

CHAPTER 9

Social, Community, Culture, Recreation, Amenity and The Gaeltacht

9.1 Introduction

9.1.1 In this plan the word 'culture' is deemed to be *the socially transmitted behaviour patterns of the indigenous population of the county together with their associated intellectual and artistic activity, arts, beliefs, institutions and products*. Using this definition it is clear that Kerry has a very strong cultural identity, including its sport, literature, music and in the Gaeltacht areas it's language. It is important for the identity of the county and its population that this culture be protected and promoted.

9.1.2 Policies needed for protecting and promoting our culture go far beyond the scope of what can be achieved in a county development plan and through the planning legislation. Nevertheless, it is very important that the Development Plan policies support and facilitate the protection and promotion of our culture.

9.1.3 One of the overall objectives of this plan is to improve the quality of life of all the citizens of the county. The provision of adequate social and community facilities contributes to attaining this goal. They can also protect and promote the culture of the county by providing facilities for education and exhibition.

Objective No.	Social, Community, Culture and The Gaeltacht.
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-1	Facilitate the development of facilities that increase the social capital of society and communities in Kerry and protect and promote the culture of the county in a sustainable manner with due regard to the environment and the natural and built heritage of the county.
SG 9-2	(a) Ensure the built environment, services and decision-making processes of the county are accessible to people with disabilities. (b) Improve accessibility and circulation in the built environment, including roads, footpaths, amenities and graveyards for people with disabilities.
SG 9-3	Protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht areas and promote Irish as the community language.
SG 9-4	Promote Social Inclusion and integration in the implementation of planning policies throughout the County.

9.2 Social, Community and Cultural Facilities

Social and Community Facilities

9.2.1 The community has diverse needs for services and amenities of various kinds. Local & community development agencies, the Health Service Executive and education boards, provide a range of services for the community, or assist community organisations in their provision.

9.2.2 In the preparation of this plan, the council considered the following issues:

- Inclusive and structured community participation in sustainable development.
- Social inclusiveness in access to facilities and services to ensure proper lifelong education, health and quality of life.
- Comprehensive health system that delivers quality care at all stages of life.
- Comprehensive education system equipping people with skills and competencies that are relevant in modern society.
- A healthy lifestyle, and the development of and access to a diversity of recreational amenities.
- The intrinsic value of cultural heritage, sports, language, the arts and the sciences.

9.2.3 In this section social facilities and amenities are defined as uses with the principal purpose of providing a social service, facility or amenity. Such uses may include, but not be limited to: educational establishments, childcare facilities, health facilities, art galleries, museums, public libraries or public reading rooms, public halls or exhibition centres, indoor or outdoor recreation facilities or amenity spaces and facilities used in connection with public worship or religious instruction. Some uses may have a marked benefit for the local community and therefore be extremely sensitive to relocation. Primary schools and community halls are often particularly important as focal points for town, village and rural life.

9.2.4 Community centres, are typically buildings of a simple design that offer facilities of accommodation, to meet the more basic needs of a range of uses, at a quality and level that is affordable and practical for a local community. These uses would be typically wide ranging, including community assembly; indoor and outdoor sports; theatre and music performance; office and training functions.

Many centres are built at the initiative of the communities themselves through their parish or resident committees. Local development organisations often play a key role in enabling, funding and running such centres as they are perceived as key focal points for community development.

9.2.5 The loss of a social facility can have a major impact on a community, especially in localities where no other dedicated facilities exist. In order to prevent the loss of community facilities, the Council will discourage their change to non-community uses.

Objective No.	Community and Social Facilities.
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-5	<p>Make provision for new accessible community and social facilities (including multi-use buildings), as places where a range of services can be provided, and in locations reasonably accessible to the communities they serve.</p> <p>Work in partnership with local and community development organisations to ensure the sustainability of such facilities.</p>
SG 9-6	<p>Safeguard existing social facilities including health, education and leisure amenities of public benefit.</p> <p>Prepare a strategy for the development of social infrastructure in the Tralee / Killarney Hub and use it as a model to develop a county wide strategy.</p>

9.3 Health Service Facilities

9.3.1 The health service is comprised in general terms of services that address the general needs of public health promotion and primary care, the needs of children and older people, disability services, mental health, acute services and ambulance services.

9.3.2 In general the Council will have regard to the following guidance and advice in the consideration of centres offering medical services.

