



Kerry County Council Draft County Development Plan 2009-2015



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Strategic Environmental Assessment


Non-Technical Summary

**Kerry County Council
Planning Policy Unit
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STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE KERRY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

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1 INTRODUCTION

Fehily Timoney & Company (FTC), environmental and engineering consultants, was retained by Kerry County Council to prepare the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015. The findings of this assessment are presented in an Environmental Report. This document, the non-technical summary (NTS) to the Environmental Report, is a summary of the findings of this assessment. This document and the Environmental Report will be issued for public consultation with the draft Development Plan.

Kerry County Council is currently carrying out a review of its County Development Plan. This is a requirement of the Planning and Development Acts 2000 – 2007 which requires that each Plan is reviewed on a six year cycle. The draft Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015 (CDP) has been prepared in response to:

- The requirements of the Planning and Development Acts as set out above
- The need to provide a framework for the future development of the County that is consistent with higher level strategic planning policies including the National Development Plan 2007-2013, National Spatial Strategy 2000-2020, the Regional Planning Guidelines 2004-2020, the Meitheal Chiarrai 2002-2011, Kerry Local Authorities Access for All Implementation Plan 2008-2015 and the Udaras na Gaeltacht – Beartas Forbartha 2005-2015.

As part of this review Kerry County Council is required to conduct a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) prior to the Plan's adoption. An Environmental Report of this SEA must be prepared and this document forms the non-technical summary (NTS) of this Report.

A Strategic Environmental Assessment is a systemic evaluation of the likely significant impacts of a plan or programme before the plan or programme is adopted.

The SEA process is a requirement of European law. It is governed by Directive 2001/42/EC on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment. The Directive was transposed into Irish land use planning law by the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004). The regulations amend the Planning and Development Regulation 2001 in order to incorporate the SEA process into land-use planning. They are termed "The SEA Regulations" in the Environmental Report. These regulations require a SEA be conducted for County Development Plans.

The stages in the preparation of a SEA can be divided into:

- Scoping – the process whereby the range of detail required in the Environmental Report are decided upon. The scoping phase is conducted in consultation with prescribed statutory environmental bodies. The bodies consulted were the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (DoCMNR) and the Department of Environment, Health and Local Government (DoEHLG). A Scoping Report was prepared by Fehily Timoney & Company (FTC) acting on behalf of Kerry County Council in April 2008. The Scoping Report identified the key environmental issues that would be addressed in the Environmental Report. The Scoping Report was sent to the statutory environmental authorities and neighbouring authorities.
- Environmental Report – this report assesses, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment in County Kerry of implementing the draft Kerry County Development Plan. The report also assesses alternative strategies that were considered by the Council, leading to the preferred strategy. Mitigation measures to eliminate/remedy any significant impacts of implementing the Plan and monitoring procedures, to identify the effects of the Plan are also given in the Environmental Report.
- Adoption of the County Development Plan – when the County Development Plan is adopted after undertaking the relevant public consultation and consultation with the elected members, an SEA Statement will be made available to the public. The purpose of the Statement is to summarise how environmental considerations were integrated into the Development Plan. The Statement also indicates how consultations with the statutory environmental authorities were responded to, the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted and monitoring procedures that will be put in place during the lifetime of the Plan.
- Monitoring – A programme of monitoring procedures that will be put in place to monitor the significant effects of the Plan.

2 THE DRAFT KERRY COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2009-2015

2.1 Introduction

The current County Development Plan was adopted in November 2003. Its replacement has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Acts and provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of County Kerry for the years 2009-2015. The following section summaries the key elements of the Plan.

The reviewed County Development Plan for County Kerry is founded on the following strategic framework informing the policies and objectives needed to develop the County:-

“The principal aim of the County Development Plan is to provide for an improved quality of life for all people in the county while regulating development in a sustainable manner. This can be achieved through the promotion of its social, cultural and employment opportunities, efficient transportation, sufficient housing and community facilities as well as health, safety and clean environment which all contribute to a good quality of life. The County Development Plan promotes these goals.”

The contents of the draft Development Plan are listed in Table 2.1. Each chapter of the Development Plan has strategic principles which in turn inform the objectives set out in the Plan.

Table 2.1: Contents of the Draft Kerry County Development Plan

- | |
|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall Strategy• Settlement Strategy and Rural Development Policies• Housing• Employment, Economic Activity and Retail• Tourism• Natural Resources• Transport and Infrastructure• Social, Community, Culture, Recreation, Amenity and the Gaeltacht• Built Heritage• Natural Environment• Zoning and Landscape• Urban Design and Development Management |
|---|

The strategic objectives of the new Development Plan are detailed in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Strategic Objectives of the Draft Kerry County Development Plan (2009 – 2015)

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide an improved quality of life for all citizens of the area by promoting the area's economic potential, protecting its natural and built environment and safeguarding its cultural heritage. ▪ Provide for the development of the area in a manner which is sustainable and protects its social, cultural, environmental and economic assets for future generations. ▪ Provide for balanced growth throughout the area by promoting the strengthening of rural communities and provide the infrastructure to facilitate job creation in these areas. ▪ Strengthen towns and villages throughout the county, improve the infrastructure provided, develop the critical mass necessary to maintain and expand the service provision within them, and make them more attractive places in which to live. ▪ Promote the development of the Tralee Killarney Hub as a means of strengthening the economic base of the County and acting as a focus for inward investment. ▪ Ensure that the existing provisions, including land-use zoning, of the adopted Local Area Plans will remain in force pending their review during the lifetime of this Plan. ▪ Provide a high quality of design in private and public development, increasing the quality of the public realm while maintaining the character, form and settlement pattern of the villages. ▪ Provide the infrastructure and support for the development and expansion of employment opportunities, including indigenous knowledge based industries. ▪ Protect the linguistic and cultural heritage of the County and promote Irish as the living community language. ▪ Promote renewable energy measures and sustainable settlement patterns in order to promote energy conservation and sustainable communities and travel patterns in the future. ▪ Protect the landscape of the County as an economic asset in addition to its intrinsic beauty and amenity value ▪ Facilitate where possible in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development, family members on their own land
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2.2 Strategic Policies

The Kerry County Development Plan is situated within a hierarchy of National and Regional policies, including the National Spatial Strategy, the National Development Plan and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the South West Region 2004-2020. The Plan must be consistent with the objectives of these higher-level strategic documents. Similarly the Development Plan informs lower order Plans such as Local Area Plans.

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) sets out a 20 year planning framework designed to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development and population growth in Ireland.

The NSS provides guidance for future development by identifying settlements to accommodate future growth in order to achieve balanced regional development. These locations are termed regional gateways and hubs. For County Kerry the Hub of Tralee/Killarney is identified in the NSS.

The National Development Plan 2007 – 2013 promotes a framework for the regional development with a particular focus on investment in gateways and hubs identified in the National Spatial Strategy (NSS). These locations are designated to act as development growth areas where infrastructure and investment will be promoted to act as economic drivers for the region as a whole.

To give effect to the NSS, Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) have been published for the eight regions of Ireland. The RPG for the South West Region covers the Counties of Cork and Kerry and Cork City. This document sets out a planning framework for the period 2004 – 2020 and is designed to achieve a better spatial balance for social, economic and physical development throughout the region. Several sub-strategies/ projects have been proposed as part of the Regional Planning Guidelines which are of relevance to County Kerry. These are set out in Table 2.3.

Table 2.3: Strategies/projects proposed as part of the RPG for County Kerry

- To promote the sustainable development of Mallow and Tralee/Killarney as vibrant Hub towns by creating a critical mass of population, employment and services that enable them to attract investment and people, thereby supporting the roles of the gateways in the NSS and delivering balanced regional development within the South West, through energising smaller towns and rural areas within their sphere of influence.
- To secure development of other towns and rural areas and their maximum potential, to support the Hubs and Gateways and to ensure a sustainable future for the rural areas of the region.
- To establish upgraded quality transport systems, linking the Gateway and Hubs to facilitate their growth and development.
- To build the South West as knowledge- based economy through the sharing of knowledge and know-how at all levels.
- To provide appropriate levels of services in selected towns and villages outside the Gateway and Hubs in order to enable the locations to develop a critical mass of population, employment and services, so that they can act as service centres for their rural hinterland.

