

SEA Addendum

Draft Castleisland Functional Area Local Area Plan 2009-2015

October 2009



PLANNING POLICY UNIT

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

OCTOBER 2009

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1 Introduction

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is being carried out for the Castleisland Functional Area Local Area Plan (FALAP). In line with the display of the draft FALAP, an Environmental Report assessing the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plan was also placed on public display.

This stage of the SEA process is to assess the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the proposed amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP and to indicate any proposed amendments to the Environmental Report arising from Public Consultation. This Addendum to the Environmental Report which accompanied the Draft Castleisland FALAP, describes the likely significant effects on the environment of the proposed amendments to the draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015.

1.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

The SEA Directive, which came into force in all European Union (EU) member states, including Ireland, on the 21st July 2004, requires that an environment assessment be carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment. SEA is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant effects of implementing a plan or programme, during the preparation period of the plan or programme, and before a decision is made to formally adopt it.

There are four main requirements of the SEA Regulations:

1. The Preparation of an Environmental Report, where the likely significant effects of the plan or programme are identified and evaluated. The Environment Report is the key document in the SEA process and will summarise the likely significant effects and mitigation measures to minimise any adverse impacts.
 2. Consultation with the public, environmental authorities, and any EU Member State affected, on the environmental report and draft Plan or programme.
 3. Consideration of the findings in the Environmental Report and the outcome of the consultations in deciding whether to adopt or modify the draft Plan.
 4. Publicising the decision on adoption of the Plan and how the SEA influenced the outcome.
- The SEA process thereby assists in and improves the quality of the plan making process by:
- Facilitating the identification and appraisal of alternative plan strategies
 - Raising awareness of the environmental impacts of the Plan
 - Encouraging the inclusion of measurable targets and indicators.

1.2 Progress to Date

An Environmental Report was put on public display with the Draft Castleisland FALAP and submissions have been received from the public and statutory bodies in relation to same. All of these submissions were outlined in a Managers Report which was issued to the members of Kerry County Council in October 2009. This report was prepared as part of the statutory procedure for preparing a Local Area Plan (LAP) and lists the persons or bodies who made submissions or observations; summarises the issues raised by the persons or bodies and gives the response of the manager to the issues raised. The Manager's Report includes recommendations on amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP.

A number of submissions were received from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) regarding the inclusion of objectives in the Plan, for the protection of the environment. These have been incorporated into the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan. It is considered that the majority of the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan will clarify and strengthen the environmental objectives of the Plan.

This document considers the likely significant impacts on the environment as a result of implementing the proposed amendments to the Draft Plan. The proposed amendments are

assessed against the environmental objectives set out in the Draft Environment Report. Where a likely significant effect is identified mitigation measures are proposed, where possible.

2 Review of Proposed Amendments of the Draft Plan

2.1 Introduction

The Manger's Report issued to the Members in October 2009, included a series of recommended amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP, for consideration by the Members of the Local Authority. Following consideration of this report, the members, by resolution made amendments to the Plan. This document considers the proposed amendments adopted by the members and represents the next stage in the SEA process and can be considered an addendum to the Environmental Report. Consistent with the approach in the Environmental Report, this document comprises the environmental assessment of the recommended amendments against a schedule of environmental protection objectives (EPOs).

This environmental assessment of the proposed amendments is carried out to determine whether the implementation of such amendments would be likely to cause significant impacts on the environment and raises awareness of the potential environmental impacts of any amendments to the draft plan. Members therefore have the benefit of an environmental appraisal of proposed amendments to inform and assist decision making.

2.2 Environmental Assessment of Proposed Amendments Methodology

The environmental assessment of the proposed amendments will be carried out in an analytical manner in three phases. The first phase will involve the screening of the proposed amendments while the second phase will involve an analysis of the proposed objectives that conflict with Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs). The third phase will consider proposed objectives that conflict with Environment Protection Objectives (EPOs) and which are unlikely to be mitigated.

Phase One – Screening of the proposed amendments

In the first phase the objectives that are contained in the proposed amendments were evaluated against the Environmental Protection Objectives which were created for the Plan. The first phase is therefore a screening process where new and modified policies and objectives are formally assessed by identifying whether the change(s) would be likely to have either:

- **No interaction with the EPOs** (they are likely to have no interaction with the status of the environment);
- **A positive interaction with EPOs** (they are likely to improve the status of the environment)
- **A conflicting interaction with EPOs which is unlikely to be mitigated against** (they are likely to significantly conflict with the status of the environment);
- **A potentially conflicting interaction with EPOs which is likely to be mitigated against through compliance with the mitigation measures outlined in the Environmental Report** (they are unlikely to significantly conflict with the status of the environment), or;
- **An uncertain interaction with EPOs** (the interaction with the status of the environment is uncertain).

The assessment phase considered the likely significant effects on the environment arising from the objectives set out in the proposed amendment to the Draft Plan and considered if any of these significant environmental effects had not previously been identified or addressed in the Environmental Report.

The amendments relating to objectives are listed on one axis and the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) on the other and each objective was assessed as to its potential effects. A summary of the results of this exercise are set out in a series of matrices in Section 3 of this report.

Phase Two – Analysis of proposed objectives that conflict with Environmental Protection Objectives

The second phase identifies only those proposed amendments that are in conflict with the EPOs. In relation to each proposed amendment, comments are made as to its potential effects on the EPOs and following on from this, potential mitigation measures have been identified and typically include:

- Changes to the wording of the objective
- The removal of the objectives that are unsustainable or which do not promote the SEA objectives
- The addition of new objectives
- The expansion on the wording of an objective

Phase Three - Analyses of proposed objectives that conflict with Environment Protection Objectives (EPOs) and which are unlikely to be mitigated

Having carried out an analysis through Phase 1 and Phase 2 as outlined above, significant issues will be addressed in more detail in Phase 3.

Environmental Protection Objectives

The process of setting the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs) is set out in the Draft Castleisland FALAP Strategic Environmental Assessment – Environmental Report. EPOs are used to help show whether the objectives of the plan or programme are beneficial for the environment, to compare the environmental effects of alternatives, or to suggest improvements. The EPOs set out in this section are set out under a range of topics and are used as the standards against which the future development objectives of the Plan can be evaluated, to help to identify areas in which significant adverse impacts are likely to occur.

