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| SECTION 25A REPORT |

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| REPORT DATE | LOCAL AUTHORITY | PREPARED BY |
| 21.01.22 | Limerick City and County Council |  |

The purpose of the table below is to assist the local authority in completing the Section 25A (1) report to the Regional Assembly. This report will be used by the Regional Assembly to complete the Section 25A(2) Monitoring Report to be submitted to NOAC and which will focus on progress made in securing the overall objectives of the RSES.

It is intended that the Monitoring Report will be succinct and therefore we would ask that the response to the questions are as short as possible and for example we do not need the full detail of each policy or programme outlined.

The Regional Assembly is keen to capture examples of good practice initiatives and actions undertaken by the Local Authority which relate to the objectives of RSES and would welcome the inclusion of such examples where appropriate.

For further information, please contact Dominic Walsh at [dwalsh@southernassembly.ie](mailto:dwalsh@southernassembly.ie) or Alice Byrne Kelly at abyrnekelly@southernassembly.ie;

Please return the report to this office by Friday, 21st January, 2022. This can be submitted by email to twoyearreport@southernassembly.ie;

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| RSES THEME & RPO REFERENCE | RSES IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY & SUPPORTING PROJECTS/INITIATIVES |
| SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACH  RPOS 2 TO 30 | Has the Core Strategy been prepared in accordance with the guiding principles and typology of settlement contained in the RSES? Please provide a brief summary. |
|  | **Section 2.3 *Core Strategy Methodology*** of the Draft Plan establishes that the Core Strategy is developed around a framework of high-level population and household targets that are set out in the NPF, the NPF Implementation Roadmap, the RSES for the Southern Region and Section 28 guidance document ‘Housing Supply Target Methodology for Development  Planning’, (DHLGH, December 2020) and the ESRI population figures published in January 2021.  **Section 2.8 Core Strategy Policies** establishes that the growth allocations aligns with The Southern Region RSES population targets for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area |

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|  | Strategic Plan (MASP) area specifying the allocations for the City and those parts of the MASP area outside of the City that lie within Limerick. The growth allocations for the remainder of the county are allocated in line with national and regional policy.  **The settlement hierarchy as set out in table 2.4** reflects consistency with Section 3.3 of the RSES. In setting out the Spatial Strategy, the Draft Plan considers the Regional Planning Objectives (RPOs) of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy RSES for the Southern  Region, including those which support the compact growth, revitalisation, brownfield and infill development objectives of the National Planning Framework and economic growth.   * In preparing the Core Strategy, the patterns of development up to 2022 were taken into account, prioritising the development of brownfield sites and reducing vacancy   in Limerick City and Town/Village Centres, increased density requirements and policy support to help revitalise many rural towns and villages as well as their surrounding areas underpinned by the 10-minute city/neighbourhood concept.   * The Draft Plan further recognises that this spatial strategy must be support by a Housing Strategy and opportunities for employment to support the growth of the settlements (Section 3.4.1 Developing a Spatial Strategy). * **Core Strategy Policies include Policy CSP P1: Core Strategy Implementation Policy CSP P2: Compact Growth, Policy CSP P3: Availability of Land, Policy CSP P4: Local Area Plans, Policy CSP P5: Road Network, Policy CSP P6: LSMATS and outline the rationale for the allocation of population growth.** |
| METROPOLITAN AREAs - GROWTH AMBITION  RPO 6: Collaboration between Metropolitan Areas  RPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas  ALL MASP Policy Objectives | How has the designation of a Metropolitan Area & the MASP impacted on the following?   * Strategic Ambition/Vision/Identity for the City/Metropolitan Area * Cross boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration. * Progress in compact growth targets in the Metropolitan Area?   Please outline any joint initiatives between Metropolitan Areas –Cork, Limerick-Shannon, Waterford and Galway to advance the combined proposition for effective regional growth – E.G Exchange of good practice/ examples of joint research papers on urban policy.  **Strategic Ambition/Vision/Identity for the City/Metropolitan Area**   * + The MASP supports a number of key infrastructure and transformative projects within Limerick of relevance to setting out the spatial strategy (3.2.2 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region).   + The Draft Plan aims to facilitate the sustainable growth of Limerick in line with the NPF and RSES, which supports ambitious growth targets to enable Limerick City and   Suburbs to grow by at least 50% by 2040 and to achieve its potential to become a City of scale.   * + To achieve this, the Draft plan recognises that growth must complement and consolidate the urban form of the City, as a whole to create a compact City region   with improved integrated supporting infrastructure, public transport improvements to provide linkages to local residential populations and the provision of high levels of community facilities and amenities**. Section 2a: *Limerick Metropolitan Area Spatial Strategy* of Chapter 3 establishes policy support for growing the Limerick City**  **Metropolitan Area, including Mungret and Annacotty**. The Draft Plan incorporates the areas currently covered by the Southern Environs Local Area Plan and the  Castletroy Local Area Plan. This will ensure that for the first time, the City and Environs  will have one overall spatial framework and zoning objectives. |

