

**VARIATION No. 1 TO THE TRIM  
DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020**  
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)  
Statement

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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 Background

This is the SEA Statement prepared in relation to Variation No. 1 (hereinafter referred to as 'the Variation') of the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 was adopted on 7 April 2014 and Meath County Council (MCC) has prepared Variation 1 to the in accordance with Section 13 ('Variation of development plan') of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended.

The key purpose of the Variation was to align the Trim Development Plan with the key tenets of the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath 2014-2022 as they relate to statutory land use planning. The Variation has also aligned the Trim Development Plan with the provisions of the Meath County Development Plan (CDP) 2013-2019 (as varied) and updated the written text and maps accordingly.

### 1.2 Purpose of the SEA Statement

The main purpose of the SEA Statement is to provide information on the decision-making process for the Variation No. 1 to the Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 in order to illustrate how decisions were taken, thereby making the process more transparent.

This SEA Statement has been prepared in accordance with Section 16(2)(b) of S.I. No. 435 of 2004 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended by S.I. No. 200 of 2011 - European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, to summarise:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the plan,
- b) how:
  - i. the environmental report prepared pursuant to article 12,
  - ii. submissions and observations made to the competent authority in response to a notice under article 13, and
  - iii. any consultations under article 14,have been taken into account during the making of the plan,
- c) the reasons for choosing the plan, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor, in accordance with article 17, the significant environmental effects of the implementation of the plan.

Therefore the purpose of this SEA Statement is to provide information on and transparency for the decision-making process; to document how environmental considerations, the views of statutory consultees and other submissions received during the Consultation Stages have been taken into account in the adopted Variation No. 1, as well as what arrangements are in place for monitoring.

The SEA process thereby assists in and improves the quality of the plan-making process by:

- Facilitating the identification and appraisal of alternative development strategies;
- Raising awareness of the environmental impacts of the Variation's No. 1 implementation; and
- Encouraging the inclusion of measurable targets and indicators to aid monitoring.

### 1.3 Legislative Context

The requirement to undertake SEA derives from the 2001 European Community Directive 2001/42/EC (also known as the 'SEA Directive') on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment.

Article 1 of the Directive states that:

*“The objective of this directive 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.”*

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish legislation by the:

- European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 435 of 2004), as amended by European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 200 of 2011), and

Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004), as amended by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011, (S.I. No. 201 of 2011).

The following principal sources of guidance are used in the SEA process including in the preparation of the SEA Environmental Report:

The SEA process including the preparation of the Environmental Report and this SEA Statement for the Variation No. 1 had regard to the above legislation and the following principal sources of guidance:

- Directive 2001/42/EC on the assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment.
- Statutory Instrument No. 436 of 2004 - Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004.
- Statutory Instrument (S.I.) No. 201 of 2011 - Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011.
- Guidance on Implementation of Directive 2001/42/EC, European Commission, 2004. [http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923\\_sea\\_guidance.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/archives/eia/pdf/030923_sea_guidance.pdf)
- SEA of Local Authority Land Use Plans - EPA Recommendations and Resources. EPA, Updated 2019.
- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Pack. EPA, Updated 2018.
- SEA Spatial Information Sources Inventory. EPA, 2019.
- SEA Resource Manual for Local and Regional Planning Authorities. EPA, 2013
- EPA Mapping. Environmental Mapping / Geographical Information System (GIS) tools are available at: <http://gis.epa.ie/SeeMaps>
- EPA Air Quality Reports at: <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/legislation/air/quality/>
- EPA Water Reports at: <https://www.epa.ie/pubs/reports/water/waterqua/>
- SEA Spatial Information Sources at: <http://www.epa.ie/pubs/advice/ea/>
- Developing and Assessing Alternatives in Strategic Environmental Assessment - Good Practice Guidance at: <http://erc.epa.ie/safer/iso19115/displayISO19115.jsp?isoID=3046>
- Integrating Climate Change into Strategic Environmental Assessment in Ireland - A Guidance Note. EPA, 2015.