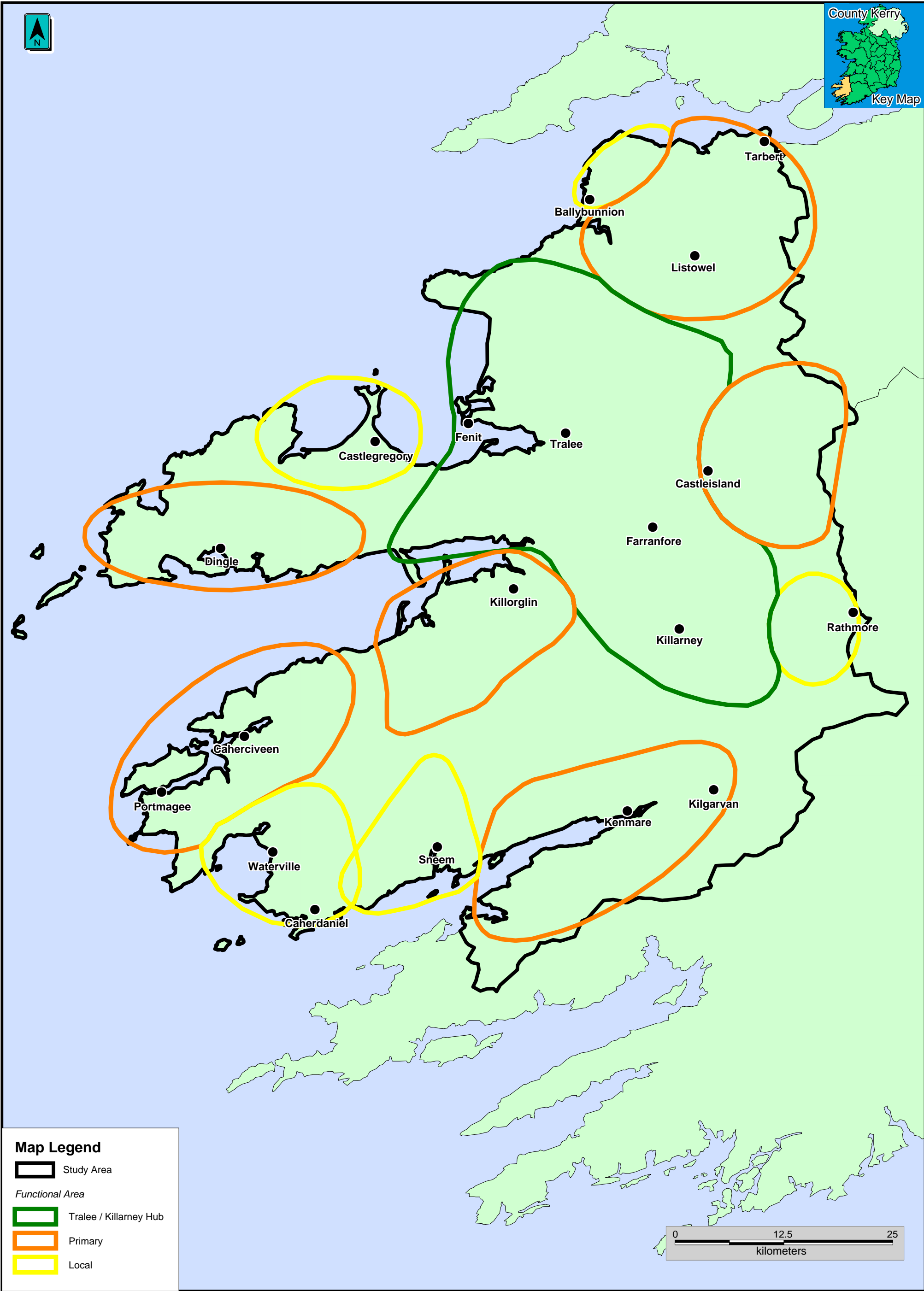
2.3 Urban and Rural Settlement Strategy

An important feature of the Development Plan is the settlement strategy for the County. In this context the Development Plan has identified that access to services and social infrastructure has an effect on where people live. The size of the settlement and demand from local populations determines the level of service provision which can be supported. Larger settlements such as towns require higher order services such as hospitals, third level education etc. Smaller settlements such as rural villages on the other hand need daily access to services such as primary and secondary schools, shops, and post office.

The Development Plan identified Tralee/Killarney as a hub functional area. This area will be supported by primary functional areas identified in the Development Plan. The primary functional areas are An Daingean, Caherciveen, Castleisland, Kenmare, Killorglin and Listowel. Ballybunion, Castlegregory, Rathmore, Sneem and Waterville have been identified as local functional areas in the Development Plan. The areas are shown in Figure 2.1.

In addition rural development policy is a unique policy of the Development Plan. Rural areas constitute the bulk of the landmass of County Kerry. Traditionally rural dwellings were occupied by people involved in rural related activities such as agriculture. However, the cost of urban dwellings has resulted in the majority of new dwellings in rural areas being built by people with no previous rural connections. The Council recognises the intrinsic beauty of the landscape in County Kerry and the need to protect the environment for future generations. The Council also recognises the need for strict environmental control measures for rural developments to protect water and groundwaters. The Council in the Plan has identified three types of rural landscape depending upon its sensitivity. The level of development allowed will depend upon the landscapes sensitivity.

The Development Plan also covers areas such as housing, employment and economic activity, retail strategy, tourism, natural environment, transport and infrastructure, social, community, culture, recreation, amenity and the Gaeltacht, the built environment, natural resources, zoning and landscape and urban design and management.



Fehily Timoney & Company

Hub Functional Area and Complementary Settlements

Figure 2.1

3 BASELINE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

County Kerry comprises 1,815 square miles. The current land use is predominantly agriculture and peat bog. Areas to the west and southwest of the County are dotted with coniferous forests. 11.5% of County Kerry is under forest.

The 2006 Census identified a population of 139,835 in County Kerry. This represents a 5.5% increase in population between 2002 and 2006. It is estimated that the population of County Kerry will increase to 145,261 by 2009 and 160,363 by 2015.

The current working population in County Kerry is 60,810. The current unemployment rate in the County is 7.3%. The majority of males are employed in the building and construction sector while the majority of females are employed in professional services. Tourism provides employment for approximately 15% of the total labour workforce in the County. There are approx. 1,000 people employed in fish and shellfish farming around the coast.

The climate of County Kerry is influenced by its maritime location. The average rainfall for low lying areas of County Kerry is between 1,000 mm and 1,500 mm per annum.

The baseline assessment has been conducted for biodiversity (flora and fauna), water, humans and populations, geology and soils, air and climate, cultural heritage and landscape.

3.1 Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna

Plants, animals and mammals are included under the heading of biodiversity.

County Kerry is home to many habitats of both international and national importance including raised bogs, wetland areas, rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal areas. Many of these are protected by European and National legislation, including Special Protection Areas, (SPA's), Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), and Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs). The SAC's and SPAs form part of the European network of sites known as Natura 2000 sites.

There are 24 Special Areas of Conservation, 7 candidate SACs, 17 Special Protection Areas, 9 Natural Heritage Areas and 62 proposed Natural Heritage Areas in County Kerry.

County Kerry also contains a large number of protected species, including three main breeding colonies for the freshwater pearl mussel and the Kerry slug. A number of lakes in the County contain Artic Char and the Killarney National Park holds populations of Red Deer and Sika Deer. Many of the mountainous areas of County Kerry such as Mount Brandon hold populations of chough and peregrine falcon.

Similarly the coastal areas such as Valencia Harbour and Dingle Peninsula contain nationally important populations of fulmars.

3.2 Water

This section includes surface water, groundwater, estuarine (transitional) and marine waters in County Kerry.

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) (2000/60/EC) entered into force in Ireland in 2000. The overriding purpose of the WFD is to achieve at least “good status” in all European Waters by 2015. The WFD has been implemented in Ireland by dividing the island into eight River Basin Districts (RBDs). County Kerry is part of the South Western River Basin District (SWRBD) and the Shannon River Basin District (SRBD). Risk assessments were carried out on all the water bodies within the River Basin Districts and water bodies were assigned one of the following four risk categories:

- Not at risk of achieving good status by 2015
- Probably not at risk of achieving good status by 2015
- Possibly at risk of achieving good status by 2015
- At risk of achieving good status by 2015

The South Western and the Shannon River Basin Districts Boards have assessed river water quality in County Kerry. The assessment has found that many of the rivers are “at risk” or “possibly at risk” of achieving good water quality status by 2015. Rivers “at risk” include the rivers Inny, Ferta, Carhan, Behy, Gaddagh, Flesk, Maine, and the Lee. Rivers that are “possibly at risk” include the Glensk, Caragh, Meelagh, Annagh, and the Brick.

A number of lakes such as, Callee Lough, Lough Leane, Cloonaghlin Lough and Inchiquin Lough, are at risk of not achieving good status by 2015. Carradh Lough, Muckross Lake, Lough Guitane and Barley Lake are possibly at risk of achieving good status by 2015.

