of the Council to protect views and prospects of special amenity value or special interest.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0
AH9	It is the policy of the Council to seek the protection of mature trees identified in Appendix 8. Development that requires the felling of protected trees will be discouraged.	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
AH10	It is a policy of the Council to ensure that all residents have reasonable access to a range of different types of open space and to seek the establishment of new public parks at the Bog Field (Carrick Beg), south and east of the Ormond Castle and along the Glen River.	0	? <sup>20</sup>	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	?
AH11	It is the policy of the Council to enhance the approach roads to the town. Where appropriate planning proposals will be required to incorporate improvements in	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0

<sup>20</sup> Development may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

	conjunction with any permitted development. Furthermore the Planning Authority will examine and implement opportunities for improving amenity at roadsides and entrances as opportunities arise.											
8.4 Specific Amenity, Built and Natural Heritage Actions		0	? <sup>21</sup>	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	+	0 Mitigated by AH5
AH1	To develop additional public open space along the Glen River, at the Bog Field adjacent to the Co-op site and to the east and south of Ormond Castle as and when the necessary resources become available.											
AH2	The Council will prepare approach road enhancement schemes for the Clonmel, Waterford, Kilkenny and Dungarvan Approach Roads. As opportunities arise the Council will seek the delivery of these enhancement schemes as funding becomes available and as lands come forward for development.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
AH3	To seek to retain and incorporate key landscape features such as trees, stone walls, streams etc into open space and landscape plans for new developments in order to create distinctiveness of landscape and a sense of identity.	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	+	0	0
AH4	The Council will seek the removal of unauthorised advertisements, signs, street signs and other structures within the ACA.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AH5	As opportunities arise the council will improve pedestrian linkages throughout the town centre as shown on the Transportation Proposals Map 5. These pedestrian routes will link amenity areas to the town centre and residential areas.	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
AH6	The Council will seek the removal of unsightly elements at historically sensitive locations within the town such as inappropriate advertising, poles and wirescapes.	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0

<sup>21</sup> Development may require condition to mitigate against spread of Japanese Knotweed

CS1	It is the policy of the Council to assist and support the implementation of the South Tipperary County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development . The Council will proactively engage with all initiatives and all stakeholders operating in the community in order to ensure the achievement of the aims of this Plan.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CS2	The Council will actively use the tools available to it to ensure that all new development addresses issues of social inclusion. The Council will also work with other key stakeholders to address issues of equality of access for all to services, facilities and decision making processes. In particular it will actively implement the findings of the Accessibility Audit.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CS3	The Council will seek the provision of arts, cultural and entertainment facilities, new works of art and performing space in association with new development proposals, where appropriate and will seek to support the arts within overall public local services provision for the enhancement of Carrick on Suir as a place in which to live, work and invest.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CS4	It is the policy of the Council to ensure that everyone has equal opportunity access to a high quality library and information service that is responsive to the changing needs of the community and is fully supportive of the process of life-long learning.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CS5	It is the policy of the Council to ensure that adequate and safe amenity and recreational open space and facilities, including community facilities and centres, are available for all groups of the population at a convenient distance from their homes and places of work.	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CS6	It is the policy of the Council to identify land for social and public use in the town that will facilitate the provision and	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



	expansion of burial grounds.											
DM1	It is the policy of the Council to require all development to comply with the relevant standards identified in the Development Management of the Carrick on Suir Development Plan 2013-2019.	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	0
SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES Map B												
	New River Crossing	? <sup>22</sup>	0	+	0	0	0	? <sup>23</sup>	0	? <sup>24</sup>	+	?
	Amenity Area along Glen River	? <sup>25</sup>	?	+	0	? <sup>26</sup>	0	0	0	0	+	0
	Water based Museum	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
	Bianconi Arch	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	+	0	0	0
	Recreational leisure Area	? <sup>27</sup>	? <sup>28</sup>	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	?
	Restore Brewery Lane	0	0	+	0	0	0	? <sup>29</sup>	+	0	0	0
	Coach Park	0	0	+	0	0	0	? <sup>30</sup>	0	0	0	0
	Development of Natural Amenity Area	? <sup>31</sup>	? <sup>32</sup>	+	0	0	0	? <sup>33</sup>	0	0	0	0
	Enhance remaining section of town wall	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
	Widen existing footpath	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Remove car parking from one side of main street at eastern end	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Cordon Sanitaire around former municipal landfill site	+	0	+ <sup>34</sup>	+	0	+	0	0	0	0	+
	Redevelop Lane	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT SITES												
	SDS No. 1 South of Greystone St. and Well Road and north of North Quay	? <sup>35</sup>	0	0	? <sup>36</sup>	0	0	0 <sup>37</sup>	0 <sup>38</sup>	0	0	? <sup>39</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Proposal will be subject to AA at the project level but will be located upstream and away from the Annex 1 habitat alluvial woodland.