The Environmental Protection Objectives used in the Castleisland FALAP are as follows:-

Water Aspects - EPOs	
WO1.1	Maintain / improve the quality of surface water
WO1.2	Promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
WO1.3	Maintain / Improve the quality of groundwaters
WO1.4	Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies
Biodiversity Aspects - EPOs	
BO 1.1	Conserve and protect designated habitats and species, including Natura 2000 sites
BO1.2	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species in non-designated sites
Landscape Aspects - EPOs	
LO1.1	Protect scenic landscapes, views, routes and landscape features of value.
LO1.2	Protect streetscapes in towns and villages
Population and Human Health Aspects - EPOs	
PO1.1	Promote the creation of safe high quality environments / urban designs
PO1.2	Protect and enhance green spaces and amenities available to the public
PO1.3	Protect and enhance medical educational and community facilities
PO1.4	Protect and enhance employment opportunities and economic development
Material Assets Aspects - EPOs	

MAO1.1	Promote sustainable transport infrastructure and practices
MAO1.2	Promote sustainable waste management infrastructure and practices
MAO1.3	Promote sustainable telecommunications infrastructure and practices
MAO1.4	Promote sustainable energy infrastructure and practices (excluding transport)
MAO1.5	Promote the provision of sustainable drainage infrastructure and practices
Cultural Heritage Aspects - EPOs	
CHO1.1	Protect Archaeological features
CHO1.2	Protect Built Heritage
CHO1.3	Protect and encourage the development of literary, musical, artistic, sporting and other cultural heritage initiatives
Air and Climate Aspects - EPOs	
ACO1.1	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions
ACO1.2	Improve ambient air quality
ACO1.3	Promote the use of renewable energy technology
ACO1.4	Promote Energy Efficient Building Designs
Soils and Geology Aspects - EPOs	
SGO1.1	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield sites.
SGO1.2	Maximise the sustainable re-use of soil within Greenfield sites.
SGO1.3	Maximise the sustainable use of soil and geological resources
Flood Risk Management Aspects - EPO	
FRO1.1	Promote sustainable flood risk management practices

Phase One: Screening of the proposed amendments

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to improve status of EPOs	Probable conflict with status of EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of EPOs – likely to be mitigated	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral interaction with status of EPOs
GENERAL AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 5-15 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	BO1.1			MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5	BO1.2 FRO1.1
Amendment No 2	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	PO1.3				FRO1.1
Amendment No 3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	BO1.1 BO1.2 MAO1.1				
Amendment No 4	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.2	BO1.1			MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 FRO1.1	BO1.2
Amendment No 5	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.2	LO1.1 LO1.2 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 SGO1.1 SGO1.3			FRO1.1	
Amendment No 6	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1					

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
GENERAL AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 5-15 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
	SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1					
Amendment No 7	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1					
Amendment No 8	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1					
Amendment No 9	CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.2	LO1.1 LO1.2 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 SGO1.1 SGO1.3			WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1	PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4
Amendment No 10	CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.2	LO1.1 LO1.2 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 SGO1.1 SGO1.3			WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1	PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4
Amendment No 11	LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	BO1.1 BO1.2 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5				WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4
Amendment No 12	LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1				
Amendment No 13	LO1.1 LO1.2 MAO1.1 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4				FRO1.1
Amendment No 14	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2	BO1.1 BO1.2				PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 ACO1.1 ACO1.2

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
GENERAL AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 5-15 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
	MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1					ACO1.3 ACO1.4
Amendment No 15	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2SGO1.3	BO1.1			MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5	BO1.2 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 FRO1.1
Amendment No 16	PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 ACO1.2 FRO1.1			MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5	LO1.1 LO1.2 ACO1.1 ACO1.3 ACO1.4
Amendment No 17	PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1			LO1.1 LO1.2	MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4
Amendment No 18	LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2			MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5	FRO1.1
Amendment No 19	LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2				MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 FRO1.1
Amendment No 20	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	BO1.2 MAO1.2				BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 FRO1.1
Amendment No 21	LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1				MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5
Amendment No 22	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	BO1.1			MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5	BO1.2 FRO1.1
Amendment No 23	LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1				MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to improve status of EPOs	Probable conflict with status of EPOs – unlikely to be mitigated	Potential conflict with status of EPOs – likely to be mitigated	Uncertain interaction with status of EPOs	Neutral interaction with status of EPOs
CASTLEISLAND AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 1	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4SGO1.1 FRO1.1	PO1.1 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 ACO1.1			WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 BO1.2	LO1.1 PO1.2 SGO1.2 SGO1.3
Amendment No 2	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4SGO1.1 FRO1.1	PO1.1 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 ACO1.1			WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 BO1.2	LO1.1 PO1.2 SGO1.2 SGO1.3
Amendment No 3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 LO1.1 LO1.2 PAO1.3 PAO1.4 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	MAO1.1 SGO1.1 PAO1.1 POA1.2				
Amendment No 4	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	PO1.4		LO1.1 LO1.2 MAO1.1	ACO1.1	
Amendment No 5	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1			PO1.4		
Amendment No 6	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	FRO1.1 BO1.2				
Amendment No 7	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3	PO1.1 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 ACO1.1			WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 SGO1.2 BO1.2	LO1.1 PO1.2 SGO1.1 SGO1.3

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely</u> to be mitigated	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely</u> to be mitigated	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
CASTLEISLAND AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
	ACO1.4 FRO1.1					
Amendment No 8	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	MAO1.1				
Amendment No 9	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	MAO1.1				
Amendment No 10	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 FRO1.1	LO1.1 MAO1.1 SGO1.3		PO1.4		
Amendment No 11	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4SGO1.1 FRO1.1	MAO1.2 ACO1.1		PO1.1 MAO1.1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 BO1.2	LO1.1 PO1.2 SGO1.2 SGO1.3
Amendment No 12	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4SGO1.1 FRO1.1	PO1.1 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 ACO1.1			WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 BO1.2	LO1.1 PO1.2 SGO1.2 SGO1.3
Amendment No 13	WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	PO1.2 MAO1.1		WO1.1 BO1.2 FRO1.1	PO1.1	
Amendment No 14	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4SGO1.1	PO1.1 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 ACO1.1		BO1.2 FRO1.1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5	LO1.1 PO1.2 SGO1.2 SGO1.3