Diffuse sources of pollution, such as from agricultural runoff or septic tanks, were the main sources of pollution for Lough Leane, Cloonaghlin Lough and Inchiquin Lough. A number of lake catchments within the County are vulnerable to elevated phosphorus levels, for example Lough Leane. Lough Guitane is a critically important drinking water source for County Kerry.

Assessments on groundwater have found that the majority of groundwater in County Kerry is expected to achieve good status by 2015. However, groundwater in the vicinity of Killorglin, Beaufort and Tralee is possibly at risk of not achieving good status by 2015. The assessment found that point sources of pollution, for example discharge points from effluent treatment plants, are the main sources of pollution to groundwater in the Killarney area.

County Kerry has a coastline of approximately 1,000 km, and it has 13 Blue Flag beaches.

Assessment of transitional (estuarine) waters found that the Lee Estuary in Tralee, the Upper Feale and the Lower Shannon Estuary are at risk of not achieving good status by 2015. Dingle Harbour, Inner Tralee Bay and Outer Kenmare River are possibly at risk of not achieving good status by 2015. Dunmanus Bay, Outer Bantry Bay, Outer Dingle Bay and Outer Tralee Bay are strongly expected to achieve good status. The Sneem and Castlemaine wastewater treatment discharges, combined sewer and treatment plant overflows were identified as the main pollution threats to waters in these areas. Discharges of pollution are also the main pollution threats to water in the Outer Kenmare River.

3.3 Populations and Human Health

3.3.1 Drinking Water Quality

A number of the smaller public drinking water supplies in County Kerry are dependant on groundwater reserves. A significant proportion of rural dwellers in the County are supplied from individual groundwater wells.

In January 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) prepared a Remedial Action List (RAL) for drinking water supplies in Ireland. The aim of the list is to provide a greater level of consumer protection. Each local authority is required to address the issues raised in the RAL. The EPA RAL identified that 40 drinking water supplies in County Kerry need improvement. Over 50% of the RALs related to inadequate treatment for cryptosporidium a pathogen which causes water borne disease. A number of other RALs related to the failure to meet microbiological standards for drinking water. Kerry County Council is currently putting provisions in place to remedy these issues.

3.3.2 Wastewater Treatment in the County

Kerry County Council operates 42 wastewater treatment plants, the largest serving Killarney and Tralee. A number of wastewater treatment plants in the County are overloaded and other towns and villages are not serviced by any form of treatment plant.

3.3.3 Pressures on Humans in the County

Poor drinking water quality may have a significant effect on human health. The potential environmental problems associated with the lack of adequate wastewater treatment and water quality may also impact on humans.

3.4 Geology and Soils

The most common rock types found in the County were old red sandstone (50% of total county land area), Nanvrian sandstone and shale (27%) and visean shelf limestone and shale (9%).

There are Karstic springs in County Kerry such as Tobermains at Castleisland and Crag Cane near Castleisland. A European 'Geopark' is proposed for an area of south west Kerry encompassing Sneem, Castlecove and Caherdaniel. Geoparks are areas which include a particular geological heritage and which are important in terms of their scientific quality, rarity, aesthetic appeal or educational value.

A landslide occurred close to Dunquin graveyard along the Sleah Head Drive in April 2007.

There are a number of sea caves in County Kerry including one at Ferrier's Cave in An Daingean, and Pigeon's cave in Ballybunion.

3.5 Air and Climate

Ambient air quality in County Kerry is good. Air emissions from certain types of industries are governed by Integrated Pollution Prevention Control (IPPC) licences issued by the EPA. There are eight IPPC licenced companies in County Kerry.

Landfills are a source of the greenhouse gas, methane. Waste management facilities are governed by waste licences issued by the EPA. There are eight waste licenced facilities in County Kerry.

Air pollution licences and waste facility permits are issued by Kerry County Council for activities that do not fall under IPPC or Waste Licensing.

3.6 Material Assets

Material assets are resources considered to be of value and intrinsic to specific places.

Kerry County Council operates a 250 kw hydroelectric station at Lough Guitane. There are two privately operated hydroelectric stations at Cottoners and Sheen Falls. There are eight privately owned wind farms operating in the County.

The major towns in County Kerry are connected to major cities in Ireland by National Primary roads. There are nine daily return trains to Cork from Tralee and Killarney. There are nine daily return trains to Dublin. Bus Éireann operates several Expressway and local services in County Kerry. Farranfore Airport in Kerry serves as a Regional Airport in the Southwest of Ireland.

Fenit Harbour near Tralee can handle up to 17,000 tonne ships. Dingle Harbour is one of Ireland's secondary fishing ports.

Kerry County Council operates seven waste licenced facilities (landfills and transfer stations). Kerry County is serviced by an engineered landfill site at Muingnamine near Tralee. County Kerry forms part of the Kerry/Limerick/Clare Regional Waste Management Plan 2006 – 2011. This plan has set limits of up to 45% for recycling, 14% landfill and the remainder to thermal treatment. The recycling rates for County Kerry were 23.6% in 2006.

3.7 Cultural Assets

Like many counties in Ireland, County Kerry has a number of monuments, features and historical sites as well as social types of culture such as language, literacy and artistic associations.

The Gaeltacht areas cover Dingle and the Iveragh Peninsula.

Kerry County Council has 13 locations which are pending designation as Archaeological Conservation Areas (ACAS). It also has a large number of houses, castles and historical buildings throughout the County.

3.8 Landscape

County Kerry has a unique and characteristic landscape that is a major feature in attracting tourists to the County. The Development Plan has identified three types of rural landscape depending on the sensitivity of the landscape:-

- Prime Special Amenity
- Secondary Special Amenity and
- Rural General

Scenic views in County Kerry are also designated in the County Development Plan. These are shown in Figure 3.1.