- Health Service Executive Spatial Planning Requirements 2001-2010.
- The National Health Strategy
- National Development Plan 2007-2013
- 'Ageing with Confidence' Health Service Executive
- The National Children's Strategy.
- Primary Care – A New Direction

Objective No.	Health and Emergency Services.
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-7	Facilitate accommodation for the following uses, in liaison with the <i>Health Service Executive</i> , in suitable locations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community hospitals and nursing units. • Health centres, social satellite centres and day care centres for the older person. • Child care and family support services. • Medical centres for the delivery of primary care. • Community mental health facilities. • Primary Care Facilities
SG 9-8	Facilitate accommodation for emergency services including fire services, rescue services and acute care, in locations that facilitate ease of access and safe functioning with respect to the road network.
SG 9-9	Facilitate sheltered housing, in liaison with the Health Service Executive and the voluntary sector, and as set out in the Housing Strategy.

9.4 Childcare, Youth and Children's Needs

9.4.1 The level of availability and accessibility of affordable and adequate childcare in a community will influence the level of social inclusion that exists. The lack of such services will act as a barrier to entering the workforce or availing of education, thereby increasing the level of disadvantage and poverty of those affected. Kerry County Council recognises the importance of providing childcare facilities within new and existing communities as a valuable and essential element of community infrastructure but also to facilitate employment opportunity and economic progression and in support of equality in this regard in line with Department guidelines.

In an increasing number of households in Kerry both parents participate in the workforce. The national trend of increased female participation in the workforce is likely to continue. There is, in consequence of this trend, a high and growing demand for professional childcare. The Government has therefore issued guidelines to Planning Authorities on the provision of childcare facilities - Childcare Facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoEHLG June 2001). Childcare refers to both Primary and Community provision. Childcare facilities are defined as "part-time sessional, full-day care / crèche, out of school care or integrated services". The council will consider childcare proposals in line with the Department of the Environment, Heritage & Local Government's Childcare facilities: Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

9.4.2 The needs of children have been given explicit recognition in the National Children's Strategy, 'Our Children- their lives' (Department of Health and Children, 2000). In respect of the local delivery of this Strategy, the County Development Board has stated in 'Meitheal Chiarrai' 2002-2011 that it will monitor the implementation of the national strategy, and develop a countywide policy on playgrounds and play areas. To this end Kerry County Council have published 'Developing play in Kerry: Countywide policy on the development and management of

playgrounds and play areas in public open spaces’ (February 2004). Kerry County Council has in partnership with community groups installed playgrounds in a number of locations with more planned during the lifetime of this Plan.

Objective No.	Childcare, Youth and Children’s Needs
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-10	Promote provision of childcare facilities, including crèches, and play schools, sufficient in their overall extent, quality and distribution to meet needs for childcare.
SG 9-11	Facilitate the provision of childcare facilities in proximity to Industrial estates and Business parks and other locations where there are significant numbers working.
SG 9-12	Facilitate the provision of childcare facilities in Neighbourhood Centres; such facilities would be located within local mixed use service centres.
SG 9-13	Facilitate the provision of childcare facilities at locations adjacent to public transport corridors.
SG 9-14	Encourage the provision of nurseries, safe outdoor and indoor play areas, crèches and other facilities for the under-fives in particular.
SG 9-15	Liaise with the County Childcare Committee in identifying, and meeting prospective childcare needs, and in monitoring the effectiveness of planning policy in this regard.
SG 9-16	Promote the provision of Active Recreational Facilities (eg. Drop In Cafes For Young People) – in locations that promote active recreation and participation.

9.5 Cultural Heritage, Education and Recreation

9.5.1 The county has a rich and living cultural heritage. It is comprised of sports, language, the arts and the sciences. In each of these fields the Council is involved in the facilitation or protection, through land use planning, of facilities and features of cultural use or benefit.

9.5.2 The Planning Authority will seek to accommodate a wide variety of recreational uses to meet demand, subject to proper consideration of the environmental and cultural context, and the need to protect the county’s heritage as a sustainable resource.