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely</u> to be mitigated	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely</u> to be mitigated	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
CASTLEISLAND AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 15	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 MAO1.1ACO1.1FRO1.1	PO1.4			LO1.1 LO1.2	

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely</u> to be mitigated	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely</u> to be mitigated	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
CURROW AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 29-33 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	PO1.1 PO1.2 MAO1.1			BO1.2 LO1.1	
Amendment No 2	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	PO1.1			LO1.2	
Amendment No 3	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	PO1.1 PO1.2 MAO1.1		FRO1.1		
Amendment No 4	BO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.3 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4SGO1.1 FRO1.1 MAO1.2		PO1.1 MAO1.1 ACO1.1 SGO1.3 LO1.1		WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 BO1.2	PO1.2 SGO1.2
Amendment No 5						WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
CURROW AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 29-33 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
						MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
KNOCKNAGOSHEL AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGE 34 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 BO1.2 LO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3 FRO1.1	PO1.1			LO1.2	

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
CURRANS AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGE 37 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	FRO1.1 BO1.2				

Proposed Amendment Reference	No likely interaction with status of EPOs	Likely to <u>improve</u> status of EPOs	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	<u>Uncertain</u> interaction with status of EPOs	<u>Neutral</u> interaction with status of EPOs
RURAL AREA AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 38-40 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)						
Amendment No 1	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3	FRO1.1 BO1.2				

	ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3					
Amendment No 2	WO1.1 WO1.2 WO1.3 WO1.4 BO1.1 LO1.1 LO1.2 PO1.1 PO1.2 PO1.3 PO1.4 MAO1.1 MAO1.2 MAO1.3 MAO1.4 MAO1.5 CHO1.1 CHO1.2 CHO1.3 ACO1.1 ACO1.2 ACO1.3 ACO1.4 SGO1.1 SGO1.2 SGO1.3	FRO1.1 BO1.2				

Phase Two: Analyses of proposed objectives that conflict with Environment Protection Objectives (EPOs)

Proposed Amendment Reference	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	Comments	Recommended Mitigation
CASTLEISLAND AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)				
Amendment No 4		LO1.1 LO1.2 MAO1.1	<p>The lands proposed to be zoned for mixed use in Castleisland Town are located on important approach roads into the town. Drive through takeaways by there nature are generally designed to attract the attention of motorists and to facilitate car movements / journeys.</p> <p>It is noted that these sites have pedestrian linkages to the town centre and that the plan promotes cycling facilities and for the protection and enhancement of streetscapes and urban design.</p>	Proceed with amendment as proposed
Amendment No 5		PO1.4	<p>These lands are located in an 'out of centre' location and accordingly the provision of a retail development at this location may impact negatively on the 'health' of the town centre.</p> <p>It is noted that the plan requires that a sequential approach be adopted in the assessment of all retail planning applications.</p>	Proceed with amendment as proposed
Amendment No 10		PO1.4	<p>It is considered that this objective is overly general in its meaning and if enforced rigidly could detrimentally impact on economic development of the plan area.</p> <p>It is recommended that the</p>	Proceed with amendment as proposed

Proposed Amendment Reference	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	Comments	Recommended Mitigation
CASTLEISLAND AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)				
			wording of the proposed objective be modified so as to protect transport infrastructure / public safety while allowing for the consideration of retail and industrial development at appropriate locations.	
Amendment No 11		PO1.1 MAO1.1	<p>The zoning of these lands for residential development may impede the provision of improved road / pedestrian linkages from the R577 into the lands located to the west of this roadway.</p> <p>Allowing for such linkages would be consistent with good urban design principles and would facilitate the provision of sustainable transport infrastructure.</p>	It is recommended that consideration should be given to including an indicative road / pedestrian link from the proposed inner relief road through these lands.
Amendment No 13		WO1.1 FRO1.1 BO1.2	<p>Walkways along riverbanks can disturb wildlife and if inappropriately designed / constructed can detrimentally impact on the quality of the adjoining waterbody by way of storm water run-off. However, it is noted the plan provides for mitigation in this respect via the following objective 'it is an objective of the Council to ensure that riverside walkways are provided in an ecologically sensitive manner'.</p> <p>In addition, inappropriately designed / constructed pedestrian bridges can impede water flows and increase the risk of flooding.</p>	<p>It is recommended that the following objective be included in the Development Management Section of the plan:</p> <p>'Ensure that proposals for bridge type developments are supported at planning application stage with 'Appropriate Risk Assessments' as outlined in DEHLG Guidance on 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management'.</p>
Amendment No 14		BO1.2 FRO1.1	It is noted that a water drain is located within these lands, which conveys stormwaters from the north east of the town into the Mullagh River.	Proceed with amendment as proposed

Proposed Amendment Reference	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	Comments	Recommended Mitigation
CASTLEISLAND AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)				
			<p>Such drains are of biodiversity interest as they support wildlife / plants, act as wildlife corridors and filter impurities from the water.</p> <p>It is noted that DM-10 states that it is an objective of the Council to 'ensure that adequate buffer zones are provided and maintained between new developments and watercourses, where appropriate.</p>	

Proposed Amendment Reference	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	Comments	Recommended Mitigation
Curow AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)				
Amendment No 3		FRO1.1	Inappropriately designed / constructed pedestrian bridges can impede water flows and increase the risk of flooding.	<p>It is recommended that the following objective be included in the Development Management Section of the plan:</p> <p>'Ensure that proposals for bridge type developments are supported at planning application stage with 'Appropriate Risk Assessments' as outlined in DEHLG Guidance on 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management'.</p>
Amendment No 4	PO1.1 MAO1.1 ACO1.1 SGO1.3 LO1.1		It is considered that this proposed amendment conflicts with a number of the Environmental Protection Objectives as set out in the Environmental Report and that	

Proposed Amendment Reference	Probable <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>unlikely to be mitigated</u>	Potential <u>conflict</u> with status of EPOs – <u>likely to be mitigated</u>	Comments	Recommended Mitigation
Curow AMENDMENTS (REFER TO PAGES 16-27 of the Proposed Amendments to the Draft Castleisland FALAP 2009-2015 Document)				
			<p>the effects are unlikely to be mitigated.</p> <p>This will be considered in more detail in Phase Three of this Document.</p>	

Phase Three: Analyses of proposed objectives that conflict with Environment Protection Objectives (EPOs) and which are unlikely to be mitigated

Amendment Number 4 of the Currow Settlement Plan, proposes 'that lands comprising 2.023Ha as indicated on MAP CW3 (in the Proposed Amendments to the Castleisland Functional Area Draft Local Area Plan 2009-2015) be zoned for residential purposes. These lands are located outside of the development boundary in the Draft Plan.