<sup>23</sup> Project may require archaeological assessment to assess impacts on underwater archaeology

<sup>24</sup> Project may be subject to a visual impact assessment

<sup>25</sup> Eradication of Japanese knotweed from site required prior to development

<sup>26</sup> Eradication of Japanese Knotweed and avoidance of contamination of soil required

<sup>27</sup> Linear park proposal will be subject to approval of IFI and NPWS

<sup>28</sup> Linear park proposal will be subject to approval of IFI and NPWS

<sup>29</sup> Development may require archaeological assessment

<sup>30</sup> Development may require archaeological assessment

<sup>31</sup> Development should incorporate measures to avoid encroachment of Japanese Knotweed

<sup>32</sup> Development should incorporate measures to avoid encroachment of Japanese Knotweed

<sup>33</sup> Development may require archaeological assessment

<sup>34</sup> Mitigation against leachate discharge to River Suir

<sup>35</sup> SDS1 fronts on to the River Suir SAC and any development proposals will be subject to AA Screening

<sup>36</sup> Impacts on River Suir will be addressed through AA Screening and Flood Risk Assessment

<sup>37</sup> SDS1 is outside the Zone of Archaeological Potential

<sup>38</sup> Not within the ACA or affecting a RPS

<sup>39</sup> SDS1 fronts on to the River Suir SAC and any development proposals will be subject to AA Screening

	SDS No. 2 Between North Quay and Strand Lane	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	?
	SDS No. 3 Between North Quay and Castle Lane	?	0	0	? <sup>40</sup>	0	0	? <sup>41</sup>	0 <sup>42</sup>	0	0	? <sup>43</sup>
	SDS No. 4 Glanbia Site	?	0	0	?	0	0	?	0	0	0	? <sup>44</sup>
		B1	B2	P1	W1	S1	AC1	C1	C2	L1	MA1	AA

## SEA of proposed amendments to the Draft Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan

Policy /Objective	CHAPTER 3	B1	B2	P1	W1	S1	AC1	C1	C2	L1	MA1	AA
TC3 (TC Action Section 3.7)	The council will promote the <b>environmentally sustainable</b> development of the Strategic Development Sites in accordance with policies, objectives and standards of the CoSTDP 2013	0	+	0	0	0	0	?	+	+	0	0
ECON 1	Zoning of land for Employment Uses: It is the policy of the Planning Authority to ensure that sufficient lands are zoned to facilitate various types of employment generating industries at appropriate locations having particular regard to small start up industries <b>in an environmentally sustainable manner</b> and new businesses requiring easy access to strategic route corridors	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ECON 2	Non-Conforming Uses: Where commercial/employment/industrial enterprises exist as non-conforming but long established use, it is the policy of the Council to facilitate their continued operation where appropriate. Where such uses have ceased, the Council will generally only consider <b>appropriate</b> redevelopment for new uses that conform with the land use zoning for the area <b>and are in keeping with the principles of sustainable development.</b>	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Section 4.7 Prevention of Major Accidents	Guidance in relation to the prevention of major accidents is set out in Directive 96/82/EC, superseded by the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations, 2000 (SI 476 of 2000) and by the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 (SI No 600 of 2001). The Directive defines major-accident hazard sites (COMAH sites) as those that store or could generate quantities of dangerous substances in excess of specified thresholds. The Directive	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>40</sup> Impacts on River Suir will be addressed through Flood Risk Assessment

<sup>41</sup> SDS3 is within a Zone of Archaeological Potential and site development will be subject to archaeological testing

<sup>42</sup> SDS3 is not within an Architectural Conservation Area

<sup>43</sup> SDS3 fronts on to the River Suir SAC and any development proposals will be subject to AA Screening

<sup>44</sup> SDS4 fronts on to the River Suir SAC and any development proposals will be subject to AA Screening