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- Circular Letter PL 9/2013: Article 8 (Decision Making) of EU Directives 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) as amended. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013.
- Circular Letter PSSP 6/2011: Further Transposition of EU Directive 2001/42/EC on Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2011.
- Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08: Appropriate Assessment of Land Use Plans. Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2008.
- Integrated Biodiversity Impact Assessment - Streamlining AA, SEA and EIA Processes: Practitioner's Manual. Strive Report Series No. 106. Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, 2013.
- Guidance on Integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity into Strategic Environmental Assessment. European Commission 2013.
- Managing Natura 2000 Sites - The provisions of Article 6 of the 'Habitats' Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, 2000.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision\\_of\\_art6\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/provision_of_art6_en.pdf)
- Assessment of plans and projects significantly affecting Natura 2000 sites – Methodological guidance on the provisions of Article 6(3) and (4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC. European Commission, 2002.  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura\\_2000\\_asses\\_s\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/nature/natura2000/management/docs/art6/natura_2000_asses_s_en.pdf)
- Appropriate Assessment of Plans and Projects in Ireland. NPWS, 2009.  
[http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS\\_2009\\_AA\\_Guidance.pdf](http://www.npws.ie/publications/archive/NPWS_2009_AA_Guidance.pdf)

#### 1.4 Overview of the SEA Process

SEA is a process for evaluating, at the earliest appropriate stage, the environmental effects of plans or programmes before they are adopted. It also gives the public and other interested parties an opportunity to comment and to be kept informed of decisions and how they were made. An early consideration of environmental concerns in the planning process creates an opportunity for environmental factors to be considered explicitly alongside other factors such as social, technical or economic aspects.

The Variation No. 1 has undergone a Strategic Environmental Assessment, in accordance with the legislation and guidance as outlined above.

The key stages of the SEA process, and the associated outputs required are outlined in Table 1.1 below.

**Table 1.1: Outline of the SEA Process**

Stage	Description	Output Required
Screening	To determine the need or otherwise for SEA of a specific plan or programme.	SEA Screening Report Decision.
Scoping	To identify the aspects of the plan or programme that are relevant to the SEA and the related key environmental issues that need to be considered.	SEA Scoping Report and Consultation with Statutory Authorities.
Environmental Assessment	Of the plan or programme: to identify, predict, evaluate and mitigate the potential impacts of the plan or programme and reasonable alternatives.	SEA Environmental Report.

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Stage	Description	Output Required
Consultation, revision & adoption	To seek public opinion on the Draft plan or programme and outcome of the SEA process; influence the content of the final plan or programme and document the outcomes of the SEA process.	Consultation with the public and Statutory Authorities on the Environmental Report accompanying the Draft plan or programme, and the SEA Post-Adoption Statement (i.e. the SEA Statement), accompanying the final plan or programme.
Post-adoption activities	Subsequent monitoring of the impacts of the plan or programme during its implementation to inform the future revision and SEA of the plan or programme.	SEA monitoring regime.

## 1.5 Structure of the SEA Statement

The SEA Statement has been prepared to outline ‘*information on the decisions*’ as required by the SEA Regulations. The structure of the SEA Statement is set out in Table 1.2 below.

Table 1.2: SEA Statement Structure

Number	Chapter
1	Introduction
2	Integration of the Environmental Considerations into Variation No. 1
3	Consideration of Alternatives
4	Monitoring Programme
5	Conclusion

## 2 Integration of the Environmental Considerations into Variation No. 1

### 2.1 Introduction

This Chapter deals with how environmental considerations and the findings of the SEA as presented in the Environmental Report were taken into account during the preparation of the Variation. The process of SEA and Variation formulation is an iterative one and as such environmental considerations have informed all stages of the Variation preparation.

The protection and conservation of the environment has been a key consideration throughout the preparation of the Variation. Environmental considerations were integrated into the plan in a number of ways through:

- Consultation (SEA Scoping and Public Display)
- Data collection - baseline data and mapping
- Identification and evaluation of Alternatives
- Mitigation Measures
- Appropriate Assessment.