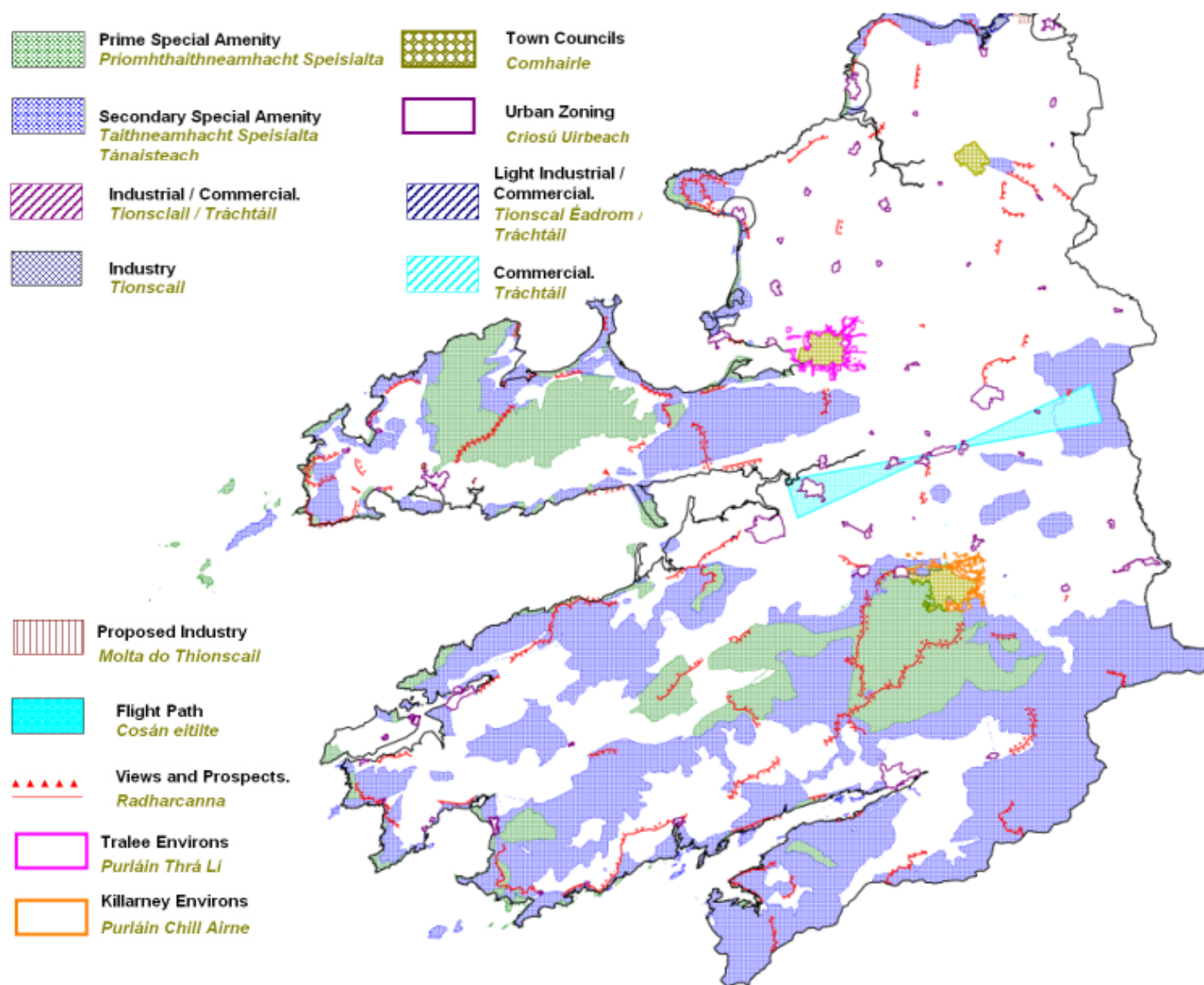


Figure 3.1 Amenity Designations, Views and Prospects

3.9 Cumulative Environmental Sensitivities

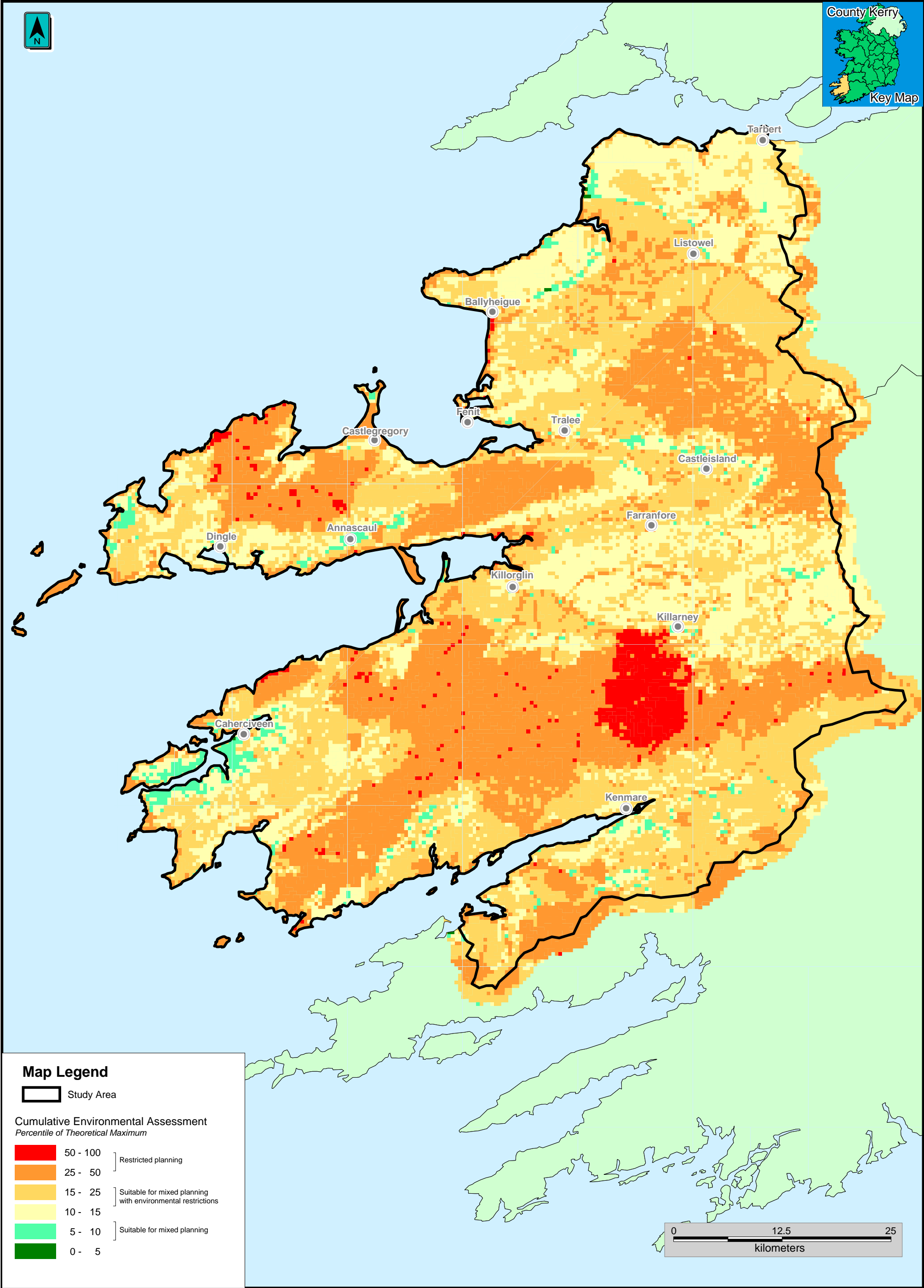
The full Environmental Report contains a cumulative sensitivity map for County Kerry (see Figure 3.2). This figure was prepared using the environmental baseline data which is rated and overlapped to prepare an overall picture for the County. This map shows the key environmental sensitivities in the County and rates areas in respect of vulnerability for development.

Vulnerable environmental locations identified include areas around Lough Leane, Killarney National Park, The Brandon Mountains, Stack Mountains and Macgillicuddy reeks. The robust environmental areas were identified around Caherciveen, north of Ballyheigue, the Dingle peninsula, and a large portion of mountains in South Kerry.

Development pressures are expected to be strong around the Tralee/Killarney hub. The area between Tralee and Killarney has been identified as low to moderate sensitivity being associated with relatively low environmental constraints. On the other hand development north of Annascaul will potentially impact on an environmentally sensitive area.

This process shows that there are two major and some smaller areas where there is potential for conflicts between development pressures and the environment. These areas are:

- Large area of land immediately south of Killarney
- Areas of land around Lough Caragh, Coomnacraia Lake, Lough Currane.



4 ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

4.1 Introduction

The development and assessment of alternatives (or options) is a legal requirement under the SEA Directive. Under Article 5 (O.J. 2001) plans and programme proponents should ensure that:

- Reasonable alternatives taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme, are identified, described and evaluated (Article 5.1)
- The Environmental Report includes 'an outline of the reasons for selecting the alternatives dealt with' (Annex 1(h))
- A statement is prepared summarising 'the reasons for choosing the plan or programme as adopted, in the light of the reasonable alternatives dealt with' (Article 9.1(b)).

This section of the Environmental Report identifies and describes the different development scenarios that were assessed by Kerry County Council and the SEA team. The alternatives were evaluated taking into account the vision of the draft County Development Plan and the geographical scope of the Plan.

Description of Alternatives

Three alternatives were considered during the preparation of the Development Plan. These were:

Scenario 1: Segregate the County by electoral areas with specific Local Area Plans (LAPs)

Scenario 2: Segregate the County by settlement with specific Local Area Plans

Scenario 3: Segregate the County by defined functional areas based on economies and settlements.

4.2 Assessment of Alternatives against Environmental Objectives

The environmental objectives given in Table 5.1 of the Environmental Report were used to assess the different scenarios. The findings of the assessment are described below.

Scenario 1: Electoral Areas with Specific Local Area Plans (LAPs)

In this scenario, a LAP is prepared for each electoral division in the County. This scenario would not provide for sustainable or economic growth in the County Kerry. The County does not function on political boundary lines. Functional areas are often across electoral areas. To plan on this basis would not identify the most efficient transport or infrastructural provision options. Developments would not occur in areas where they are likely to have the least impact on the natural environment and material assets. This settlement strategy would possibly allow for urban expansion in incorrect locations which would result in a loss of distinction between rural and urban centres.

The impact of this planning scenario would through uncoordinated urban planning put increased pressure on rural areas and on water both from a demand and potential pollution perspective. This scenario may increase pressure for individual rural houses that may be unserved. These dwellings would require a separate treatment system which if not properly maintained could result in discharges to nearby watercourses or groundwater.

The economic cost of providing infrastructure, water, wastewater treatment and amenities would be high.

This scenario would be less favoured.

Scenario 2: Settlement Areas based on 87 LAPs

In this scenario there would be 87 individual LAPs for the major settlements in County Kerry. It is envisaged that specific planning guidelines would be provided for each individual LAP. However, due to the small size of some of the settlements, adequate infrastructure such as water and wastewater treatment may not be available.

This scenario looks at each settlement in isolation and does not provide an overview of how the areas function, thereby planning in isolation. This may lead to inefficient provision of services and transportation patterns due to a lack of coordination between settlement planning.

Discharges from dwellings within the smaller settlement may be to septic tank or to individual wastewater treatment plants. In the event that these control measures are not adequately maintained or serviced, pollution of water and groundwater may occur.

Scenario 3: Defined Functional Areas based on Economics and Settlements

For this scenario some trade-offs between development requirements and environmental protection are allowed. It allows for the development of the Tralee/ Killarney Hub and the primary functional areas such as Dingle and Caherciveen. It also allows for the provision of infrastructure to cater for the expected increase in population in these areas. Where a conflict between development and environment arises, adequate mitigation measures can be put in place to remedy the impacts.