* **Chapter 5: A Strong Economy sets out the policies and objectives for economic development over the Draft Plan period**. The overall objective of the Draft Plan is to ensure that there is sufficient zoned land, based on the principles of sequential

development, to accommodate the overall growth proposed and also to recognise the importance of Limerick City Metropolitan Area as a regional employment centre.

# Cross boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration.

* Section 6.3 of the Draft Plan establishes that the integration of land use and transportation is a fundamental principle in rebalancing the transport system (Policy TR P3, TR P4 and TR P5).

Limerick City and County Council in conjunction with Clare County Council and the

National Transport Authority are progressing the preparation of the Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Transport Strategy, which provide a strategy for the delivery of key

infrastructure and sustainable transport within the Metropolitan Area.

* **Section 6.4 *Key Enablers for Growth in Limerick*** in line with the NPF, NDP and RSES for the Southern Region identifies a number of key enablers to support the growth of Limerick, which will enhance connectivity within Limerick and benefit the wider region. Furthermore Objective TR O21 - Rail Network provides for the potential to explore a pathway to rail-based development in the review of the RSES and MASP, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and the Southern Regional Assembly.
* ***Section 3.2.4 A Collaborative Approach recognises*** that the Southern Region’s three Cities (Cork, Limerick and Waterford) and their Metropolitan Areas are primary

economic engines for the Region. Limerick City and County Council are committed to a collaborative intra-regional partnership approach between the Limerick-Shannon, Cork, Waterford and Galway regions. In this regard, Limerick City and County Council are committed to continuing the collaborative approach undertaken with Clare County Council to ensure the sustainable and co-ordinated development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area. There is a history of public and private stakeholders

working together for the betterment of the area. In addition, a current example is the Shannon Consortium, comprising a collaborative alliance between the three higher level institutes of UL, Mary Immaculate College and Technological University of the Shannon, aiming to establish the region as an area of excellence in teaching, learning and learner support.

* The MASP supports the consolidation, revitalisation and continued investment in Limerick City through Limerick 2030 and Limerick Regeneration, to drive its role as a vibrant living, retailing and working City, as the economic, social and cultural heart of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and Region (Section 3.2.3 *Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan).* The opportunities presented by the Regeneration Areas through the Limerick Regeneration Integration Framework Plan (LRIFP) will

address services, facilitate education and training and provide additional housing stock and employment opportunities, which is supported through the objectives of the Draft Plan.

* **Section 3.4.3 *Strategic Revitalisation*** states that the Council will encourage and facilitate the continuous revitalisation and redevelopment of existing settlements across the Limerick Metropolitan Area, to create more desirable places in which people can

live, work and visit supported by Objective CGR O11 – *Revitalisation*. The succeeding sections set out examples of some of the key initiatives and strategic sites proposed to facilitate the revitalisation of Limerick City Centre in a consolidated and compact

manner including Limerick 2030, Living Limerick City Centre Initiative, the identification of Opportunity Sites and Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas to name a few.

# Progress in compact growth targets in the Metropolitan Area

* Compact growth is a key driver of the draft Plan. **Chapter 3 *Spatial Strategy*** establishes consistency within the MASP to prioritise housing and employment development in

locations within and contiguous to existing urban footprints.

* **Section 3.3** recognises that strategies such as the **Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy and the Climate Action Plan** are essential elements, which support the objectives of compact growth and outlines policy support in this regard

(CGR P1, P2. P3 and accompanying objectives)

* Strategic initiatives, which will achieve the compact growth targets on brownfield and infill sites, are sought, including site assembly for revitalisation and the promotion of brownfield lands over greenfield developments in all urban areas, active land

management and vacant site levy. The Draft Plan also seeks the targeting of measures to reduce vacancy in our building stock and investment in refurbishment, to bring

underutilised properties into residential use. These concepts set the basis for the

formation of the spatial strategy for settlements across Limerick and are a cross cutting theme of the various chapters of this Development Plan.