Table 2.1 below sets out the SEA stages and process where consultations and the integration of environmental considerations occur.

**Table 2.1: Outline of the SEA Stages and Process**

STAGE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
Screening	The requirement to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is mandatory for certain Plans and Programmes. Where SEA is not a mandatory requirement, the Plan or Programme is subject to a 'screening process', to consider if it is likely to have significant effects on the environment, and therefore, if SEA is required. Screening of the Plan or Programme is carried out in accordance with Article 13K(1) and (2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and with regard to the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations. SEA for a Plan or Programme is also a mandatory requirement where the Plan or Programme requires Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC <sup>1</sup> )	<b>Complete</b> Screening concluded that SEA is required for the Draft Variation based on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Requirement for an Appropriate Assessment (AA) under Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive</li> </ul>
Scoping	Preparation of a SEA Scoping Report highlighting that the Environmental Report is required to include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ methods of assessment;</li> <li>▪ contents and level of detail in the Plan or Programme;</li> <li>▪ the stage in the Plan or Programme-making process; and</li> <li>▪ the extent to which certain matters are more appropriately assessed at different levels in the decision-making process in order to avoid duplication of environmental assessment.</li> </ul>	<b>Complete</b> Preparation of SEA Scoping Report and associated consultation with the specified environmental authorities. Responses were received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the EPA</li> <li>▪ Louth County Council</li> <li>▪ Kildare County Council</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> COUNCIL DIRECTIVE 92 /43 /EEC: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legalcontent/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:31992L0043&from=EN>



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STAGE	DESCRIPTION	STATUS
	Scoping provides for consultation with the environmental authorities specified in Article 13(M) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, and the process allows for incorporation of the views of the environmental authorities within the Plan or Programme and the SEA Environmental Report.	(See Section 1.8 below)
<b>Environmental Assessment</b>	Preparation of a systemic identification and evaluation of alternatives and assessment of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan or Programme.  The findings of the assessment, which is carried out at various stages in the plan or programme-making (e.g. Draft, Amended Draft etc.), are provided in the SEA Environmental Report in accordance with Article 13(N) and Schedule 2B of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.	<b>Complete</b> This Report
<b>Consultations</b>	Formal gathering of the views of environmental authorities and members of the Public on the Draft Plan or Programme and SEA Environmental Report (and Appropriate Assessment (AA) / Natura Impact Report (NIR), if required).  This involved a period of public display for the Draft Variation, and the SEA Environmental Report (and NIR, if prepared).	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Completion</b>	Completion / adoption of Final Variation No.1, taking account of likely significant environmental effects, any submissions or observations received from consultations and integration of mitigation and monitoring measures within the plan.  The Environmental Report is concluded and an SEA Statement is prepared in accordance with Article 13(L) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended, summarising: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan or Programme;</li> <li>▪ how the environmental report, and any submissions or consultations have been taken into account in the preparation of the Plan or Programme;</li> <li>▪ the reasons for choosing the Plan or Programme;</li> <li>▪ the measures decided for monitoring the significant environmental effects of implementation of the plan or programme.</li> </ul>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Monitoring</b>	Monitoring of potential environmental effects associated with the implementation of the Variation during lifetime of the plan.	<b>On-going</b>

## 2.2 Screening

The existing Trim Development Plan 2014-2020 was subject to a mandatory requirement for SEA and an Environmental Report and SEA Statement was prepared in conjunction with the making of the Plan. SEA was not mandatory for the Variation and therefore it was subject to screening for the requirement for SEA.

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Screening of the Variation for the requirement for SEA was carried out in accordance with Article 13K(1) and (2) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended. Screening of the Variation for the requirement for AA has determined that the likelihood of an impact on European site(s) (*i.e.* the River Boyne SPA and River Boyne and Blackwater SAC) cannot be excluded, and therefore the Variation must be subject to AA and a Natura Impact Report (NIR) was prepared.