	<p>seeks to prevent major industrial accidents, limiting the consequences of accidents on people and the environment, imposing obligations on operators and requiring Member States to place restrictions on development in the vicinity of COMAH sites.</p> <p>Land use provision must take account of the need to maintain appropriate distances between major accident hazard establishments and residential areas, buildings and areas of public use, major transport routes as far as possible, recreational areas and areas of particular natural sensitivity or interest, and in the case of existing establishments, of the need for additional technical measures so as not to increase the risks to people. There is currently no Seveso Site within the Plan area however, MSD (Ballydine) is 5km west of Carrick on Suir.</p> <p>Policy ECON 3: Prevention of Major Accidents The Council, in assessing applications for new development, expansion of existing development involving hazardous substances, or other proposed developments located within designated consultation areas, will have regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(i) The Major Accidents Directive (Seveso II);</li> <li>(ii) Potential adverse impacts on public health and safety;</li> <li>(iii) The requirements of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA)</li> </ul> <p>The need to maintain appropriate safe distances between residential areas, areas of public use and areas of particular natural sensitivity.</p>											
Policy INF1:	Carrying Capacity of the N24 The Council will ensure that the carrying capacity and the strategic transport function of the N24 is protected and access to the national road network will be managed in accordance with the provisions of official policy as outlined in the DoECLG Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2012). Planning Applications for significant development proposals will be required to be supported by Traffic and Transport Assessment and a Road Safety Audit.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Policy INF 13:	Telecommunications The council will facilitate proposals for telecommunications masts, antennae and ancillary equipment where it can be established that there would be no negative impact on the surrounding area and that no other location can be	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	identified which would provide adequate telecommunication cover except in the following locations: (i) At locations detrimental to listed views (Appendix 9) (ii) Within significant views of national monuments or protected structures (Map 3 & 3a) (iii) In close proximity to schools, churches, crèches, community buildings, other public and amenity/conservation areas and residential areas											
Specific Infrastructure Action 14	The Carrick Beg area shall be examined with regard to Traffic Management issues and the Town Council will seek to address issues identified through traffic calming measures, pedestrian crossings etc where appropriate	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy HSG 1:	New Residential Development in Section 7.4 on page 53 should be amended as follows: Policy HSG 1: New Residential Development: It is the policy of the Council to facilitate <b>sustainable</b> housing development on new residentially zoned lands identified as Phase 1 subject to the relevant criteria set out in this Plan being satisfied. Where Part V of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2011 applies the application must also be supported by a Development Impact Assessment (DIA) (see Chapter 9).	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Policy AH 4 Section 8.2.1	River Suir & tributaries: It is a policy of this Council to protect and improve the natural amenity potential and accessibility of the River Suir and its tributaries, to protect riparian habitats along the watercourses by maintaining an appropriate ecological buffer zone, <b>a minimum of 10m where feasible</b> , from the top of the watercourse riverbank and to protect and improve access to the River Suir without compromising the quality and setting of the river.	+	+	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Policy AH 6: Ecology Section 8.2.1	To encourage <b>the protection</b> , the retention and creation of, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as hedgerows, earth banks and wetlands	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	+
Section 8.4- AH7	Any development of the site which includes the Lime Kiln in Carrick Beg shall seek to incorporate same into the development as a feature of this site and appropriate restoration works shall be carried out to same	0	0	+	0	0	0	+	+	0	0	0
Table A2.3	Include for a sentence at the end of the paragraphs in Point 2, Column 3 which refer to existing residential and agriculturally zoned lands. The sentence to be inserted shall state: <b>"Any proposed developments on the subject site shall only be permitted where it is considered Policy INF 21 has been fully complied with.</b>	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	+	0
Zoning changes	Rezoning of VEC site for Social and Public use in its entirety	0	0	+	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

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Mapping Change	Rename the route in Fig 3 Core Strategy Map as the "Preferred N24 Route". Indicate with a broken line and not a 300m corridor.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
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## Appendix A1.1 International Conventions & Agreements