This scenario allows for controlled development within the County and allows for mixed planning both urban and rural. It looks at how the County functions at a practical level rather than by political boundaries and groups the provision of services into functional groups thereby providing for the more efficient provision of infrastructure services.

The scenario allows for the protection of designated sites and water bodies within the County. Studies undertaken by the Council have identified the requirements for upgrades and construction of new wastewater treatment plants. The provision of potable water for the public is also included in this scenario.

4.3 Assessment of Alternatives against Environmental Objectives

This assessment is completed to establish how the alternative scenarios would impact on the environmental baseline of County Kerry.

Electoral Areas with specific LAPs

The impact on the environmental baseline from segregating the County by electoral areas would be predominantly negative. There are predicted negative impacts on water, biodiversity, population and material assets. The current water quality status is poor especially around the larger settlements such as Killarney and Tralee. However by implementing electoral area segregation, there would be a greater number of wastewater treatment facilities needed as there would be no focus on centralising populations. These new facilities may be under the 500 P.E. design and not be licensed and controlled by the EPA under the new Wastewater Discharge Regulations 2007. This scenario would also be considered to have a negative impact on biodiversity as there would be a greater spatial land take in providing housing and services over a more diverse area with a risk to a greater number of designated sites. There is a predicted negative impact on population as services such as education would be provided at greater distances due to more dispersed populations and there would be greater demand for provision of public transport. There would be negative impacts on material assets as the electoral area segregation would have more disperse populations and material assets such as water supply, broadband, wastewater and waste management infrastructure would be needed to cover a much greater area.

There are no impacts predicted on cultural heritage, and soils/ geology from implementing the electoral segregation. Cultural heritage is well controlled in Kerry and managing the County from an electoral standpoint would not detract from the stringent control already in place. Soils and geology would not be impacted by an electoral area segregation. Air and climate would be positively impacted as electoral area segregation would not be driven by population development and population dispersion would remain as it is currently. Related air emission from these populations would remain dispersed. The impact on landscape could be positive or negative as developments would be more dispersed reducing significant impacts from large developments and retain the image of the rural environment but there would be greater number of dispersed housing which could negatively impact the landscape character.

Settlements with Specific LAPs

There are predicted negative impacts on water and biodiversity with the implementation of the scenario of settlement LAPs. Similarly to the scenario of electoral segregation, a more dispersed population leads to a greater number of smaller wastewater treatment plants, some of which would fall in under the trigger value for EPA wastewater treatment licensing. This would present a greater risk to water quality. This scenario would also be considered to have a negative impact on biodiversity as there would be a greater spatial land take in providing housing and services over a more diverse area with a risk to a greater number of designated sites. There would be negative impacts on material assets as the scenario would have more dispersed populations, albeit at 87 named settlements, and material assets such as water supply, broadband, wastewater and waste management infrastructure would be needed to cover a much greater area.

There are no predicted impacts on cultural heritage and soils/ geology. There are no impacts predicted on cultural heritage, and soils/ geology from implementing this scenario. Cultural heritage is well controlled in Kerry and managing the County from a settlement specific scenario would not detract from the stringent control already in place. Soils and geology would not be impacted by this scenario.

Air and climate would be positively impacted as this scenario would retain and develop the existing settlements which are spread throughout the county rather than developing high density population centres. Related air emission from these populations would remain dispersed. Population would be positively impacted as the scenario focuses on existing settlements and the local area plan for each settlement would include for quality of life issues. Services to these settlements as material assets would suffer as previously discussed due to the spread of the population. There would be a positive impact on landscape as the each settlement LAP would contain standards for landscape assessment in each LAP. A possible negative impact could occur if the same standards were not applied across each of the LAPs.

Defined functional areas

There is a predicted positive impact on water quality with the functional areas scenario. Wastewater treatment services would be more centralised in this scenario and these would be larger plant with P.E. greater than 500 and would be under the jurisdiction of the EPA wastewater licensing regulations. There would also be a positive impact on population as this scenario would develop centralised areas such as the Tralee-Killarney hub and the primary/ secondary areas and hence higher density populations. Infrastructure will be provided for these areas with a positive impact on the provision of material assets. Ambient air quality is good in the County but the denser population centres created by the hub and functional areas will however have greater number of private cars and greater air emissions. Biodiversity is also considered to potentially experience a negative impact from this scenario as the development of denser population's centres and settlements will require additional lands for residential and service developments and habitat loss will occur unless brownfield sites are fully utilised.

Cultural heritage, soils and geology and material assets are not considered to be impacted by this scenario. Cultural heritage is well controlled in Kerry and managing the County from an settlement specific scenario would not detract from the stringent control already in place. Soils and geology would not be impacted by this scenario. There is no expected impact on material assets as the scenario is developing the existing larger settlements where utilities and services are currently being developed.

4.4 Preferred Strategy

Based on the environmental assessment of the three alternative policy scenarios, it was found that Scenario 3, which represents the hub function area approach, should be the preferred strategy for the County. This scenario recognises the balance that must be struck between the environment, quality of life and development.

5 ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF THE PLAN

5.1 Assessment Criteria

The Environmental Report sets out how the likely significant effects of the Plan on the environment were considered. The purpose of this section of this NTS is to summarise the “likely significant” effects of the Kerry County Development Plan on the environment. The methodology is based on an assessment of the impacts of the objectives given in the County Development Plan set against the environmental objectives that are given in Table 5.1.

The SEA Regulations requires that a Development Plan is assessed against a number of environmental objectives which are mainly derived from international, European or national policies aimed to protect the environment.

Table 5.1: Relevant Environmental Objectives

Water	Prevent any deterioration in the status of any waters and to achieve at least “good status” in all waters by 2015
Biodiversity	Maintain and enhance biodiversity
Cultural Heritage	Promote the protection and conservation of cultural heritage including architecture, archaeology, history and language
Landscape	Conserve and enhance valued natural and historic landscapes and features within them
Population and Human Health	Improve quality of life via policies which promote high quality residential, working and recreational environments and sustainable travel patterns, waste management, potable water
Soils and Geology	Maintain the quality of soils and conserve geological resources
Material Assets	Maximise the use of existing infrastructure and plan for future needs
Air and Climate	Reduce all forms of air pollution and control greenhouse gas emissions

The impact assessment of the Development Plan on the environmental objectives is summarised in the following section of this NTS.

5.2 Biodiversity

Kerry County Council recognises the importance of the biodiversity of the County both from an ecological and a tourism perspective. Hence, the Development Plan has a number of specific objectives that will protect biodiversity and will strengthen the Council's role in meeting the requirements of EU and national habitat protection legislation. However, the presence of designated sites within the Tralee/ Killarney Hub and the primary functional areas may impact on some designated sites or local sites of ecological importance this is shown in Figure 5.1. Due to the strategic nature of this Plan, these impacts cannot be described or quantified. Kerry County Council has listed a number of objectives in the Development Plan that will mitigate against significant damage to the designated locally important ecological sites. Developers wishing to operate in these areas will be required to submit a detailed ecological assessment to Kerry County Council as part of their planning applications to demonstrate the impact, if any, on these sites.

5.3 Water

Figure 5.2 illustrates the development pressures and river water quality risk assessment in the County. The figure shows that development in these areas, if not strictly controlled could result in further deterioration in water quality.

The draft Development Plan contains a number of objectives that address water quality in County Kerry. These cover surface water, groundwater, estuarine, and coastal waters. There are also objectives relating to the supply of potable drinking water. Collectively these objectives will ensure that Kerry County Council will meet the requirements of EU and national legislation regarding water quality. Adherence to the objectives given in the County Development Plan will also ensure compliance with the River Basin Management Plans for the region.

The construction/upgrading of a number of wastewater treatment plants throughout the County will provide long term adequate protection for surface waters, drinking water sources, estuarine and coastal waters.

The requirement for a buffer zone between developments and water bodies will afford protection against flooding and pollution. In addition, developers will be required to provide details in their planning applications, on how surface water runoff will be attenuated/cleared and discharged from their development.

5.4 Population and Human Health

The Development Plan will have a long term positive impact on the inhabitants of County Kerry. The Council recognises the importance of protecting the environment and accordingly a number of appropriate objectives have been included in the Development Plan. These will further the overall objective of the Development Plan which is to improve the quality of life for all citizens in the County.

It will be achieved by the provision of clean drinking water, adequate wastewater treatment facilities, amenities, schools, public transport, and housing.

5.5 Material Assets

A key objective of the Development Plan is to provide a sustainable economy for the County and to attract inhabitants to the Tralee-Killarney Hub and primary function areas. The provision of good quality road network, broadband and utilities are of primary importance to achieving this aim.