As a result, in accordance with the direction of Circular Letter SEA 1/08 & NPWS 1/08 (refer to Section 1.4 above), the Variation was also subject to full strategic environmental assessment and an SEA Scoping Report and an Environmental Report was prepared.

### 2.3 Scoping

A SEA Scoping Report for the Draft Variation was prepared in accordance with Article 13M (*"Scoping of environmental report"*) of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001, as amended.

Scoping is the process for deciding the content and level of detail of an SEA, including the:

- key environmental issues;
- likely significant environmental effects and alternatives which need to be considered;
- assessment methods to be employed; and
- the structure and contents of the SEA Environmental Report.

The scoping process allowed for consultation with specified environmental authorities on these aspects, and submissions received as part of the exercise informed the plan-making process and the preparation of the Environmental Report for the Variation.

### 2.4 Appropriate Assessment

The EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) requires an 'Appropriate Assessment' (AA) be carried out where a P/P is likely to have a significant impact on a European site forming part of the Natura 2000 network of sites. European sites include Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The EU Habitats Directive provides legal protection for habitats and species of European importance. The main aim of the Habitats Directive is *"to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of the Member States to which the treaty applies"* (92/43/EEC). Actions taken in order to fulfil the Directive must be designed to *"maintain or restore, at a favourable conservation status, natural habitats and species of wild fauna and flora of Community interest"* (92/43/EEC).

The finding from the AA Screening process was that taking account of local surface water features and their connection to European sites (Natura 2000 sites) in Trim (River Boyne), the potential for impact on a European site cannot be excluded having regard to the precautionary principle.

There are two European sites within Trim:

- The River Boyne and River Blackwater SAC (002299); and
- The River Boyne and River Blackwater SPA (004232).

There are no other European sites within Trim, and the next closest European site, Girley (Drewstown) Bog SAC (002203), is located c. 14km northwest.

## 2.5 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was carried out by JBA Associates Consultant Engineers on behalf of MCC to inform the preparation of the Variation. The SFRA builds on the existing assessment which was carried out for Variation Nos. 2 and 3 of the Meath CDP.

The SFRA utilises the most up to date flooding data for Trim available at the time of preparing the Variation.

## 2.6 Environmental Report - Draft Variation No. 1

The SEA process requires that environmental considerations are accounted for in the preparation of the Variation. The environmental assessment and evaluation process identifies the *potential significant effects* of a Plan and the mitigation measures required to offset identified adverse effects.

An SEA Environmental Report was prepared for the Draft Variation. The Environmental Report provided an assessment of the consequences for the environment of implementing the proposed Variation. Potential adverse effects were assessed against protective measures and additional mitigation measures proposed where required. Consultation submissions from the Scoping Stage were taken into consideration at this assessment Stage.

## 2.7 Public Consultation on the Draft Variation & Environmental Report

In line with SEA Regulations, the Draft Variation and SEA Environmental Report, Natura Impact Report (NIR) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), the Residential Evaluation Maps and the Land Use Zoning Maps were put on public display and observations and submissions were invited from the public and the stakeholders. Public consultation ran from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July 2019 at Meath County Council, Buvinda House, Dublin Road, Navan, Co. Meath and on the Council's website at [www.meath.ie](http://www.meath.ie). Seventeen submissions were received in relation to the Draft Variation, and these submissions have been published on the Trim Development Plan webpage.

The Chief Executive (CE) prepared a report (August 2019) summarising the issues raised during the consultation and recommending proposed amendments to the Draft Variation. The CE's Report listed the submissions or observations made during the public consultation period, summarised the issues raised, responded to each submission. No changes were made to the Variation arising from the Public Consultation process.

## 2.8 Environmental Report - Final

Variation No. 1 to the Trim Town Development Plan was formally adopted, by the Elected Member of MCC, on the 7<sup>th</sup> October 2019. Thereafter the Environmental Report was updated and finalised. No changes were made to the Variation arising from the Public Consultation process.

The SEA Statement (this report) has been prepared outlining the SEA process; how environmental considerations were integrated into the Variation; how consultations were taken into account; the reasons for choosing the plan, as adopted; and the measures decided to monitor the significant environmental effects of the Variation.