Topic	Policy, Plan or Programme	Objectives
Biodiversity	UN Convention of Biological Diversity (1992)	Maintain and enhance biodiversity.
	The Ramsar Convention The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (1971 and amendments)	Objectives include protection and conservation of wetlands, particularly those of importance to waterfowl as Waterfowl Habitat
	European Union Directive (92/432/EEC) on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild flora and fauna	Lists certain habitats and species that must be given protection.
	European Communities (Natural Habitats) Regulations, SI 94/1997, as amended SI 233/1998 and SI 378/2005 SI 584/2011	These Regulations give effect to Council Directive 92/43/EEC on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora (Habitats Directive) and the Minister to designate special areas of conservation (endangered species and habitats of endangered species) as a contribution to an EU Community network to be known as NATURA 2000.
	EU Directive (EU/79/409) on the Conservation of Wild Birds	Designation of Special Protection Areas for birds.
	Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland Guidance for Planning Authorities (2009)	Guidance on carrying out AA on plans and Projects as required under Article 6 of the Habitats Directive
	National Biodiversity Plan 2011	To secure the conservation, including where possible the enhancement and sustainable use, of biological diversity in Ireland
	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Freshwater Pearl Mussel) 2009	Measures to protect the conservation status of Freshwater Pearl Mussel
	Irish National Forest Standards (2000)	Aims to ensure sustainable forest management
	Ospar Convention (1992) The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North East Atlantic	Protection of the Marine Environment
	EU Marine Strategy Framework Regulations 2011	Aims to achieve good environmental status of the EU's marine waters by 2021 and to protect the resource base upon

		which marine-related economic and social activities depend.
	EU Freshwater Fish Directive (78/659/EEC)	Objectives seek to protect those freshwater bodies identified by Member States as waters suitable for sustaining fish populations. For those waters it sets physical and chemical water quality objectives for salmonid waters and cyprinid waters.
<b>Water</b>	EU Water Framework Directive (2000/60/EC) 2000	Establishes a framework for community action in the field of water policy. Aims to prevent any deterioration in the status of any waters and to achieve at least "good status" in all waters by 2015.
	The Groundwater Directive (1980/68/EC) 1980	Seeks to maintain and enhance the quality of all ground waters in the EU.
	EU Urban Waste Water treatment directive (91/271/EEC) 1991	Sets targets dates for the provision of specified waste water treatment infrastructure and services.
	EU Floods Directive (2007/60/EC)	The Floods Directive applies to river basins and coastal areas at risk of flooding and provides for the prevention and management of flood risk and preparation of Flood Risk Management Plans
	DoEHLG Guidelines on Flood Risk Management and the Planning System (2009)	Seeks to prevent development that is sensitive to the effects of flooding in flood prone or marginal areas. Must not reduce the flood plain or restrict flow across floodplains.
	The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC)	This Directive has the objective of reducing water pollution caused or induced by nitrates from agricultural sources and preventing further such pollution.
	Drinking Water Directive (80/778/EEC) as amended by Directive 98/83/EC	The primary objective is to protect the health of the consumers in the European Union and to make sure drinking water is wholesome and clean.
	The Local Government (Water Pollution) Act, 1977 (Water Quality Standards for Phosphorous) Regulations, 1998	Rivers of good quality to be retained as such, rivers of poor quality to be improved



	European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations, 2009	Transposes into Irish law the measures needed to give effect to Article 4 of the Water Framework Directive relating to the protection of surface waters including the requirements of Directive 2008/105/EC on environmental quality standards.
	Managing Ireland's Rivers and Lakes: Catchment based Strategy Against Pollution (1997)	This document details a strategy to protect water quality against pollution by phosphorus from all sources.
	River Basin Management Plans for River Basin Districts (RBDs)	Seeks to establish an integrated monitoring and management system for all waters within an RBD, to develop a dynamic programme of management measures and to produce a River Basin Management Plan, which will be continually updated.
	Bathing Water Directive EC Directive 2006/7 EC Repeals existing Directive (71/160/EEC ) with effect from 31 December 2014	Sets out standards for bathing water quality to protect health and the environment
<b>Human Health</b>	WHO Air Quality Guidelines (1999) and Guidelines for Europe (1987) Non Statutory	Seeks to eliminate or minimise certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health.
	The Stockholm Convention (2001)	Objectives seek to protect human health and the environment from persistent organic pollutants (POPs).
	The EU CAFÉ Programme Commission communication of 4 May 2001 "The Clean Air for Europe (CAFE) Programme: Towards a Thematic Strategy for Air Quality".	Seeks to prevent and reduce air pollution and impacts on human health from air pollution.
	EU Shellfish Directive (79/923/EEC)	Objectives seek to maintain those coastal and brackish waters, which need protection or improvement, in order to allow shellfish to develop and to contribute to the high quality of shellfish products intended for human consumption.
	Pollution Reduction Programme for, Waterford Harbour,	To ensure compliance with standards and objectives of the 2006 Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations

	The EU Environment and Health Strategy 2004-2010	Seeks to prevent and reduce the impacts pollution on human health.
	Environmental Noise Directive (2002/49/EC) Environmental Noise Regulations 2006	Establishes a framework for environmental noise planning including environmental noise maps for designated areas and appropriate noise action plans.
<b>Climate / Air</b>	Kyoto Protocol (1997)	Aim of the UN Protocol is to combat climate change. Industrialised countries will have to reduce their combined greenhouse gas emissions by a minimum of 8% by 2012.
	Second European Climate Change Programme (ECCP II) 2005	Seeks to develop the necessary elements of a strategy to implement the Kyoto protocol.
	White Paper on 'European transport policy for 2010', COM (2001) 370	Seeks to develop a modern sustainable transport system.
	"The IPPC Directive" Directive 96/61/EC concerning integrated pollution, prevention and control	Seeks to minimise pollution and maximize resource efficiency in industry through licensing and guidance.
	Ozone in Ambient Air Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 53 of 2004).	Objectives include the reduction of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	"Air Framework Directive" Directive on Air Quality Assessment and Management (Framework Directive) (1996/62/EC)	Seeks the prevention and/or reduction of airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and environment.
	Directive on national emission ceilings for certain atmospheric pollutants (2001/81/EC)	Seeks to limit the national emissions of certain airborne pollutants for the protection of human health and the environment.
	EC Directive 2008/50/EC on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe	Replaces the air framework directive and the first three daughter directives. Sets standards and target dates for reducing concentrations of fine particles, which are among the most dangerous pollutants for human health.
	Adopting to climate change in Europe – options to EU action {SEC(2007) 849}	Seeks to initiate a Europe-wide public debated and consultation on developing responses to climate change at EU level
	National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012	Established measures by which Ireland can meet its 2008-2012 targets in respect to green house gas emissions

	Delivering A Sustainable Energy Future for Ireland	Government Energy Policy Framework 2007-2020 to deliver a sustainable energy future for Ireland.
<b>Cultural Heritage (Landscape Architecture Archaeology)</b>	European Landscape Convention 2000	Encourages public authorities to adopt policies at local, national and international level to protect and manage landscapes.
	Policy Paper on Ireland's Landscape and the National Heritage, The Heritage Council, (2002)	Policy paper sets out a vision for the Irish landscape to allow people to harness the landscape for economic benefit whilst acknowledging that in the long run such benefits can only be sustained through an appreciation and awareness of the contribution of that landscape to our quality of life.
	Landscape and landscape and Assessment, Guidelines for Planning Authorities -2000	Sets out how a landscape character assessment should be conducted.
	Granada Convention for protection of the Architectural Heritage of Europe 1985	Established common principles and strategy, informed Part IV of the 2000 Planning and Development Act 2000-2004
	European Convention on protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1992	Requires that appropriate consideration be given to archaeological issues at all stages of the planning and development process
	Architectural Heritage Protection- Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004	The protection of structures, or parts of structures, which are of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social, or technical interest, and; the preservation of the character of architectural conservation areas.
	National Heritage Plan 2002	Plan forms the basis of a strategic approach to the protection and management of heritage up to 2007
	National Inventory of Architectural Heritage	To establish inventory of buildings of value
	Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage (1999)	This document sets out the archaeological policies and principles which should be applied by all public bodies when undertaking or authorising development.

<b>Soil</b>	2006 Proposal for an EC Directive establishing a framework for the protection of soil	Still under discussion. Proposes to establish a common strategy in Europe for the protection and sustainable use of soil.
	Sewage Sludge Directive (86/278/EEC)	To encourage the use of sewage sludge in agriculture and to regulate its use in such a way as to prevent harmful effects on soil, vegetation, animals and man
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Prevention and remediation of environmental damage
<b>Sustainable Development</b>	Agenda 21 (1992). Action for Sustainable Development	Aims to promote sustainable development at a local and regional level by taking into account environmental protection in the development process.
	"The Gothenburg Strategy" Communication from the Commission on Sustainable Europe for a Better World" 2001	Seeks to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	The Sixth Environmental Action Programme (EAP) of the European Community 2002-2012 Statutory	Seeks to make the future development of the EU more sustainable.
	The SEA Directive (2001/42/EC)	Objective is to provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.
	Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Sustainable Rural Housing 2005	To address the issue of sustainable rural housing
	Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2008	Addressing sustainable design and services in urban areas
	Wind Energy Guidelines 2004	To ensure a consistency of approach in the identification of suitable locations for wind farm