9.5.3 In respect of the Arts, the Council shall have regard to the recommendations in the Kerry Arts Plan 2007-2012

In respect of the Sport & Recreation, the Council supports the recommendations in the Kerry Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan

Objective No.	Recreation, Cultural and Environmental Heritage
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-17	Seek to ensure that in the development of facilities and amenities for access to, and interpretation of heritage, due regard is given to the conservation of the natural and cultural environment.
SG 9-18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Seek to facilitate public access to arts activity so as to enhance quality of life; to develop access to features, sites, views and museums / art spaces of special interest, having regard to conservation requirements, traffic safety, neighbouring land uses and access for all. b) Facilitate museums, and spaces for the arts, as cultural resources that promote high standards and community access and awareness. c) Facilitate public art in strategic locations, as part of public infrastructure and public housing schemes through the 'Percent for Arts' scheme, or through any other public art initiative
SG 9-19	Promote good standards of design in the public domain, in site planning and treatment of buildings and spaces, hard and soft landscaping, the use of sculpture, paving and street furniture.

9.5.4 In achieving the aforementioned objectives the Council will:

- Liaise with the County Heritage Officer, and relevant conservation bodies, on any development proposal that in the opinion of the Council is likely to have a significant effect on features of heritage interest.
- Liaise with the County Arts Officer on all proposed arts spaces, features of public art, or any development proposal that in the opinion of the Council is likely to have a significant impact on the arts.
- Liaise with KLSP Sports Coordinator on all proposed recreational facilities
- Have regard to the policies and provisions of:
 - the Kerry Arts Plan 2007-2012,
 - the policies and provisions of the Kerry County Council Heritage and Biodiversity Plan 2008-2012 and any subsequent amendments in relation to the impact of development on arts and heritage generally.
- The Kerry Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan 2005/2007.
- Scéim Gaeilge 2008-2011.

9.6 Schools, Educational Facilities, and Libraries.

9.6.1 The Council is cognisant of the following wide range of issues regarding schools, and other educational facilities, in respect of the provision of accommodation and ancillary services and amenities:

- Population distribution and family size.
- The capacity and condition of buildings.
- Educational disadvantage and special educational needs.
- Synergy between education, research and the economy.
- Potential benefit as community or social centres.
- Residential zonings in the local area plans throughout the county.

9.6.2 The Council recognises the importance of libraries, both private and public. The Council itself has responsibility for the public library service. The Kerry Library Service has 9 branches, 2 mobile libraries, a primary schools library service, a local history and archives service and runs an extensive events and exhibitions programme.

Objective No.	Schools, Educational Facilities and Libraries.
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-20	Continue the development, upgrading and improvement of library infrastructure.
SG 9-21	Make provision for new educational facilities, or extensions to existing facilities, sufficient in their overall extent, quality and distribution to meet needs of education. Make provision for recreational spaces within the school environment
SG 9-22	Make provision for new library facilities, or extensions and refurbishment of existing facilities, sufficient in their overall extent, quality and distribution to meet needs for library services.
SG 9-23	Explore the further development of library services e.g. usage of existing facilities such as community centres.
SG 9-24	Make provision for the sustainable transport needs of schools.
SG 9-25	Ensure that applications for large residential developments are accompanied by an assessment of the educational facilities in the area to cater for the projected increase in population.

9.7 Amenity Paths and Networks

9.7.1 The natural and cultural amenities of the county deserve to be appreciated. This can best be achieved through an attractive and coherent system of paths, which are reasonably free of nuisances including excessive vehicular traffic. Walking, cycling and backpacker holidays are an increasingly important component of tourism in the county. At the same time there has been an unprecedented rise in the number of cars on the roads in recent years, placing an extra imperative to develop off-road paths, and sustainable forms of tourism.

9.7.2 Off-road walkways and cycleways can be established by various means, through informal agreements with landowners, through formal agreements or acquisition. In many instances walkways follow public rights of way established by custom and practice.

9.7.3 There is an extensive network of long-distance waymarked walks, pilgrim paths and forest walks in the county which include:

- The Beara Way.
- The Kerry Way.
- The Dingle Way.
- Cosán na Naomh (Saint's Walk).
- The North Kerry Way.
- The Shannon Way.
- River Lee Walk