New improved roads will encourage greater vehicular use in the County. The encouraged use of renewable sources of energy will help to improve air quality in the County. Similarly the use of more sustainable waste management practices will ensure that the quantities of waste going for final disposal will be reduced. This reduction in the landfilling of waste will diminish the quantities of greenhouse gases arising from this type of waste management.

5.6 Cultural Assets

A number of objectives in the Development Plan will protect cultural heritage and cultural assets in County Kerry. It is anticipated that positive impacts on cultural assets will arise if these objectives are adhered to.

5.7 Air and Climate

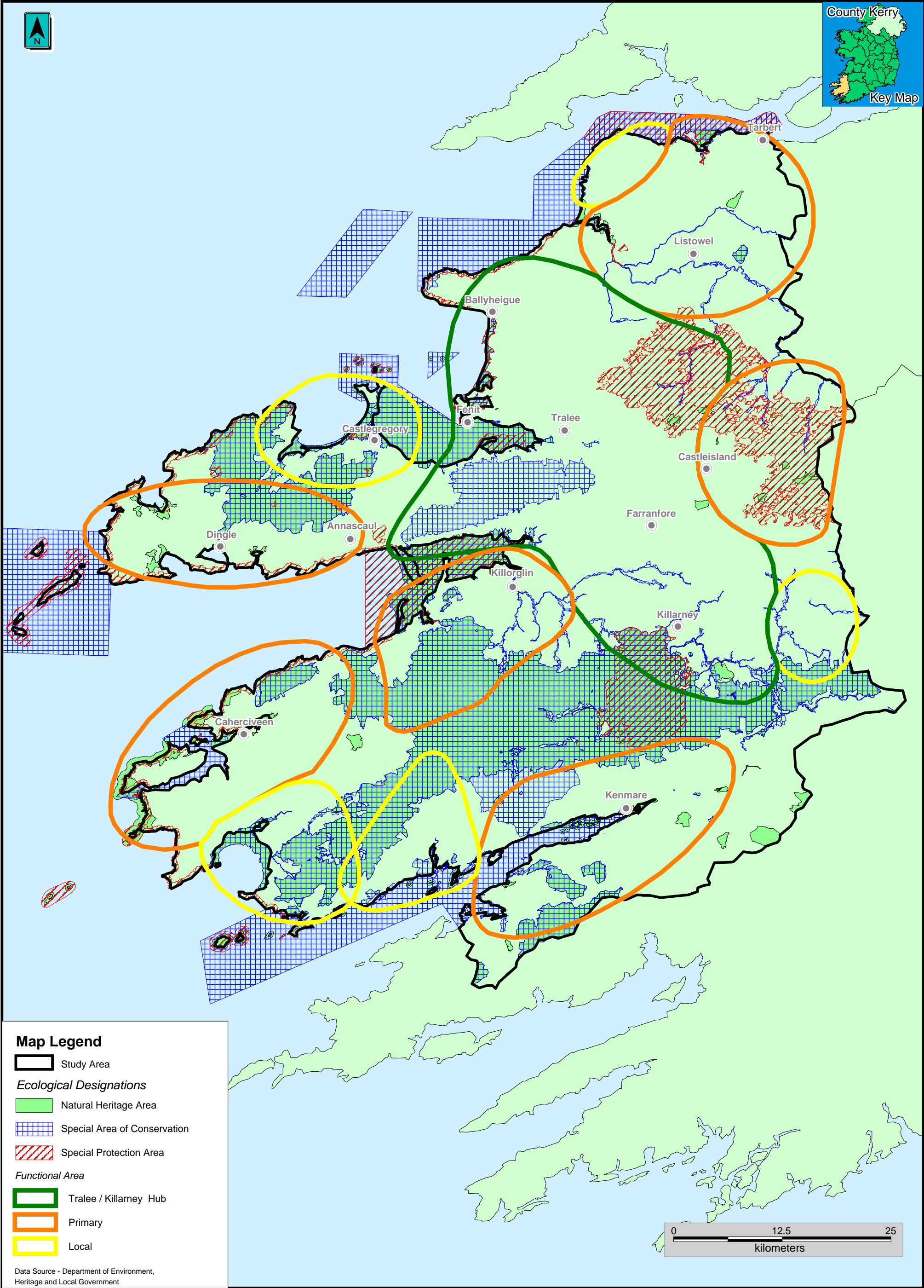
The County Development Plan contains a number of objectives which will promote in the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality. However, the provision of new roads in the County will mean increased vehicular traffic and associated air emissions. This will impact on the ambient air quality. More public transport and the provision of cycle lanes as stated in the Development Plan will help to negate these impacts.

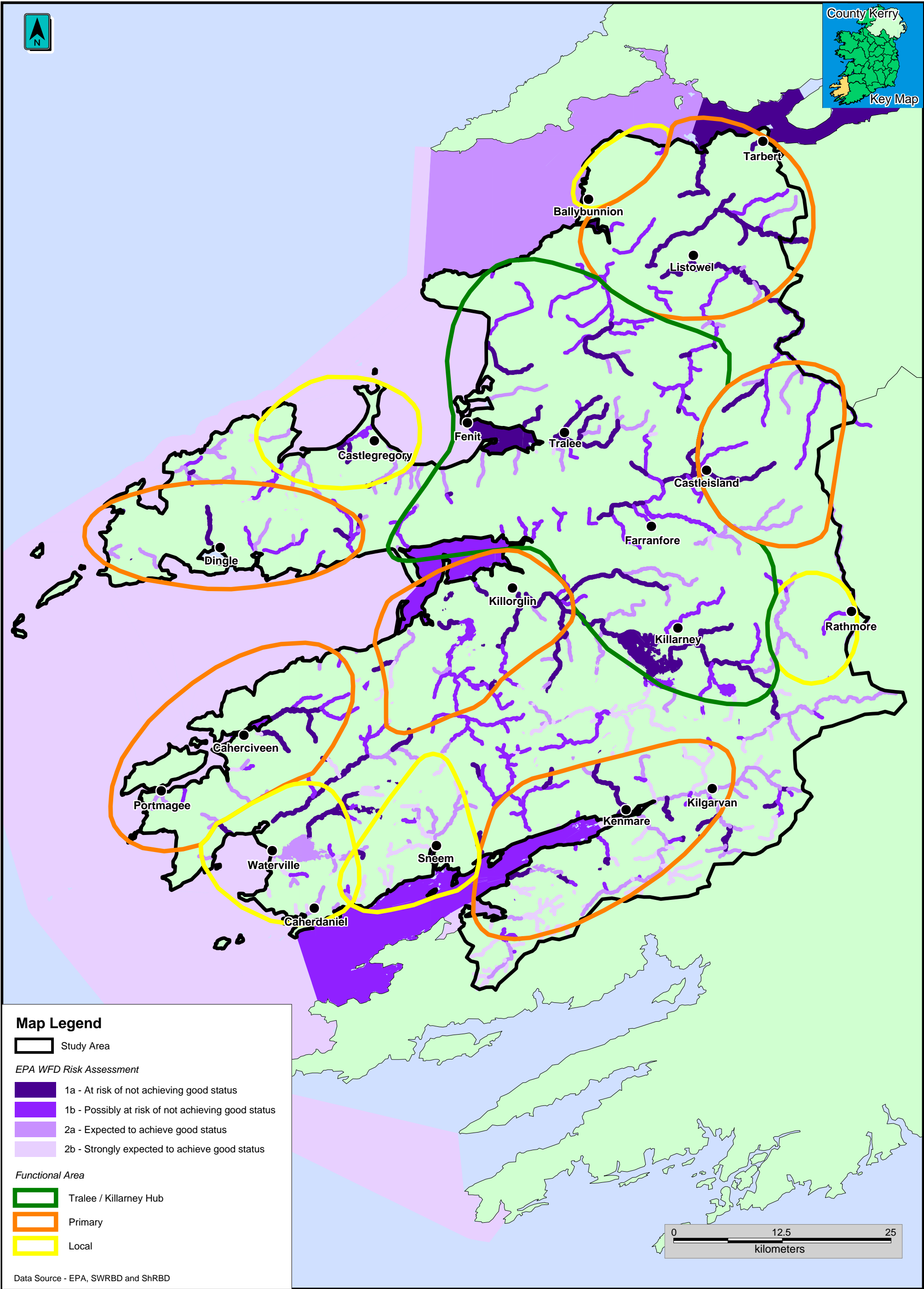
5.8 Landscape

The Council has a number of objectives in the Development Plan which specifically aims to protect landscape and scenic views in the County. The Council has prepared a map which illustrates the prime and secondary special amenity areas and has given guidelines on the types of development that can be undertaken in these areas. Adherence to these policies will ensure that no conflict with the environmental objectives to protect landscape will arise.