		development and the treatment of planning applications for wind farm developments
	Draft Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland 2012	The Framework will form a central element of Ireland's contribution to the UN Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) which takes place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in June 2012
	Transport 21 (2005)	Seeks to develop an integrated transport system across Ireland
	Traffic Management Guidelines (2003)	Provides guidance on a number of traffic management issues including public transport
	Smarter Travel- A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020	Promotion of sustainable transport
	Delivering A Sustainable Energy Future For Ireland – The Energy Policy Framework 2007 – 2020	Seeks to reduce energy demand and energy related emissions
	Directive 2004/35/EC on Environmental Liability with regard to the prevention and remedying environmental damage	Seeks to establish a common framework for the prevention and remediation of environmental damage
<b>Waste</b>	The Waste Framework Directive" Council Directive 75/442/EEC of 15 July 1975 on waste "the Waste Framework Directive" and amending acts.	Seeks to minimise the quantities of waste production in the EU, reduce the environmental impacts from the management of these wastes and defines what constitutes a waste or hazardous waste.
	"The Landfill Directive" Council Directive 99/31/EC of 26 April 1999 on the landfill of waste	Seeks to reduce the environmental impact from the landfilling of waste & divert certain quantities and types of waste from European landfills.
	"The WEE Directive" Directive 2002/96/EC of 27 January 2003 on waste electrical and electronic equipment	Seek more environmentally sensitive management of waste electric and electronic equipment.
	National Waste Prevention Programme	Seeks to decouple waste generation from economic activity in Ireland
<b>Major Accidents</b>	EU Major Accident (Seveso) Directive (96/82/EC) 1996	Seeks to avoid and minimize the effects of major accidents

## Appendix A1.2: SEA Scoping Report

### SEA Scoping Report

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a formal process that is carried out in parallel with preparation of the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan 2013-2019 in accordance with the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The SEA process is a valuable tool for improving the environmental sustainability of the Development Plan and raising awareness of the potential environmental consequences of its implementation so that these consequences may be mitigated or avoided altogether. The main output of the SEA process is the Environmental Report. In preparation for compilation of the Environmental Report a scoping exercise was carried out by issuing a scoping document to the prescribed environmental authorities that scoped the range of topics to be addressed in the environmental report. The Planning Authority received 3 responses to the SEA Scoping document for the Carrick on Suir Town Development Plan. These were from the EPA, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the Department of Arts Heritage and Gaeltacht.

#### EPA

Key issues recommended to be addressed	Draft Plan Policy / Recommendation for inclusion
Protection of Water Quality - Water Framework Directive, incorporation of objectives and measures set out in the SERBMP, -Surface and ground water protection, -Estuarine water resources and their associated habitats and species including fisheries, -Drinking water, -Wastewater treatment, -Water conservation	Recommended inclusion of  It is the policy of the Council to promote the achievement of good ecological status, good ecological potential and good chemical status for all waterbodies in Carrick on Suir by 2015 in accordance with the Water Framework Directive.  It is a policy of the Council to comply with the objectives, policies and Programme of Measures of the Water Framework Directive and the South Eastern River Basin District Management Plan  It is a policy of the Council to comply with the 2009 Surface Water Regulations, Waste Water Discharge Regulations (2007), Urban Waste Water Treatment Regulations (2004) and the EPA Code of Practice for Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems Serving Single Houses (2009).

	<p>It is a policy of the Council to implement a water conservation programme in order to conserve valuable resources by reducing wastage.</p>
<p>Integration of flood risk assessment into the Plan to ensure appropriateness of land use and inclusion of SUDS technology Increased risk of flooding due to Climate Change</p>	<p>Addressed in section 6.14 of the Plan and through the preparation of a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</p> <p>Policy INF 12 and Policy INF21</p>
<p>Protection of Biodiversity- Natura 2000 sites, pNHAS, non-designated habitats, riparian buffer zones, green infrastructure</p>	<p>Recommended inclusion of</p> <p>It is a policy of the Council to protect plant, animal species and habitats which have been identified by the Habitats Directive, Bird Directive, Wildlife Act (1976) and Wildlife (Amendment) Act 2000 and the Flora Protection order S.I. No. 94 of 1999 including the River Suir SAC and Tibberaghny Marshes pNHA.</p> <p>To conserve the favourable conservation status of species and habitats within the River Suir Special Area of Conservation and ensure that development is not permitted that adversely affects the integrity of the site unless of overriding public interest and subject to compliance with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive.</p> <p>To encourage the retention and creation of, ecological corridors and networks that connect areas of high conservation value such as hedgerows, earth banks and wetlands</p>
<p>Invasive Species</p>	<p>Where development is approved for sites containing known invasive species, the planning authority will consider, where appropriate, the use of conditions for control and eradication of invasive species.</p> <p>The Council will promote awareness of invasive species and their management, and work with other agencies in the County to address the issue.</p>