These routes are indicated on Map 9.1

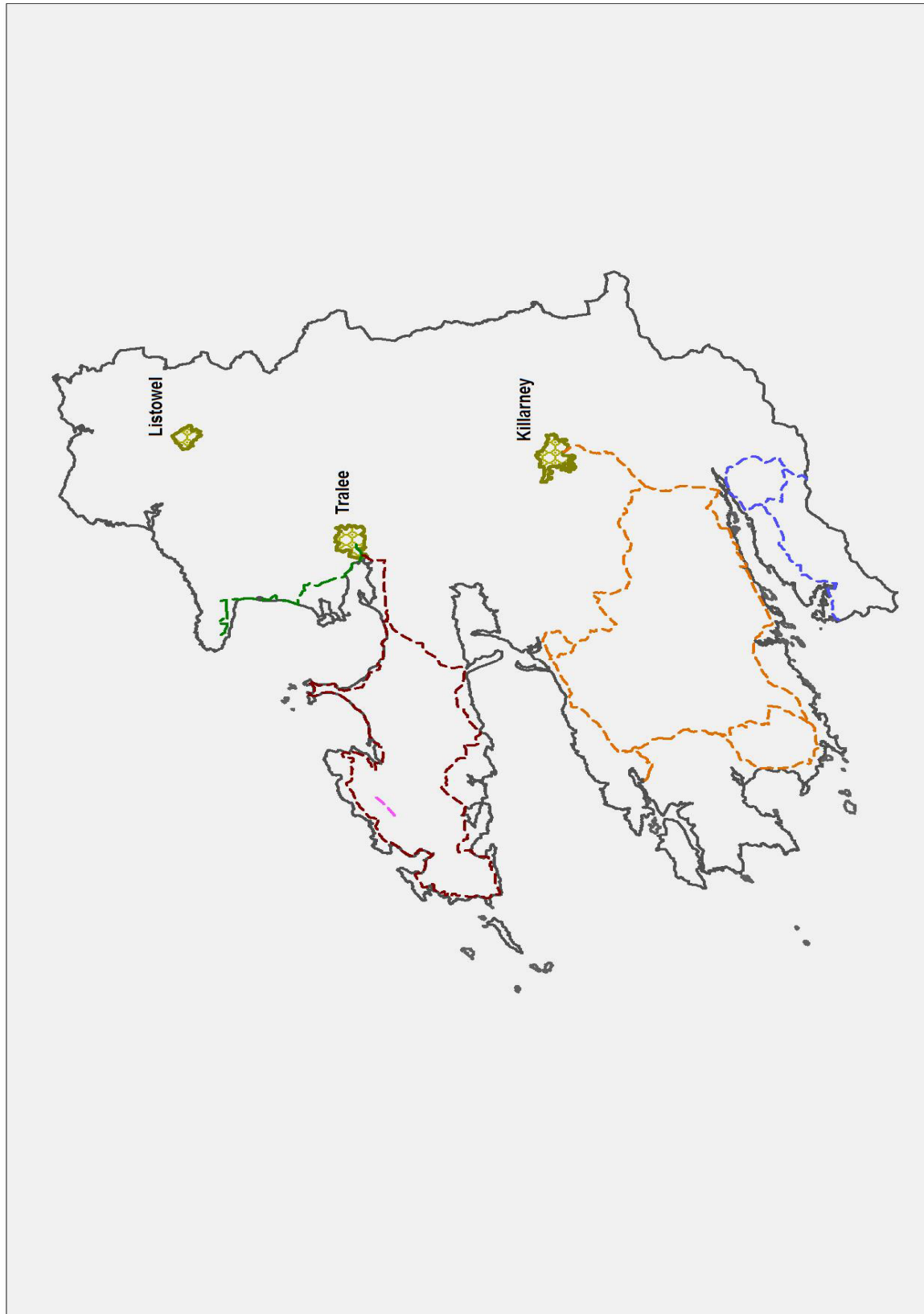
9.7.4 The council recognises that properly developed and maintained walking routes are of considerable benefit to the economies of the areas through which they run as well as providing an invaluable educational, recreational and conservation role. The council recognises that these routes cannot come into existence or remain in existence without the full co-operation of the owners of private property on the routes.

9.7.5 The county has a number of cycling routes. These routes follow quiet country roads, and have dedicated maps and sign posting. There is scope to extend this concept to other parts of the county, and to improve on standards in their provision.

9.7.6 Routes should follow in order of preference: off-road tracks, quiet country roads, and regional or national roads. In the case of regional and national routes, cycle ways should, where possible, be segregated from carriageways and footpaths.

9.7.7 There are significant stretches of land that were formerly in use as railway lines. To the extent that these are engineering works negotiating difficult topographical obstacles, they constitute significant resources, with potential for use as corridors for amenity access, free from motorised traffic, and even have potential for a revived railway use. It will be the policy of the planning authority to consider proposals for development in these areas for local heritage and outdoor activities including the provision of recreational walkways.