5.9 Geology and Soils

The development of housing and commercial developments in the County will result in a loss of greenfield sites. This will be particularly noticeable in land zoned for development around the Tralee/Killarney Hub and functional areas. The County Development Plan contains an objective to increase the availability of brownfield sites in the County thereby furthering the sustainable use of land.





6 MITIGATION MEASURES

Mitigation involves minimising or eliminating significant negative effects of development and growth within the County. Mitigation measures can generally be described into a number of classes, including avoidance, reduction in the magnitude or extent and compensation, for example, creating a new habitat.

6.1 Spatial Strategies

Areas in the vicinity of the Tralee/Killarney Hub and areas around the primary functional areas (An Daingean, Caherciveen area, Castleisland area, Kenmare Area, Killorglin area and Listowel Area) will experience development pressures over the lifetime of this Plan. These may conflict with a number of the environmental objectives given in the Environmental Report. In order to facilitate sustainable development and protect the environment the Development Plan has identified environmental constraints associated with these areas. Local Area Plans (LAPs) have been prepared for Killarney and Tralee. These LAPs identify areas that are suitable for development and have identified significant and sensitive environmental assets within these areas. A number of conditions can be placed on the grant of planning for developments in these areas that will provide adequate protection for the environment.

6.1.1 Spatial Strategies for Rural Development

The draft Kerry County Development Plan has identified the need to facilitate agricultural and forestry development in the County. The Plan has identified three types of rural landscape that can accommodate different types and levels of development. The Plan has also identified rural areas that are subject to urban expansion related pressures. Development in these areas will be strictly controlled and co-ordinated and this is likely to benefit both the inhabitants and the economy of the area. Strict planning controls will afford full protection for environments assets such as surface water, groundwater, tourism, landscape and cultural heritage.

6.1.2 Spatial Strategy for Industry and Enterprise

The overall strategy for the County Development Plan is to provide a coherent, integrated statement of policies and objectives in order to achieve the vision of how the County will develop in the future. One of its main objectives is the need to strengthen town and villages, improve infrastructure, develop the Tralee/Killarney Hub and strengthen the economic base of the County.

The Local Area Plans for Tralee and Killarney identify specific areas for industrial/commercial development and if properly co-ordinated will provide increased revenue to these areas.

6.1.3 Specific Mitigation Measures

The assessment of the Development Plan found that there are adequate mitigation measures contained in the Plan to protect the environment and human beings. No specific additional mitigation measures have been identified as part of this assessment.

Specific mitigation measures that are proposed for this Development Plan are given in Table 6.1. These mitigation measures are generic and site specific mitigation measures will be required for individual projects. In the event that a proposed development is listed in Schedule 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations, 2001 or is located close to a sensitive environment or is otherwise associated with significant environmental impact then an environmental impact statement (EIS) will be required to be submitted with a planning application. The EIS will list site-specific mitigation measures that will be put in place during construction and operation to minimise/eliminate significant environmental impacts.

Table 6.1: Development Plan Mitigation Measures

Water Quality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades and construction of a number of wastewater treatment plants • Compliance with the EPA's (2000) Wastewater Treatment Manual – Treatment Systems for Single Houses for rural housing • Strict adherence to the Sludge Management Plan for the county • Strict adherence to Good Agricultural Practice for the Protection of Waters Regulations (SI. No. 378 of 2006) • Preparation of River Basin Management Plans for the County • Protection of Lough Guitane by limiting development in the catchment
Biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirement of appropriate assessment for protected species • Strict planning conditions for developments close to designated sites or sensitive habitats, to minimise disturbance, prevent pollution and the provision of adequate mitigation measures
Landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All planning applications to take cognisance of the Landscape Character Assessment prepared for the county • Strict planning controls in landscape areas classified as exceptional value, very high value, high value, and moderate value • Planning permissions for wind farm developments will need to have cognisance to the guidelines issued in 'The Wind Energy Development Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2006), document published by the DoEHLG

Table 6.1 Continued...

Architectural & Cultural Heritage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning applications located at or close to recorded monuments or sites must be accompanied by an archaeological assessment conducted by a registered archaeologist • All road developments will take cognisance of the NRA's guidelines on archaeological assessments for roads
Soils & Geology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developments on brownfield sites must be accompanied by a risk assessment report • All statutory requirements such as waste licences/permits must be in place before remediation work can commence
Human Beings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrades of water treatment plants to provide potable drinking water • Provision of amenities for residential developments • Provision of infrastructure which includes social and community facilities within the lifetime of the Plan

7 MONITORING PROGRAMME

7.1 Introduction

Kerry County Council is required to monitor the significant environmental affects arising from the implementation of the county Development Plan. The purpose of the monitoring programme is to identify, at an early stage, unforeseen adverse affects from implementing the Plan.

Indicators were chosen in the Environmental Report that will be used to monitor the predicted environmental impacts of implementing the Plan. The Environmental Report contains a number of monitoring measures as required by the SEA regulations.

The monitoring programme for the SEA is given in Table 7.1.

Table 7.1: Water Indicator Monitoring for Kerry

WATER						
Environmental Objectives		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
WO1.1	Maintain or improve the quality of surface water to meet requirements of the SWRBMP and PoMs	Changes in receiving water quality as identified during water quality monitoring for the SWRBMP conducted by KCC and the EPA	KCC EPA	As per monitoring cycle in accordance with the WFD Monitoring Programme	Achieve good status of surface waters in accordance with WFD by 2015	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
WO1.2	Maintain or improve the Biotic Quality Rating (Q Value) of surface waters	Biotic quality rating of river waters at EPA monitoring locations	EPA	As per monitoring cycle in accordance with EPA Monitoring Programme	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface water quality by 2015	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
WO1.3	Implement SUDS across study area	Provision of SUDS compliant drainage plans for proposed developments in study area	KCC	SUDS compliant drainage plans to be provided with all proposed developments	100% compliance with SUDS drainage plans supplied with planning requests	Planning application not to be considered for planning assessment unless necessary drainage plans are also submitted
WO1.4	Knowledge of developments contributions to surface water quantities	Quantified surface water flows from proposed developments as part of planning process Measured river levels	KCC EPA	Hydrological assessments including quantified surface water contribution to be supplied with planning applications River levels logged as per EPA's logging cycle	100% compliance with hydrological assessments supplied with planning requests River levels to remain at current percentiles as per OPW hydrological data	Planning application not to be considered for planning assessment unless necessary hydrological assessments are also submitted

WATER						
Environmental Objectives		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
WO2.1	Prevent pollution of groundwater by adhering to aquifer protection plans	Changes in groundwater quality as identified in monitoring programmes conducted by KCC and the EPA under the SWRBMP	CCC WFD	As per monitoring cycle in accordance with the WFD Monitoring Programme	Achieve good status of groundwaters in accordance with WFD by 2015	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
WO3.1	Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies	Drinking water quality and bacterial counts and frequency of 'boil water' notices and RAL's notices from the EPA	KCC	As required by the population served in the study area and by the requirements of the Drinking Water Regulations	No 'water boil' notices issued. No RALS from the EPA	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
WO4.1	Promote sustainable water use based on long term protection of resources	Frequency of 'water shortage' notices	KCC	-	Decrease in the number of water shortage notices issued	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
WO4.2	Upgrade infrastructure to meet future water supply needs	Frequency of 'water shortage' notices	KCC	-	-	-
WO5.1	Mitigate the effect of flood through avoidance of development in flood plains	Number and type of developments in the recognised flooding area	KCC	-	Decrease in the number of properties flooded. Adherence to the guidelines given in the OPW's Guidelines on Flood Risk (2005)	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly

WATER						
Environmental Objectives		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
WO5.2	Provision of flood relief through management of flood risk and living with floods rather than engineered flood solutions	Provision of flood risk evaluations with proposed developments/ changes to land zoning with emphasis on flood risk management	KCC	-	Mitigation of flood risk and damage to properties caused by flooding	Planning application not to be considered for planning assessment unless necessary assessments are also submitted in areas of known flooding or drainage district benefiting areas with planning applications
WO6.1	Prevention of interference with inland water morphology by developments/ land use changes in the study area	No. of proposed surface water diversions supplied with hydrological assessments	KCC	-	Mitigate against changes to surface water morphology and risk of new flooding areas	Planning application not to be considered for planning assessment unless necessary hydrological assessments are also submitted
W07.1	Maintain Blue Flag status for beaches	Changes in bathing water quality	KCC	-	Maintain current Blue Flag status level	Investigate source of problem and rename accordingly