It is considered that the amendment as outlined above conflicts with the following Environmental Protection Objectives: **PO1.1:** Promote the creation of safe high quality environments / urban designs, **MAO1.1:** Promote sustainable transport infrastructure and practices, **ACO1.1:** Minimise greenhouse gas emissions, **SGO 1.3:** Maximise the sustainable use of soil and geological resources and **LO1.1:** Protect scenic landscapes, views, routes and landscape features of value.

Discussion

'Well-designed homes in the right locations are fundamental to building strong, sustainable communities. Such communities will ensure Ireland's continued success in attracting and generating investment and improving the quality of life for its residents' (DEHLG Urban Design Manual 2009). The Castleisland FALAP promotes the provision of compact and accessible villages for a number of reasons. Such settlement patterns:

- Encourage walking and cycling and reduce the need to use cars,
- Promote the efficient use of land and of energy,
- Promote the efficient use of public infrastructure and the development of serviced lands
- Enhance the existing built environment and reduces urban sprawl in accordance with the principles of sustainable development.

Zoning the lands in question for development purposes, at this stage, would fundamentally alter the development pattern envisaged for the village of Currow. A residential development at this location would be isolated from as opposed to integrated with, the existing village core and would detract from the character of the village. Its relatively isolated location, within the context of the village would promote unsustainable car based travel patterns and contribute to the unnecessary release of greenhouse gases emissions. There is no justification on strategic planning grounds to support the zoning of these lands, at this stage.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the lands in question be removed from the settlement boundary for Currow and be zoned for rural general purposes as defined in the Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015.

3 Amendments to the Environmental Report arising from Public Consultation

This section of the Addendum details proposed amendments to the SEA Environmental Report arising from submissions received during the public consultation phase that directly relate to the Environmental Report

Note Regarding Text in the Following Section

- Text in black is text contained within the Environmental Report which accompanies the Draft Plan and which is not changing
- Text in green highlights modifications to the text of the Environmental Report

Non technical summary

Introduction

This is a Non-Technical Summary to the Draft Environmental Report to the Castleisland Functional Area Local Area Plan. The EU Directive on Strategic Environmental Assessment (Directive 2002) came into force in July 2001 and requires Member States of the EU to assess the likely significant environmental effects of plans and programmes prior to their adoption thus providing for the assessment of strategic environmental considerations at an early stage of the decision making process through:-

- Facilitating the identification and appraisal of alternative plan strategies.
- Raising awareness of the environmental impacts of plans
- Encouraging the inclusion of measurable targets and indicators

The structure of the Draft Environmental Report which is the result of the Strategic Environmental Assessment is in accordance with the Directive. This report therefore identifies, describes and evaluates the likely significant effects on the environment of implementing the Plans objectives and policies.

Methodology

Kerry County Council decided that it was appropriate to carry out an SEA of the Functional Area Local Area Plan (FALAP) in this instance. This process involved consultation with the relevant statutory and environmental authorities. This was an important first step in order to scope the extent and type of information that should be contained in the environmental report. Through the scoping exercise the significant impacts predicated include those relating to: Water, Biodiversity, Landscape, Cultural Heritage, Population and Human Health, Soils and Geology, Material Assets (including transportation and waste), Air and Climate and Flood Risk. These issues have been comprehensively dealt with in the plan.

In order to identify, describe and evaluate the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan each of these Environmental Aspects has been looked at individually in this document, with likely significant effects identified, along with mitigation measures to reduce / eliminate the effects of the plan on those aspects. A monitoring programme for each of the Environmental Aspects is also outlined on a chapter by chapter basis.

Stages of FALAP and SEA Preparation

Stages of FALAP Preparation	SEA Activities
Preliminary evidence gathering	SEA Scoping and evidence gathering
Development of strategic options and growth scenario	SEA of strategic options with input into choice of preferred option
Preparation of preferred strategy	SEA of preferred strategy with feedback to plan-makers
Refinement of preferred strategy to include planning policies	
Preparation of Final Draft FALAP	SEA of Final Draft FALAP and production of Report
Consultation of Final Draft FALAP	Consultation on SEA
Amendments following consultation	SEA of amendments
Adoption of Final FALAP	SEA Statement

Castleisland Functional Area Local Area Plan 2009-2015

The Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015 contains the strategy for the preparation of local area plans which divides the County into functional areas based on their strategic role and service provision for their hinterlands. This strategy designates Castleisland as a Primary Functional Area. The LAP areas are indicated in Figure 1.

Figure 1 - LAP Functional Areas



The Primary Functional Areas constitute the larger functional areas throughout the County. They are provided with their higher order services from a large principal settlement (district town) whose sphere of influence extends over a wide geographic area. These towns play a strategic role in servicing their rural catchments as well as supporting and driving the rural economy of the County. They possess a high level of infrastructural capacity and function as significant employment centres. Their catchment populations contribute to the critical mass necessary to support the higher order services provided in the main Hub centres. The development of communities is dependent on the provision of employment opportunities. It is envisaged that these centres will act as the focal point for future job creation within sustainable commuting distance for their populations. It is intended they will form a network of strong centres acting as strategic

service anchors for their respective areas. The strategy for the principal settlements in these Primary Functional Areas is:

- To maintain and expand their current level of service provision in order to underpin the viability of their rural hinterlands.
- To act as the main employment centres for their areas
- To act as focal points for the investment necessary to strengthen the areas.