Objective No.	Amenity Paths and Networks.
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-26	<p>a) Facilitate the provision of a network of quality pathways and associated car parks for walkers and cyclists and horse-riders that are attractive and free of vehicular traffic.</p> <p>b) Facilitate the provision of a car park for hillwalkers and mountain climbers at Carrantuohill.</p> <p>c) Facilitate the provision of a car park for users of the Lee Walk.</p>
SG 9-27	Co-operate with representative bodies in order to support the development, maintenance and enhancement of walking routes throughout the county in an environmentally sustainable way.
SG 9-28	Promote, in co-operation with the various relevant organizations, the more extensive use of the coastal strip for such activities as touring, sight-seeing, walking, pony trekking, etc as a tourism resource and as a recreational resource for the residents of County Kerry and other visitors.
SG 9-29	Actively encourage and seek to facilitate the development of integrated cycle routes throughout the County in association with other agencies.
SG 9-30	Support the retention of existing public rights of way networks and to seek to ensure that all routes are appropriately sign posted, way marked and kept free from obstruction. Seek to promote new opportunities for gaining access to the countryside where possible.
SG 9-31	Protect and preserve the public rights of way and access to traditional outdoor amenities and heritage including rivers, the shore-line and marine resources.
SG 9-32	<p>Promote and protect the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local looped walks. • Access to features and views of special interest, • Walks for the less active walker and facilities for people with disabilities, family friendly walks & wheelchair accessible walks. • Tralee to Fenit Railway Line • Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen Railway line
SG 9-33	Promote, facilitate, and safeguard cycleways
SG 9-34	Develop an overall Walking Policy for County Kerry during the lifetime of this plan.



9.8 Sports / Recreational Facilities

The provision of open space, recreation and amenity facilities, which can cater for the demands of an increasing population and which will be accessible for all sectors and age groups of the population, is a central element in the delivery of sustainable communities. The Council recognises the role that good quality open space, recreation and amenity facilities can play in creating healthy and active lifestyles to ensure the wellbeing and improved quality of life of the entire community.

9.8.1 There is considerable variation in the demand for, and the supply of sports facilities. Sports facilities often require extensive sites and these sites are vulnerable in some areas to development pressure. Sports facilities may be inappropriate in certain areas because of their extent, and due to the crowds they attract.

9.8.2 The Council shall normally favour any development proposals for recreational facilities for the community in a suitable location.

9.8.3 With regard to the necessary infrastructure, the Council shall require that there is adequate infrastructure locally available, or made available prior to the commencement of the development, and secured if necessary by planning agreement.

9.8.4 The Council shall normally refuse any development proposal that would result in the effective loss of an existing amenity or facility, or which would prejudice the provision of an amenity unless:

- The facility or amenity was established as an interim use pending the completion of an improved or satisfactory replacement facility,
- or**
- The applicant can demonstrate that there is an insufficient local demand for the existing, or an alternative,
- or**
- Satisfactory alternative provision can be made by the applicant prior to the commencement of development.

Objective No.	Sports and Recreational Facilities
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-35	<p>Facilitate sports facilities having regard to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local recreational needs, and the conservation of the cultural and natural environment. • The provisions and recommendations of the policy document “Developing Play in Kerry”. • The provisions and recommendations of the Kerry Local Sports Partnership Strategic Plan.