Table 7.2: Biodiversity Indicator Monitoring Programme

BIODIVERSITY						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
BO1.1	Conserve and protect habitats and species	Designation of additional areas due to biodiversity or geological value. Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in designated sites through trending of annual/ bi-annual habitat surveys.	KCC DoEHLG	-	No loss of protected habitats and species	-
BO1.2	Protect Natura 2000 (SAC and SPA) sites in planning process using Habitats Directive Article 6 assessment methodology	Number of Article 6 assessments supplied with planning applications for developments proposed for sites overlying or potentially impacting Natura 2000 sites in study area.	KCC DoEHLG	-	Article 6 assessments to be supplied with each planning application for sites overlying or having a potential to impact a Natura 2000 site.	Planning application not to be considered for planning assessment unless necessary Article 6 assessments are also submitted

BIODIVERSITY						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
BO2.1	Conserve the diversity of habitats and species in locally important non-designated sites	<p>Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in non-designated sites through trending of annual/ bi-annual habitat surveys.</p> <p>Percentage of native tree and broadleaf planted</p>	KCC	-	<p>No loss of hedgerows such as Townland Boundary Hedges or roadside hedgerows. .</p> <p>Operators who conduct mechanical hedge cutting should have achieved the Teagasc proficiency standard MT 1302 – Mechanical Hedge Trimming.</p> <p>30% broadleaf afforestation</p> <p>Development of identified non-designated habitats as green belt.</p>	<p>Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly</p> <p>Requirement in planning permissions.</p> <p>Requirement for provision of bio-diversity plans with planning application where decided by KCC Environment Section.</p>

BIODIVERSITY						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
BO3.1	Protect aquatic and terrestrial habitats from invasive species.	New types or increase in coverage of invasive species identified	KCC DoEHLG SWRBD	Identify the presence and location of invasive species in study area catchments.	No new invasive species. Identification of areas populated by invasive species with restrictions placed on such areas. Support initiatives which reduce the likelihood of invasions. Help control and manage new invasive species. Raise public awareness of invasive species and address international obligations.	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
BO4.1	Meet the requirements of the River Basin Management Plan	WFD risk levels for aquatic habitats	KCC SWRBD	Annually	All waters to achieve good status by 2015.	Investigate the non-compliances and remedy accordingly

Table 7.3: Population and Human Health Indicator Monitoring Programme

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
PO1.1	Improve people's quality of life based on high quality living environments, working and recreational facilities	PI1.1 Occurrence of any decline in human health around a particular area of the county. Increase in the number of green spaces and amenities available to the public. Employment rates over the lifetime of the Plan.	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan.	No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors. Increase in the number of green spaces and amenities available to the public. Provision of suitable accommodation for the increased population under the lifetime of this Plan	Investigate source of problem.
PO1.2	Implementation of the County Litter Management Plan 2007 and any subsequent plans.	PI1.2 Number of litter fines issued.	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan.	No litter fines during the lifetime of the Plan.	

POPULATION AND HUMAN HEALTH						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
PO2.1	Adhere to the County Emergency Plan and other objectives of relevance to human health.	PI2.1 Drinking water quality and number of RAL's and 'boil notices' Maintaining or improving air quality in the study area Availability of public transport Provision of new civic amenity sites	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan.	No Remedial Action List (RAL) from the EPA notices Maintain or improve levels of ambient SO ₂ , NO _x and particulate matter as conducted by EPA monitoring. Increase public amenities Number of new civic amenity sites provided during the lifetime of the Plan	-
PO3.1	Upgrading of existing wastewater treatment plant	PI3.1 Completion of WWTP upgrades.	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the Plan.	Provision and upgrade to provide adequate wastewater infrastructure based on existing and forecasted population demands	

Table 7.4: Monitoring Programme for Materials Assets

MATERIAL ASSETS						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
MAO1.1	Development of a sustainable transportation infrastructure which reduces the need for travel and journey length	An Integrated Land Use and Transportation Plan	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the plan.	Increased use in public transport. Greater number of pedestrian and cycle routes. Assessment of traffic impact in planning applications especially those concerning the Killarney Tralee Hub.	-
MAO2.1	Minimise waste production and introduce sustainable waste management practices	Quantity of household waste sent to landfill Quantity of household waste sent for recycling Number of bring banks provided for the population in the county	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the plan.	Reduction in the quantities of waste sent to landfill. Increase in the quantities of waste sent for recycling. Increase in the number of bring banks provided for the population in the county to 1 bank per 1,000 population	-
MAO3.1	Use of renewable energy technology for projected power requirements over the lifetime of the Plan	Number and type of renewable energy technologies employed in new developments and under county energy developments	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the plan.	Number of renewable energy projected developed over the lifetime of the plan. Percentage of energy supplied to the national grid generated by renewable energy.	-

Table 7.5: Cultural Heritage Indicator Monitoring Programme

CULTURAL HERITAGE						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
CHO1.1	Promote best practice in heritage conversation and management as per DoEHLG Guidelines	Number of unauthorised developments permitted over the lifetime of the Plan which result in the loss or partial loss of protected structures and sites of important archaeological status	KCC DoEHLG	Review the County Heritage Plan mid term.	No developments permitted over the lifetime of the Plan which will result in the loss or partial loss of protected structures or sites of important archaeological status. Ensure all planning applications that might have an impact on heritage are referred to the DoEHLG for comment and that their recommendations are adhered to.	Investigate source of problem and remedy accordingly
CHO2.1	Protection of individual sites and complexes	Number of unauthorised developments permitted over the lifetime of the Plan which result in the loss of individual sites or complexes	KCC	-	No development permitted during the lifetime of the Plan which could result in damage to individual sites and complexes.	-
CHO3.1	Identification and protection of archaeological features	Number of unauthorised developments permitted which result in the loss or damage to archaeological features	KCC DoEHLG	-	No development permitted during the lifetime of the Plan which could result in damage to archaeological features	-

CULTURAL HERITAGE						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
CH04.1	Support and encourage the development of Irish Language	Population and employment of Irish Speakers in Gaeltacht areas	KCC	-	Increase in numbers and age profile of Irish speakers in the Gaeltacht areas	-
CH04.2	Support and encourage the development of literary and artistic initiatives	Provide funding as per Kerry Arts Plan 2007-2012	KCC	-	Increase in literary and artistic events during the lifetime of the Plan	-

Table 7.6: Environmental Objectives, Targets and Indicators for Air and Climate

Air and Climate Aspects (AC)	Objectives (ACO)	Targets	Indicators (ACI)	Indicator information Source
ACO1.1	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions to meet National and International standards	Increased use of public transport	ACI1.1 Use of public transport	KCC
		Increase numbers of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the study area	Provision of cycle lanes and walking routes	
ACO1.2	Building energy Regulation	Increase number of permissions granted for renewable energy projects	Number of permissions granted for renewable energy projects	KCC
		Increase in number of energy audits conducted on existing facilities and new homes	ACI1.2 Number of energy audits conduct	
ACO2.1	Improve ambient air quality	Maintain or improve ambient air quality through reduction of private vehicle usage	ACI2.1 Air quality indicators	KCC EPA

LANDSCAPE						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
LO1.1	Protect designated scenic sites and protect views routes and landscape features of local value.	Number and type of developments in designated views and prospects	KCC	Review each planning application as submitted.	No significant disruption of views or prospects	--
LO2.1	Protect streetscapes in larger towns and villages	Number and type of developments in designated views and prospects	KCC	Review each planning application as submitted.	No significant disruption of views or prospects	-

Table 7.7: Monitoring Programme for Soils and Geology

SOILS AND GEOLOGY						
Environmental Objective		Indicator	Responsible Authority	Frequency	Target	Type of Intervention required
SGO1.1	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield sites and maximise the use of the existing built environment.	Percentage of new developments on brownfield sites	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the plan.	Specified percentage of new applications granted to be on brownfield sites.	-
SGO2.1	To identify any unregulated landfill sites in the study area.	Number of sites identified and remediated.	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the plan.	Report on contaminated/ unregulated sites throughout the county	-
SGO3.1	To designate sites of geological importance as NHA's or CGS	Number of geological NHAs and CGS designated in lifetime of the plan	KCC	Review during the lifetime of the plan.	Sites to be selected for NHA and CGS designations and designation process to have been undertaken during lifetime of the plan.	-

8 WHATS NEXT?

The draft Kerry County Development Plan will be put on display for public consultation on 18th June 2008. The Environmental Report that was conducted on the draft Development Plan will be put on display simultaneously. The public will have a minimum of 10 weeks on which to make a submission on the Development Plan or the Environmental Report. At the end of this first public consultation, the Environmental Report will be amended to reflect amendments made to the draft Development Plan. The amended Environmental Report and the amended draft Development Plan will go on public display for a further 4 weeks.

A final Environmental Report and SEA Statement will accompany the adopted Kerry County Development Plan.