### 3 Consideration of Alternatives

#### 3.1 Introduction

Consideration of alternatives is a critical function of the SEA process and is necessary to evaluate the likely environmental consequences of a range of development strategies for the Plan within the constraints imposed by environmental and planning conditions.

SEA Statements are required to include information on the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives considered.

#### 3.2 Legislative Context

Article 5 of the SEA Directive requires the consideration of **reasonable alternatives** taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme and the significant environmental effects of the alternatives proposed. It states under Article 5(1) that;

*Where an environmental assessment is required under Article 3(1), an environmental report shall be prepared in which the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the plan or programme, and reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated. The information to be given for this purpose is referred to in Annex I.*

In accordance with SEA guidelines the alternatives put forward should be **reasonable, realistic and capable of implementation**. They should also be in line with the appropriate strategic level at which the Plan will be implemented within the national and county planning hierarchy.

#### 3.3 Description of Proposed Alternatives

At the outset is acknowledged that the purpose of the Draft Variation is to:

*“The key purpose of the Variation to the Trim Development Plan is to align the Plan with the key tenets of the Economic Development Strategy for County Meath 2014 – 2022 as they relate to statutory land use planning. The Variation also seeks to align the Trim Development Plan with the provisions of the County Development Plan (as varied) and update the written text and maps accordingly.”*

(Section 2.1 of Variation)

Therefore, the Variation provides for a required update of the Trim Development Plan and an alternative such as a ‘do-nothing’ scenario is not realistic. Likewise the scope for consideration of other reasonable or realistic alternatives is also limited by the context of the required Variation, the requirement of higher level plans and the limited nature of the proposed changes.

The Variation does include a basis for consideration of alternative options for proposed residential lands. In this regard the following factors have been used to determine the suitability of specific lands for residential development which constitute the proper planning and sustainable development of the town:

- **Proximity to the Town Centre** - maximise the utility of existing and proposed future infrastructure including public transport options;
- **Availability of Public Transport** - to maximise public transport investment, it is important that land use planning underpins its efficiency by sustainable transport patterns. This includes promoting higher densities within 500m walking distance of a bus stop and proximity to the Route 111 – Dublin to Trim

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and Athboy to Trim and Route 188 – Drogheda, Slane, Navan, Trim public transport corridors; Whether the lands would contribute to creating sustainable communities;

- Whether the lands would **contribute to the realisation of critical infrastructure**;
- Consideration as to whether a site could be considered an **infill site as opposed to extending the urban footprint** further from the town centre. Leapfrogging beyond other available sites will not be considered favourably;
- **Environmental Constraints** – proximity to and potential impact on the qualifying interests of the adjoining Natura 2000 sites; and
- **Availability of community and social infrastructure facilities** with particular regard to the proximity to schools (primary and secondary).

Suitability of lands for residential development were ranked and selected using these criteria, which include environmental and proper planning and sustainable development considerations, and therefore the Variation has had regard to the requirement for environmental assessment of alternatives.

## 4 Monitoring Programme

### 4.1 Introduction

Monitoring of the Variation and its implications on the environment is important to ensure that the environment is not adversely affected through its implementation. Under Article 10 of the SEA Directive, monitoring must be carried out of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan *“in order to, inter alia, identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.”* The SEA Guidelines state that monitoring should concentrate on the *‘likely significant environmental effects’*, which have been identified in this Report, and measures identified as necessary to avoid, reduce and offset any significant adverse effects.

### 4.2 Monitoring Indicators

Baseline monitoring is proposed on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water or air pollution levels. These indicators aim to simplify complex interrelationships and provide information about environmental issues which is easy to understand. The indicators are based on the SEOs presented in the SEA Environmental Report (Chapter 6) and have been derived from knowledge of the existing environmental issues within the Plan area and also from legislation, guidelines, the Environmental Report for the existing Trim Development Plan and higher level plans.