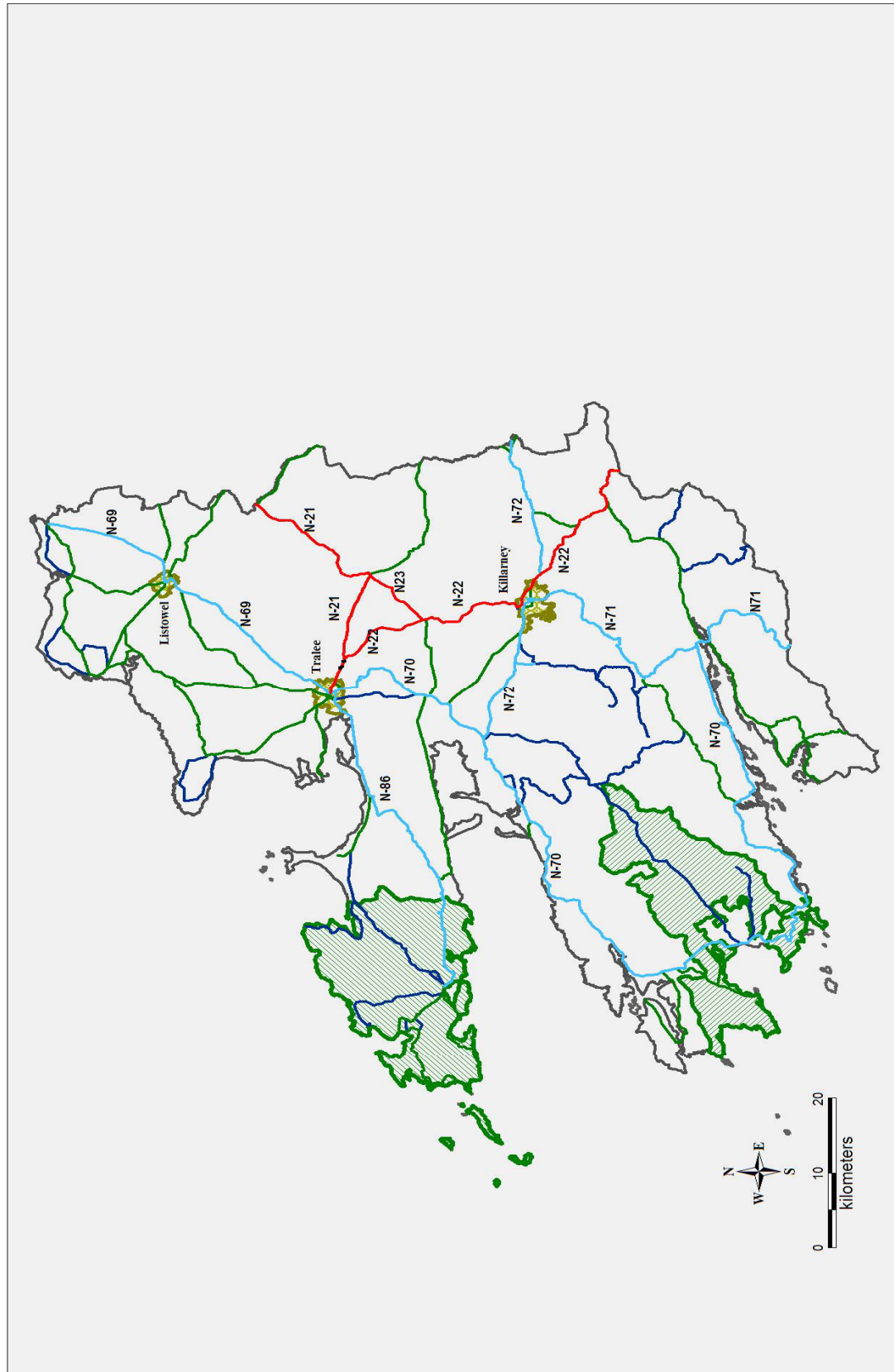
SG 9-36	Endeavour through the development management policies of this plan to provide land appropriate for recreational and amenity open space, specifically for the public, and generally in or adjacent to areas of existing or zoned residential use, or close to nodal centres of rural communities.
SG 9-37	Safeguard sports facilities and amenities of demonstrable value to the community
SG 9-38	Provide adequate access and parking facilities for the county's Blue Flag Beaches.

9.9 An Gaeltacht & An Ghaeilge

The protection of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht including the promotion of Irish as a community language is a mandatory objective of the development plan in accordance with Section 10 of the Planning & Development Act, 2000. The promotion and preservation of this linguistic and cultural heritage is a complex matter requiring input from many diverse policy areas. Land use planning policies are just one element of an overall strategy required to achieve this objective. Kerry County Council is committed to the preservation and promotion of the linguistic heritage of the Gaeltacht. It is recommended therefore that in order to provide policy specific responses to the individual and unique requirements of the Gaeltacht that Local Area Plans for the Gaeltachts of the county should be prepared over the lifetime of this plan. These Local Area Plans shall address rural development as well as individual settlements and in conjunction with broad community consultation formulate the local planning policies needed to preserve and strengthen the linguistic heritage of the area.

9.9.1 The current Gaeltacht boundaries were defined in 1956. Under the Gaeltacht Areas Order, 1956, 84 district electoral divisions and parts of 58 other district electoral divisions in Counties Kerry, Galway, Donegal, Mayo, Cork and Waterford were recognised as Gaeltacht areas. The areas recognized as Gaeltacht areas are shown on Map 9.1.

Kerry County Council recognise the importance of Irish across Kerry, both inside and outside the Gaeltacht, and will support the use of Irish by developing additional services through Irish as defined in it's Scéim Gaeilge 2008-2011.