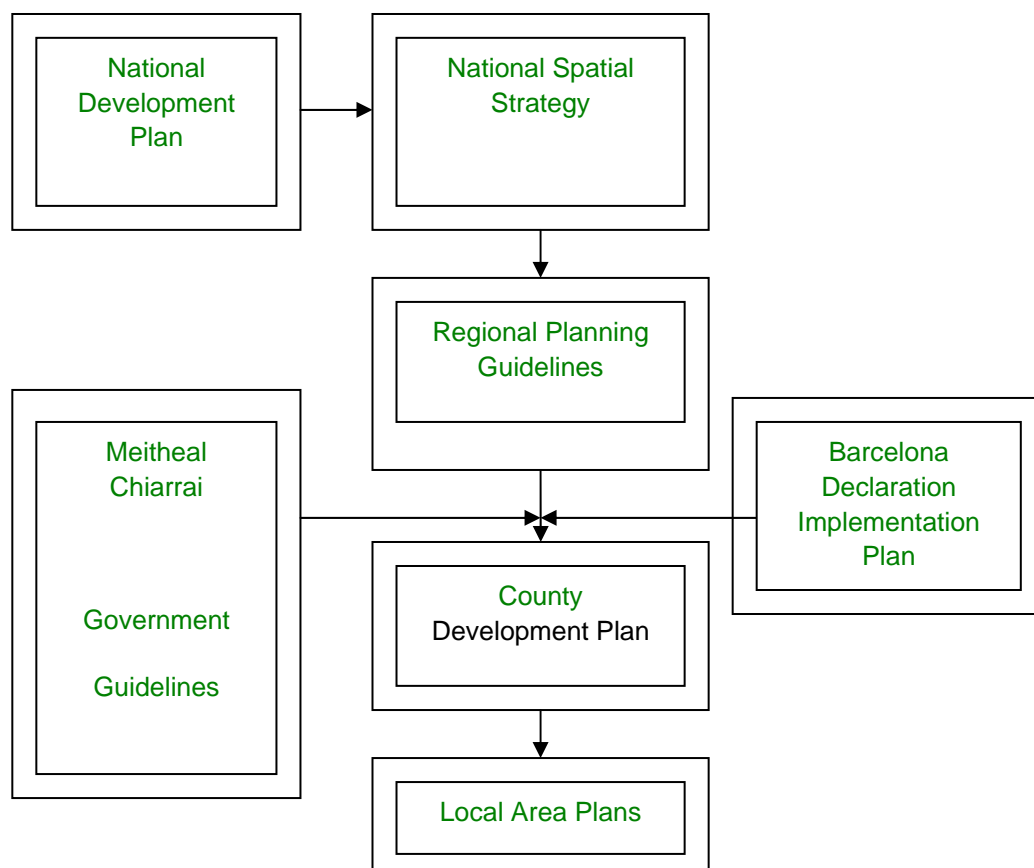
The larger towns are supported by a network of smaller villages. These villages provide for the daily needs of their hinterlands. It is important that these settlements continue to maintain their existing population and services and to function as intermediate settlements between the rural dwellers and the larger towns. In the primary functional area the strategy for the smaller settlements is:

- To ensure that they retain their current level of service provision and develop as attractive settlements maintaining their existing character.
- To identify strategic settlements for improved infrastructural provision in order to consolidate their role

Relationship and consistency with other relevant plans

In accordance with legislation, local area plans must be consistent with the provisions and policies of the County Development Plan. Similarly County Development Plans must be consistent with the provisions of the Regional Planning Guidelines. This hierarchy of plans is indicated in Figure 2. This provides for the consistent, coherent transfer of higher order planning strategies from regional level to the local level and ensures that policy at all levels works to achieve the broader strategic goals for the region.

Figure 2 – Hierarchy of Plans



Relevant aspects of the current state of the environment and the likely evolution thereof without implementation of the plan

Population

The population of the entire functional area as contained in the 2006 Census was 9728 persons (see Table 1.1). It is projected that the population of the entire plan area will grow by 1167 persons over the 6 year period of the plan (derived from targets provided for the County by the DEHLG / South West Regional Planning Authority (August 2009).

	2002	2006	2009	2015
Castleisland Functional Area	9508	9728	10,173	11,340

Population change and projected population in Castleisland Functional Area 2002-2015

Table 1.1

At present, approximately 33% of the population live in urban areas in the Castleisland Functional Area. The Castleisland FALAP in promoting a more sustainable urban/rural settlement pattern, provides for the 55% of the projected growth within the urban settlements. Of the total growth within the functional Area this equates to 641 persons giving a requirement of 118 acres of residentially zoned land for the settlements. It is anticipated that the current breakdown between the individual settlement will not change significantly and therefore 70% of the proposed growth in urban settlements is allocated to Castleisland, equating to 448 persons. At an occupancy rate of 2.7, an average density of 5 dwellings per acre and an inertia factor of 2.5, this equates to 83 acres of residentially zoned land needed for the town of Castleisland. The remaining growth of 193 persons is allocated to the smaller settlements. Zoning strategies in the smaller settlements is focused on zoning contiguous land to the existing settlements in a manner which would retain their character and create functional, attractive and well designed communities while retaining their compact settlement pattern.

Settlement	Area of Land Zoned (acres)	Projected Housing Provision (no.)
<i>Castleisland</i>	82.52	412.5
<i>Brosna</i>	5.28	13
<i>Cordal</i>	5.37	13
<i>Currans</i>	8.02	20

<i>Currow</i>	<i>8.81</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Knocknagashel</i>	<i>6.01</i>	<i>15</i>
<i>Scartaglin</i>	<i>5.40</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>TOTAL</i>	<i>121.41</i>	<i>508</i>

In the absence of the plan, the existing LAPs would remain in place and the settlement strategy would be inconsistent with the current targets as set out by the Regional Planning Authority and with the sustainable strategies of the current Kerry County Development Plan.

Water

This section deals with all water aspects including that of drinking water.

The plan area is located in two River Basin Districts (RBD) – the Shannon IRBD and the South West RBD. As required by the Water Framework Directive, a baseline risk assessment has been completed for each water body in the plan area. These set out whether the waterbodies are likely to meet the criteria of ‘good status’ by 2015.

Current state of surface waters

The main surface water bodies in the plan are the Rivers Maine and the Brown Flesk which are located in the SWRBD and tributaries of the River Feale which are located in the SIRBD. The waterbodies located in the plan area are currently outlined to be of either moderate or good status, however it is noted that some tributaries of the Maine, Brown Flesk and of the Feale are outlined to be ‘At Risk’ of not achieving good status by 2015. The plan proposes to take into consideration the Water Framework Directive for any proposed rezoning, zoning or development, which may occur within the plan area.