It is considered that a monitoring report on the implementation of the policies and objectives within the Variation is important for the on-going and future implementation of the Plan. It is also considered appropriate that the monitoring programme for the implementation of the policies and objectives within the Variation is integrated with the monitoring programme for the statutory development plans for County Meath.

Environmental indicator assessment during monitoring can show positive / neutral impacts or negative impacts on the environment. Where an indicator value highlights a positive / neutral impact on the environment, it is likely that the policies of the Variation are well defined with regard to the environment. Conversely, where the policies of the Variation have a negative impact on the environment, it may be necessary to review the policies or objectives of the Plan or to take some other form of intervention. For example, if an objective or policy is having a significant adverse impact, a change may be considered during the lifetime of the Plan.

### 4.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators generally come from existing monitoring sources. Existing monitoring sources include those maintained by the relevant authorities including the National Transport Authority (NTA), the EPA, the National Parks and Wildlife Services (NPWS), MCC and the Central Statistics Office (CSO).

The output of lower-tier environmental assessment and decision making - including a review of project approvals granted and associated documents - will also be utilised as part of the Monitoring Programme.

Where significant effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - have the potential to occur as a result of the undertaking of individual projects or multiple individual projects, such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

#### **4.4 Reporting**

A monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing the Variation will be prepared. This report should address the indicators set out in the SEA Environmental Report. Indicators and targets will be reviewed during the preparation of the monitoring evaluation report.

#### **4.5 Responsibility**

Meath County Council will have the overall responsibility for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action. In addition, a number of national organisations will also carry monitoring. Monitoring of air and climate related considerations will also be carried out by the EPA, whereas monitoring of impacts on biodiversity are carried out at a national level by the NPWS. See Table 4.1 below for a summary of the monitoring environmental indicators for the Variation.

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Table 4.1: Monitoring and Reporting Programme

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source / Responsibility
<b>Biodiversity, Flora &amp; Fauna (BFF)</b> Protect and where appropriate, promote and support the enhancement and effective protection of biodiversity in the wider landscape and in particular protected areas and protected species.	No net loss of designated sites, species or habitats.	Reported / Estimated levels of damage to designated sites / species / habitats as identified by GIS and AA	NPWS
	Increase in number of Appropriate Assessments being carried out.	No. of Appropriate Assessments Carried out.	MCC Planning / Environment Departments
	No loss of land actively managed for conservation.	Loss of land actively managed for conservation.	NPWS
	No net loss of green linkages / ecological networks	Loss of green linkages / ecological networks identified through GIS and Habitat Mapping.	MCC Environment Department / GIS
	Implementation of County Meath Biodiversity Plan	No. of actions / objectives achieved in County Meath Biodiversity Plan.	MCC Environment Department
	Prevent further spread of alien / invasive species.	Number of sites reported to contain alien/ invasive species.	NPWS, MCC Environment Department
<b>Population (P)</b> Improve people's quality of life based on high quality residential, working and recreational environments and on sustainable transport.	No increase in population above core strategy population targets	% change in population based on core strategy targets based on RPG / RSES figures.	CSO
	Appropriate mix of tenure types (including social housing) in all new developments.	% of private and social housing in new developments % mix of tenures based on housing strategy requirements.	MCC Planning / Housing Departments
	All significant planning applications for 15+ dwellings to be accompanied by a design statement.	% of significant planning applications granted for new residential developments that are accompanied by a design statement.	MCC Planning Department
<b>Human Health (HH)</b> To protect human health from exposure to incompatible land uses	Minimise population exposure to high levels of noise, vibration and air/water pollution	Number of developments requiring EIA; Number of development requiring IE or Waste Licence applications (EPA) – and non-compliance with same.	HSE, EPA, MCC Planning / Environment Departments