9.9.2 In County Kerry, the Gaeltachts cover extensive areas in both the Corca Dhuibhne and Úibh Rathach peninsulas and constitutes an important part of the linguistic, social, and cultural tradition of the county. These areas are also rich in traditional ways, folklore, writing, music, and historic and archaeological sites. Every effort must be made to preserve and maintain the Gaeltacht tradition.

9.9.3 In addition, the Gaeltacht areas are an important resource in relation to their natural beauty. They encompass areas of rugged coastline and outstanding scenery. This has given rise to large numbers of tourists visiting the Gaeltacht area, particularly during the summer season.

9.9.4 In recent years the Council has been particularly proactive in the promotion of the Gaeltacht areas in Kerry. In recognition of the importance of the Blasket Islands major contribution to literary and historical tradition, the Council has been proactive in seeking to ensure the conservation of the island. The establishment of the Great Blasket Island Forum in 2001, with the objective of developing a consensus based approach to an overall management plan for the island, was supported by the Council. In addition, the Kerry County Council Scéim Gaeilge 2008-2011 aims to promote the provision of services through the Irish language for the people of the Gaeltacht. Such proactive measures are important in ensuring the survival of the Irish language and its associated Gaeltacht culture.

9.9.5 The development of amenities including the Blasket Interpretative Centre, the Heritage Centre at Baile an Fheirtéaraigh, the Skellig Experience and the Dungeagan / Cill Rialaig Project are important assets to the area and are necessary for the interpretation of Kerry's rich heritage and are a popular series of amenities for visitors.

Preservation of the Irish Language

9.9.6 It is important that the policies contained within the plan are broad and wide-ranging enough to facilitate any future strategies and initiatives that might emerge.

9.9.7 The main factors that need to be considered can be broken down into a number of categories as follows:

- Demographics
- A sufficiently large population is needed to maintain the vibrancy of the language
- A population with a sufficiently wide age range is needed so that the language is not seen as for older segments of the population
- A large young population is necessary to ensure the long-term viability of the language
- A population where the extent of in-migration is not such that the use of the language would be diluted or that the inward migrants could not be assimilated into the Irish speaking community must be maintained.
- Economic Factors
- A vibrant economy such that the indigenous population has adequate opportunity to remain within Gaeltacht areas
- Economic activity of a scale that would not require the in-migration of large quantities of workers that do not speak the language
- Facilities
- A range of facilities which would provide adequate opportunity for the teaching of Irish to a range of age groups and people of different backgrounds
- Facilities that would provide for the needs of the community to socialise in an environment where the entertainment provided was orientated to the Irish language.

- Facilities which would provide for the use of the Irish language in the conducting of normal business transactions.
- The provision of adequate facilities for the presentation of the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht in a coherent and authentic manner to locals and visitors alike.
- The provision of means of public and private communication through the Irish language.
- Infrastructure
- The reflection of the Irish language and culture in the material artefacts of the area, such as:
 - Buildings
 - Other structures
 - Public signage
 - Private Signage
 - Maps and similar information

As mentioned previously, it must be borne in mind that the planning authority, within the context of the planning legislation, can only support the systems and provide the planning environment in which the appropriate outcomes can be achieved.

9.9.8 A large area of the Gaeltacht is of a high visual quality and significant development pressures, both in relation to holiday homes and people who wish to reside on a permanent basis, are thereby attracted to the Gaeltacht. Given the pressures of such development it is inevitable that the in-migration of non-Irish-language speakers will affect the viability of the Irish language. It is important that facilities be provided which facilitate the teaching of the Irish language to those who desire it.

9.9.9 It is important to ensure that any developments within the recognised Gaeltacht areas are of benefit to the Irish language and the Gaeltacht communities of Corca Dhuibhne and Uíbh Raitheach.

9.9.10 The Council has brought together a working group ‘Meitheal Logainmneacha Chiarraí’ to provide support for developers and builders in giving appropriate local names to housing estates and businesses. In helping to provide local communities with a sense of identity, the group will research areas to be developed and will provide developers and businesses with a choice of names, which express the local history, and character of the county.

9.9.11 Certain areas within the Gaeltacht reflect the unique traditions and culture of the area. In particular the Blasket Islands, with their tradition of literature and island life, represent a cultural tradition of National importance.

9.9.12 The following objectives have been formulated in light of the above issues. It is intended that they apply to the whole county where appropriate.