Current state of ground waters

Groundwater resources are important because of their potential for drinking and because of they interact with and form a vital component of surface water systems. Groundwater can be retained underground, for short periods (days) or for extremely long periods (thousands of years) of time. Consequently ensuring that this valuable resource is protected from pollution is paramount in the interests of sustainability and in providing for the needs of future generations. The quality of groundwaters is influenced by soils, geology and by human activities.

For the most part the current status of the groundwater underlying the plan area is outlined as being of good status. However a substantial area centered on Castleisland Town and including the villages of Currans, Currow and Cordal are outlined to be of poor status. Underlying a significant part of the plan area are groundwater sources of high to low vulnerability with pockets of extreme or high vulnerability dispersed throughout but more prevalent to the north of the plan area. Much of the plan area has locally productive aquifers but there are no regionally important aquifers located in the plan area.

The plan proposes to take into consideration groundwater vulnerability maps for any proposed rezoning, zoning or development, which may occur within the plan area.

Water supply

Lough Guitane, which is not located within the plan area is its main drinking water supply source. Some areas in the north of the plan area are served with water sourced by group water schemes. Brosna receives its water supply from the Brosna group water scheme.

Biodiversity

The natural heritage of the plan area is an important asset and a unique resource. The variety of habitats dispersed throughout the plan area supports a wide range of flora and fauna. Protecting and conserving these aspects of biodiversity is of importance, not just to the residents of the area but also in the national and international context.

There are a number of important habitats within the plan area that are protected under national and EU legislation. These include peatlands which are designated NHAs / pNHAs, Hen Harrier Habitats which are designated SPAs / pSPAs, and tributaries of the River Feale which are designated SACs / cSACS. The plan area also contains other habitats of biodiversity value, including hedgerows, water courses and woodlands. These provide shelter and refuge to a wide range of plants and animals alike.

This plan recognises the importance of biodiversity and provides guidance, including development management guidance so as to ensure that the incorporation of biodiversity protection is improved within the development management process.

Landscape

The County Development plan, which recognising the value of landscape at all area in the county, identified those landscapes which were considered to be of special amenity value in the plan area. The Councils policy in relation to rural housing within the plan area is also set out the County Development Plan.

The Castleisland FALAP promotes the enhancement of streetscapes and of the approach roads into the settlements. In the absence of the plan, development in these areas would proceed without appropriate guidance designed to protect streetscapes, views, routes and landscape features of value.

Cultural Heritage Aspects

The plan area has an important built heritage, including archaeological features and built structures. The plan promotes the protection of these and proposes to add a number of structures to the record of protected structures list.

The plan area also has a rich sporting, musical and literary tradition and is partly located within the Sliabh Luchra cultural area. The plan supports the cultural traditions of the area.

Soils and Geology

Soil is lost annually through the rezoning of agricultural land for development purposes and through the provision of road infrastructure and similar 'surface sealing' projects. The protection of soil in rural areas is indirectly enforced through the 'Code of Good Agricultural Practice' (2006). The Castleisland FALAP seeks to promote town centre / brownfield development but also includes guidance so as to ensure that soil is conserved / appropriately re-used within development sites.

Material Assets

This section of the report focuses on the provision of sustainable transport, waste management, telecommunications energy and drainage infrastructure and practices.

The plan area is served by the N21, N22 and N23 National Primary Roadways and is also located in close proximity to Kerry Airport, to the Rail Stations of Tralee, Farranore and Killarney and to the north Kerry landfill. Other existing material assets of the plan area include its water and waste water infrastructure,

forestry resources, renewable (wind) energy generators, quarries, telecommunications and energy infrastructure.

The plan aims to use and further develop the material assets of the plan area in a sustainable manner.

Air and Climate Factors

Based on the latest air quality data available from the EPA, air quality in the plan area appears to be generally good. Localised problems are likely to result intermittently from peaks in traffic. Dust and airborne particulates from quarry activities and construction sites may also be localised issues. The plan provides for the improvement of road infrastructure so as to reduce traffic congestion in the plan area, while quarry and construction site operation are regulated by way of the County Development Plan.

Climate change is a transboundary issue affecting the entire planet and is fundamental in providing social stability and sustainable development. It is now generally accepted that the build up of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide is threatening global climate stability. Ireland ratified the UN Framework Convention on Climate change in 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in 1997. Ireland has given an undertaking to limit net growth of greenhouse gases to 13% above 1990 levels by the period 2008-2012. However the economic growth witnessed in Ireland over the past decade has resulted in greenhouse gas emissions being 29% above 1990 levels in 2002.

The plan promotes sustainable travel patterns, renewable energy, energy conservation and higher residential densities at appropriate locations in order to limit Carbon Dioxide emissions.

Flooding

Flooding Risk is a function of a number of variables or parameters such as high rainfall over prolonged periods, high intensity rainfall increased runoff, river capacity, reduced floodplain storage capacity etc. Flood Risk is an important consideration in the location of new development in the plan area. The findings of the 2005 EPA report 'Climate Change: Regional Climate Change Model Predictions for Ireland' estimates that Flood Risk will increase over the coming years.

It is the policy of the Council to take guidance from the DEHLG document 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (2008) in order to appropriately manage flood risk within the plan area. While CFRAM studies have yet to be completed by the OPW for the Plan area, it is considered that no lands have been zoned in the plan, for development purposes, which are at particular risk of flooding. Notwithstanding this and recognising that CFRAMs are not available, additional objectives are included in the plan (OO-40 and OO-41) so as to ensure that developments which would have an unacceptable risk of flooding or which would result in an unacceptable risk of flooding elsewhere will not be permitted.

Key environmental problems which are relevant to the plan

Key environmental problems which are relevant to the plan area include the need to protect water quality and the ecological integrity of Natura 2000 sites. In this regard development proposals will not be permitted where they would result in the pollution of surface or groundwaters and development proposals for wind farms in or in the vicinity of areas proposed or designated SPA will be required to address the cumulative effects of the proposed, existing and permitted windfarms in the area, on proposed or designated habitat. Applicants will be strongly advised to consult with the NPWS in this regard prior to arranging preplanning meetings.