Promotion of use of renewable energy systems	Addressed in policies INF 16 and INF17
Landscape taking account of landscape character and need for visual impact assessment	Addressed in policies, AH8 & Section 8.4 AH3 in Chapter 78
Sustainable modes of transport	Policies INF 5 & INF7
Sustainable Planning for tourism	Policy ECON 3 – insert “promoting sustainable tourism”
Development of traffic management measures	Addressed in section 6.15- Actions 3,4 & 6
Obj for compliance with SEA Directive	Addressed in Section 1.5.1

The EPA SEA pack and scoping checklist formed part of the EPA submission.

### **Inland Fisheries Ireland**

IFI urge that rivers and watercourses are assets which provide a basis for development of visual and amenity features of the areas through which they flow. Protection of the aquatic environment not only requires the protection of water quality but also necessitates the protection and maintenance of physical habitat and hydrological processes. The Development Plan should provide for the maintenance and preservation of all watercourses and associated riparian habitats.

<b>Key issues recommended to be addressed</b>	<b>Draft Plan Policy</b>
Development Plan should be consistent with River Basin Management Plans and comply with the requirements of the EU WFD	Recommend inclusion of additional policy as per above
Include policies which preclude developments in areas where the sewage infrastructure facilities necessary for development do not exist.	Addressed in Policy INF 10
Promote the integration and improvement of natural watercourses in urban renewal and development proposals.	Policy AH4 Policy AH10
Aquatic Habitat Protection- incorporation and management of riparian buffer zones along waterways. IFI should be consulted on any development impacting on riparian habitats.	Recommend inclusion of additional policy  To protect riparian habitats along watercourses by maintaining an appropriate ecological buffer zone from the top of the watercourse riverbank.  This was inserted in to AH4

	The Council will consult with Inland Fisheries Ireland on development proposals concerning riparian areas and watercourses and to take account of the requirements for the protection of fisheries habitat during construction and development works at river sites.
Include policies to ensure that developments do not lead to the spread of invasive species.	Recommend inclusion of additional policy as per above
IFI should be consulted on proposals for river crossing structures to ensure avoidance of impacts on fish passage.	Recommend inclusion of additional policy as per above
Promotion of water conservation	Addressed in Policy INF 9
Promotion of SUDS	Addressed in Policy INF 12

### Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

The Plan should address in detail the potential archaeological impacts of any proposed development. A description of the town's archaeological heritage is given. A detailed submission is given on nature conservation including list of categories of protected species and habitat types which need to be taken into account in scoping for AA and SEA along with list of key legislation and guidance.

Key issues recommended to be addressed	Draft Plan Policy
Development Plan should include a general policy to protect the archaeological heritage of Carrick on Suir.	Policy AH3
Any development within the vicinity of an archaeological site shall not be detrimental to the character of the site.	Policy AH11
Largescale developments (.5ha/.1km) shall be subject to archaeological assessment.	Policy AH3
The Development Plan should include a natural heritage section and objectives to conserve habitats and species of conservation interest and recognise the importance of linear features such as hedgerows and waterways as per Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.	Recommend inclusion of additional policies as per above in EPA section Section 8.2.1
AA screening of Plan should consider impacts on habitats and species from wastewater discharges, increased surface water runoff and water abstraction and potential for deterioration in salmonid water quality in the downstream cSAC	Addressed in AA Screening Report

The Plan should include objective for compliance with WFD and SERBDMP	Recommend inclusion of additional policies as per above in EPA section
Proposals for walkways along the river SAC where mapped should be screened for AA	Will be screened in AA report
The Plan should include policy to protect against accidental introduction of invasive species.	Recommend inclusion of additional policies as per above in EPA section