Objective No.	Promotion of the Irish Language
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-39	Facilitate the provision of facilities for the teaching of the Irish language.

SG 9-40	Facilitate the provision of facilities for the production of traditional entertainment and the presentation of culture through the Irish medium.
SG 9-41	Facilitate the provision of housing by housing associations and similar organisations for those who use the Irish language as their primary means of communication.
SG 9-42	Facilitate the provision of infrastructure to enable the economic development of the area in a sustainable manner.
SG 9-43	Have regard to the impact of gradual residential development in Gaeltacht areas by non-Irish speakers.
SG 9-44	Require that all signage in Gaeltacht areas be in Irish or use internationally recognised icons and symbols.
SG 9-45	Assess large planning applications for development in Gaeltacht areas in terms of the likely effect that such development would have on the Irish language and the Gaeltacht.
SG 9-46	Require all large planning applications in Gaeltacht areas to be accompanied by a linguistic impact assessment and develop over the period of the plan a clear methodology for their assessment.
SG 9-47	Prepare Local Area Plans for the Gaeltacht areas of the county over the period of this plan.
SG 9-48	Use only the Irish version of Gaeltacht placenames in accordance with the Ordú Loganimneacha (Ceantair Ghaeltachta) 2004
SG 9-49	To develop over the period of the plan a clear policy in relation to social and affordable housing and Irish language requirements.

The Great Blasket Island

9.9.13 “The island is a National treasure. It is a very beautiful, unique and special place with a wealth of historical linguistic and heritage value that will need to be handled delicately and appropriately by all. The future of the Island is seen as a living Island supporting its own unique ecology and supporting a small number of people whose jobs will be associated with conservation, presentation and the educational value of the island. The future of the Island is seen as an integral part in the life of the local community in Dún Chaoin and as an integral part in the life of the wider community of the Dingle Peninsula. The Island will provide a small number of accommodation places for those who need to live on the Island, for those working on the Island and for a controlled number of visitors. The island should be accessible to all subject to those controls. Development of such minimal reasonable facilities as are required to support living on the Island, working on the Island, and to provide for the needs of visitors on the Island should be facilitated”.

*Source: Great Blasket Island Management Plan 2004

Objective No.	Great Blasket Island
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-50	Explore, during the period of this plan, the designation of the Great Blasket Island as a World Heritage Site.
SG 9-51	Have regard to the –principles contained in the Great Blasket Island Management Plan 2004 in the formulation and implementation of Land-Use planning policies for the Island:
SG 9-52	Ensure that emphasis is placed on the Irish language on the Island.
SG 9-53	Support the implementation of the Great Blasket Island Management plan.

Industry & Employment

9.9.14 Attracting industry to Gaeltacht areas can present challenges due to their peripherality, the lack of essential services and the difficulty in obtaining a labour force. A wide range of industries, companies and employment opportunities has, however, been established throughout the Kerry Gaeltacht areas. Údarás Na Gaeltachta has assisted many of these enterprises.

Objective No.	Industry and Employment
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-54	It is an objective of the Council to co-operate with Údarás na Gaeltachta and other interested bodies in the provision of employment and services for the Gaeltacht areas.

Tourism

9.9.15 There has been a significant increase in the level and quality of tourist accommodation provided. This has resulted in increased numbers of tourists staying in the Gaeltacht areas with a resultant spin-off to the local economy.

Objective No.	Tourism
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-55	It is an objective of the Council to promote the development of tourism activities in the Gaeltacht and seek to avoid any adverse impact on the Irish language or the culture of the Gaeltacht areas from such development.

Infrastructure

9.9.16 The Gaeltacht areas of Kerry represent some of the finest scenery in the Country. This is reflected in the number of tourists that visit the areas annually. This seasonal increase in population poses significant difficulties for the provision of adequate infrastructure. The standard of infrastructure being provided must, therefore, be far in excess of what would be required by the indigenous population and must be able to cater for the seasonal requirements. It is important, however, that this infrastructure is provided for a number of reasons. These include:

- maintaining a clean environment
- reducing the impacts of peripherality on the regions
- providing safe and efficient access to the area for tourists
- improving the quality of life for the indigenous population and making the areas more attractive places to live
- providing the proper circumstances for the development of industry

Objective No.	Infrastructure
	It is an objective of the Council to:
SG 9-56	It is an objective of the Council to promote the development of adequate infrastructure in the Gaeltacht areas.