Environmental Assessment of the Plan

The environmental assessment of the objectives of the Plan is a central component of the report and is used to determine the likely significant effects on the environment including on issues such as biodiversity, population, human health, fauna, flora, soil, water, air, climatic factors, material assets, cultural heritage including architectural and archaeological heritage, landscape and the interrelationship between the above factors.

In order to achieve the aim of assessing and improving the environmental performance of the plan, a number of Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs), specific to each environmental topic were formulated. These EPOs are a fundamental part of the SEA process. The EPOs are derived from consultation, consideration of relevant guidelines and are based on the overall strategy of the planning authority to safeguard the environmental integrity of the plan area and to facilitate its development in a sustainable manner. EPOs are used to assess the proposed development strategies and objectives in order to evaluate where conflicts may occur.

The Environmental Protection Objectives used in the Castleisland FALAP are as follows:-

Water Aspects - EPOs	
WO1.1	Maintain / improve the quality of surface water
WO1.2	Promote the use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
WO1.3	Maintain / Improve the quality of groundwaters
WO1.4	Maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies
Biodiversity Aspects - EPOs	
BO 1.1	Conserve and protect designated habitats and species, including Natura 2000 sites
BO1.2	Conserve and enhance the diversity of habitats and species in non-designated sites
Landscape Aspects - EPOs	
LO1.1	Protect scenic landscapes, views, routes and landscape features of value.
LO1.2	Protect streetscapes in towns and villages
Population and Human Health Aspects - EPOs	
PO1.1	Promote the creation of safe high quality environments / urban designs
PO1.2	Protect and enhance green spaces and amenities available to the public
PO1.3	Protect and enhance medical educational and community facilities
PO1.4	Protect and enhance employment opportunities and economic development
Material Assets Aspects - EPOs	
MAO1.1	Promote sustainable transport infrastructure and practices
MAO1.2	Promote sustainable waste management infrastructure and practices

MAO1.3	Promote sustainable telecommunications infrastructure and practices
MAO1.4	Promote sustainable energy infrastructure and practices (excluding transport)
MAO1.5	Promote the provision of sustainable drainage infrastructure and practices
Cultural Heritage Aspects - EPOs	
CHO1.1	Protect Archaeological features
CHO1.2	Protect Built Heritage
CHO1.3	Protect and encourage the development of literary, musical, artistic, sporting and other cultural heritage initiatives
Air and Climate Aspects - EPOs	
ACO1.1	Minimise greenhouse gas emissions
ACO1.2	Improve ambient air quality
ACO1.3	Promote the use of renewable energy technology
ACO1.4	Promote Energy Efficient Building Designs
Soils and Geology Aspects - EPOs	
SGO1.1	Maximise the sustainable re-use of brownfield sites.
SGO1.2	Maximise the sustainable re-use of soil within Greenfield sites.
SGO1.3	Maximise the sustainable use of soil and geological resources
Flood Risk Management Aspects - EPO	
FRO1.1	Promote sustainable flood risk management practices

The methodology used in the report comprised of a series of matrices which were used to refine and refocus the plans objectives (Appendix 1). This methodology facilitates the incorporation of environmental considerations within the Plan.

In assessing the likely significant effects of the plan the full range of effects including 'secondary, cumulative, synergistic, short, medium and long term, permanent, temporary and negative effects were addressed. The criteria used in the Matrices are as follows:-

Positive Impact ➕

Negative Impact –

Uncertain ?

Uncertain Positive, dependant on other factors or further details ? +

Uncertain Negative, dependant on other factors or further details ? –

Neutral or not relevant to the SEA objective ○

The assessment indicated that overall the Plan is acceptable and has a significant sustainable dimension. While some issues were considered to have uncertain negative and negative impacts on the Environment the assessment has shown that in general the Plan will have a neutral to positive impact on the Environment as a whole. Negative impacts were primarily as a result of land use changes and the resultant loss of biodiversity, soils, green spaces and cultural heritage aspects. Pressure on water resources, wastewater infrastructure and landscape will also arise as a result of the Plans objectives. Notwithstanding the above, the Plan makes sufficient provision for the protection of the environment through a range of objectives. It is imperative that when implementing the plan that equal weight is given to development and environmental objectives in order to achieve a satisfactory balance. If this implementation strategy is adopted mitigation will occur naturally as a result.

A challenge faced over the lifetime of the Plan will be to achieve the stated aims of the Plan, which seek to provide well-balanced and sustainable communities within the Plan area.

The measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and as fully as possible offset any significant adverse effects on the environment of implementing the plan

Mitigation Measures

Mitigation Measures arising from the Strategic Environmental Assessment are an integral part of the development of the Plan and have been incorporated as objectives of the plan so as to avoid potentially significant adverse impacts on the environment. The impact of the recommended Mitigation Measures on the various Environmental Objectives has also been assessed by way of a Matrix. This assessment is detailed in Appendix 2 of this document and the findings are summarized in Chapter 14. Remaining potentially adverse conflicts or impacts may be characterised as ‘residual impacts’. These are unavoidable potential impacts that remain after all mitigation measures have been put in place. The majority of these are potential impacts which are likely to be capable of further mitigation.

This Environmental Report recommends the inclusion of Mitigation Measures for all the Environmental Aspects considered. Mitigation Measures included as objectives as a result of the SEA process include:-

- It is an objective of the Council to encourage and promote compliance with the recommendations contained in the River Basin Management Plans.
- It is an objective of the Council that development proposals incorporate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) so as to minimise culverting, encourage native waterside vegetation and promote the use of reed beds and permeable paving to absorb pollutants and regularise storm water run-off.
- It is an objective of the Council to ensure full compliance with the requirements of Directives 79/409/EEC (Birds Directive) and 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive) with respect to ‘Appropriate Assessment’ of any relevant development proposals.
- It is an objective of the Council to promote the development of passive and low energy buildings and encourage developers to design and build houses / buildings towards an “A” rating standard as set out by the national building energy rating (BER) methodology.
- Ensure that Development proposals which would be sensitive to the effects of flooding, or which would be located in flood prone or marginal areas are accompanied with Flood Impact Assessments, detailed Justification Tests and detailed mitigation measures within the context of the DEHLG guidelines on Flood Risk Management. Developments which in the opinion of the Council would have an unacceptable risk of flooding or which would result in an unacceptable risk of flooding elsewhere will not be permitted.