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Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source / Responsibility
		Number of developments requiring water discharge licences – and non-compliance with same.	
<b>Soil (S)</b> Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the function and quality of the soil resource in the lands within Trim Development Plan.	Increase in any derelict buildings being redeveloped.	Number of derelict buildings being redeveloped based on commencement notices.	Commencement notices
<b>Water (W)</b> Improve water quality and the management of watercourses to comply with the standards of the Water Framework Directive and incorporate the objectives of the Floods Directive into sustainable planning and development.	Implementation of the Programme of Measures identified under the ERBD River Basin Management Plan.	% increase and % decrease in waters achieving 'good' status as defined in the WFD.	EPA, MCC Environment Department
<b>Air Quality (AQ)</b> Minimise emissions of pollutants to air associated with transport.	Minimise air and noise emissions during construction and operation of new developments.	Traffic, transport and vehicular survey data, Noise mapping, Number of energy / renewable energy production facilities	EPA, MCC Environment Department
<b>Climate (CC)</b> Contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change.	All new development applications within areas at risk of flooding to submit a flood impact assessment.	Number of new development applications within areas at risk of flooding without flood impact assessment.	MCC Planning Department
	Increase access by households to sustainable forms of transport, including bus and rail services.	Passenger numbers. Funding allocated to improvement of walking and cycling facilities.	MCC Planning / Roads Departments
<b>Cultural Heritage (CH)</b>	No impact on the fabric or setting of monuments on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) by development granted planning permission.	Number of monuments on the RMP, impacted by granted planning permissions.	The Archaeological Survey monitoring programme, Ireland

## VARIATION No. 1 TO THE TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source / Responsibility
Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of cultural, architectural and archaeological, heritage within Trim Development Plan.	No impacts on the architectural heritage value or setting of protected structures by development granted planning permission.	Number of protected structures impacted by development granted planning permission.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
	No protected structures to be demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Number of protected structures that have been demolished because of long term neglect and dereliction.	Buildings at Risk Register, Heritage Council Ireland. MCC Planning Department
<b>Landscape (L)</b> Protect and, where appropriate, enhance the character, diversity and special qualities of landscapes in Trim Development Plan.	No negative alteration to protected views.	Number of visual impact assessments received as part of development proposals	MCC Planning Department
	Maintain and enhance landscape character in accordance with recommendations in the Meath Landscape Character Assessment as part of Meath CDP 2013-2019.	No. of new developments granted planning permission within areas of high landscape value and within High Amenity Areas.	MCC Planning Department
	No planning permission granted within special qualities of landscapes that materially contravene the policies or objectives of the Plan.	Number of planning permissions granted which materially contravene the special qualities of landscapes.	MCC Planning Department
<b>Material Assets (MA)</b> Make best use of existing infrastructure and promote the sustainable development of new infrastructure.	Minimise the % of unaccounted for water. Refers to leakage from system.	% unaccounted for water.	EPA
	Increase in planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	No of planning permissions making provision for renewable energy and water conservation measures.	MCC Planning Department
	Ensure adequate public wastewater and water supply is provided prior to construction of new development or is developed in parallel.	No. of developments granted planning permission without adequate public water supply and / or wastewater services in place.	EPA, MCC Planning Department, Irish Water

## VARIATION No. 1 TO THE TRIM DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2014-2020

### Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Statement

Objectives	Targets	Indicators	Source / Responsibility
	Increase access to public transport from households.	Construction / improvement of cycle / footpaths / greenways infrastructure.	MCC Roads Department

## 5 Conclusion

The process of SEA and formulation of the Variation is iterative and as such environmental considerations have informed all stages of plan preparation in order for the potential for significant adverse environmental effects arising from implementation of the plan to be identified, minimised and mitigated, where required.

The Variation its policies and supporting objectives are key to the future sustainable development of the Trim area. The Variation aims to balance the needs of the future working population with the preservation and conservation of the environment as prescribed in the Meath County Development Plan. The Variation has a strong focus towards sustainability.

The Strategic Environmental Assessment process has been carried out in conjunction with the preparation of the Variation itself. This allows for an early indication of the potential environmental effects likely to occur as a result of the implementation of the Variation No. 1 to the Trim Development Plan.

The assessment of the Variation No. 1 has concluded that its policies and objectives are acceptable and represent a balanced and fair approach to the sustainable development of the Trim area.

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