In general terms, all proposals for development will be required to have due regard to the environmental considerations outlined in the plan. Proposals for development which are deemed contrary to the objectives and policies of the plan will not normally be permitted.

Consideration of Alternatives

The SEA Directive requires that reasonable alternatives, taking into account the objectives and the geographical scope of the plan or programme are identified, described and evaluated for their likely significant effects on the environment. As part of this plan making process a range of alternatives were considered as follows:-

Alternative strategies are considered within Chapter 4 of this document. At the outset the do – nothing or non intervention development strategy and the intervention development strategy were considered. It was decided that the intervention scenario was appropriate as on the basis that it would promote the proper planning and sustainable development of the settlements.

Alternative zoning strategies were also considered. The main potentially viable options available were:

- (i) To expand the current zonings to provide for the future development of the town.
- (ii) Consolidate the existing zoning within the existing urban fabric.

Considering the objective to provide for a compact settlement and the need to make best use of available infrastructure it was considered that the zoning of the undeveloped land within the existing urban fabric was a more sustainable option, thereby consolidating the existing settlement pattern.

In relation to the disposal of effluent generated within the settlements the following alternative strategies were considered:-

- (i) To allow communal treatment plants in settlement where there was no public treatment system or an overloaded treatment system.
- (ii) Not to allow communal treatment systems where there was no public treatment system or an overloaded treatment system

It was concluded that individual package treatment plants will not be permitted within the settlements and that only communal plants designed to cater for the entire town or village, or capable of being expanded to do so, will be considered.

In relation to roads the options to be considered related to the provision of a relief road from upper Main Street in Castleisland to the Scartaglin road. The following alternative development strategies were considered:-

- (a) To leave this road as it currently exists, terminating at an Riocht track, or
- (b) To extend the road to the Scartaglin road.

Having considered the long-term strategy to develop the town to the South East, the reduction in traffic congestion and the resultant improvement in air quality it was considered that, notwithstanding the zoning provisions of the current plan, that the provision of this road was a desirable option.

Monitoring

Article 10 of the SEA Directive requires that monitoring be carried out in order to identify at an early stage any unforeseen adverse effects due to the implementation of the Plan and to be able to take remedial action. Monitoring and review are key elements of the effective implementation of this Plan and they will ensure that social, economic and physical objectives are fulfilled in a sustainable manner.

The purpose of monitoring is to cross check significant effects, which arise during the implementation stage of the plan against those predicated during the plan preparation stage. Monitoring is based on indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes considered to be of importance in terms of environmental quality. Indicators aim at simplifying complex interrelationships and providing information on environmental issues, which have relatively easy to understand.

The indicators identified will allow for the quantitative measure of trends and progress over time relating to the strategic environmental objectives used in the evaluation. Focus is given to indicators relevant to the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the Plan and existing monitoring arrangements are used in order to monitor the selected indicators, where possible Particular regard was had to the monitoring programme set out in the SEA Statement of the Kerry County Development Plan 2009-2015.

The Monitoring Programme for each of the Environmental Aspects considered in this document is located at the end of each of the individual environmental aspects chapters. These programmes outline the environmental objectives, indicators, responsible authorities, frequency, target and type of intervention required, where appropriate.

The statutory Managers Progress Report of the County Development Plan is required to be prepared 2 years after the adoption of that plan. It is anticipated that the environmental indicators set out in this document will be used to monitor the predicted environmental impacts of implementing the Plan and will be presented in the context of the County Development Plan review.

It is considered that the Plan, as currently presented, balances economic growth with environmental protection and conservation and encompasses the ethos of sustainability.

4 Clarification of other issues in the Environmental Report

Consultation

The NPWS were consulted with in relation to the SEA and HDA. This matter is dealt with in more detail in the accompanying Habitats Directive Assessment of the proposed plan / amendments.

Relationship with other plans

The following will be included in S2.1 of the Environmental Report

- Kerry County Development Plan
- Grid 21

Alternatives Considered

The final Environmental Report will provide clarification as to how the preferred plan alternatives have influenced and informed the development of the plan.

Environmental Objectives / monitoring

Environmental Objectives will be amended, where necessary, so as to ensure that a coherent set of objectives is provided. It should be noted that all of the environmental objectives recommended to be included in the draft plan were included in the draft plan. However in certain instances it was considered more appropriate to locate these elsewhere within the plan document. For instance many of the objectives recommended for inclusion in the individual settlement plans were included as development management objectives covering the overall plan (Section 1.8 Development Management Objectives). As part of the SEA Statement, it will be outlined how the environmental assessment influenced the plan objectives. The SEA Statement will also outline a flexible monitoring program capable of monitoring cumulative effects. Consideration will be given to including all monitoring proposed to be undertaken in a single table once prioritised.

5 Conclusions

5.1 Findings of the Environmental Assessment

The formulation of the matrix as contained in Phase one and two provides information on the interaction of the proposed amendments and the Environmental Protection Objectives (EPOs). In general it is considered that the proposed amendments are acceptable and do not conflict with the status of the EPOs. Likely significant environmental effects have been detailed and potential mitigation measures have been outlined.

5.2 Conclusions and next steps

The process undertaken has followed the Guidelines on the 'Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC) and Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004. The requirement under this legislation highlights that where changes to a draft plan are needed, the changes should be screened as quickly as possible to see if they themselves would cause any significant environmental effects not previously identified or addressed in the Environmental Report. This report is in line with that procedure. The legislation requires that the screening process should be recorded, including assessment of any likely significant environmental effects and that this can be done by way of an amendment to or separately from the Environmental Report. It is required that if there are material changes to the Draft Plan, as is the case in this instance, that the documentation should be made available for inspection during the public display of the proposed amendments to the draft plan.

Decision Making and the Manager's Report on Proposed Amendments and SEA: (Next stage of the Process)

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 in relation to the decision making of the final plan require under article 13H that the Planning Authority shall take account of the environmental report.

Environmental Statement – Information on the decision: (Final Stage of the Process)

After the adoption of the plan the SEA Regulations require that an Environmental Statement must be prepared under Article 7 (13I). The SEA Statement will be prepared following the adoption of the final Castleisland Functional Area Local Area Plan.