* The principles of compact growth are supported by Table 2.6: *Density Assumptions per Settlement Hierarchy* in Chapter 2 of the Draft Plan which seeks to increase densities across the Limerick Metropolitan Area to support compact growth and the delivery of high quality urban development.
* The Settlement Capacity Audit (SCA) and accompanying maps as set out in Volume 2, examined the suitability of lands for development in line with the NPF, with respect to the availability of infrastructure/services. In the case of the residential SCA, the tables also indicate the density standards applicable to each site and the indicative potential yield achievable (subject to consideration with respect to compliance with all relevant planning criteria, development management standards etc.).
* In this regard, as set out in the Core Strategy, the SCA identifies the potential for 12,400 no. of units across the City and Environs, including Mungret and Annacotty. The Land Development Agency (LDA) and Limerick 2030 plans to facilitate high density and mixed use developments on underutilised and brownfield sites in Limerick, which will create opportunities to achieve a critical mass of residential and employment population, to

growth Limerick and to enhance the viability and vitality of the City Centre, while addressing instances of urban blight and decay. The development of such sites will be informed by the guidance set out under the Draft Building Height Strategy, which accompanies the Draft Plan.

# Examples of collaborative working in the MASP:

* Preparation of the Draft Limerick – Shannon Metropolitan Transport Strategy;
* Preparation of a Draft Retail Strategy for the MASP area.

The designation of the MASP supports the collaborative approach which already existed between the Local Authorities and provide greater policy support for the growth of the City Region.

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| SUPPORTING GROWTH  / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS  RPO 11 Key Towns  RPO 22 Newcastle West | **KEY TOWNS**  **Please outline progress made in developing Newcastle West in its Role as a Key Town as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 22 Newcastle West.**  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |
|  | The Draft Plan acknowledges the key role of **Newcastle West** within the **settlement hierarchy** of Limerick and its capacity for growth and the opportunity for future economic development and employment growth whilst noting its strong sub-regional  interdependencies with Listowel, Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale**. (Section 2b: Limerick County Spatial Strategy 3.5 Level 2: Key Town).**  Section 3.5 of the Draft Plan establishes that the **Local Area Plan** in place for Newcastle West will be reviewed on completion of this Development Plan. The Local Area Plan will deal with the more detailed approach to the development of Newcastle West in line with its ambition as a Key Town. The LAP will consider in detail employment and economic development opportunities, placemaking initiatives, upskilling, lifelong learning, social infrastructure. In addition to the LAP, the Council is committed to the preparation of a **Local Transport Plan** for Newcastle West, which will consider sustainable mobility and placemaking, as a key  element of the growth of Newcastle West.  The RSES also lists **key infrastructural projects** for the key town of Newcastle West. These include a proposed Regional Athletics Hub and the Limerick Greenway. In this regard:   * Construction of the Newcastle West Regional Athletics Hub commenced in June 2021 * In July 2021, the Limerick Greenway reopened, which included a upgrading of the surface and development additional amenities along the route, which connects   Rathkeale, Newcastle West and Abbeyfeale along the former Limerick to Kerry railway line. It is now a significant recreational and tourism amenity for Limerick.   * The Draft Plan provides policy support for the **N21 Newcastle West Road Scheme** – A key project in enhancing regional connectivity with the South West Region and   alleviating congestion. Initial route selection and public consultation has been complete.   * In line with the RSES MASP Objective 17, a **Draft Retail Strategy** for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area and County Limerick was prepared. This document, which also considered the remainder of Limerick outside of the MASP area, is included in   **Volume 6**. The Strategy is aligned to the Core Strategy and the Settlement Hierarchy. It focuses on maintaining and further developing Limerick City for its dominant retail function in the Midwest hierarchy, the development of District Centres, the Key Towns of Newcastle West and other towns as the main retail centres in the county. |
| SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES  RPO 26 Towns & Villages RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework | How Does the Development Plan support strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages?  Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives including details of housing units  planned/developed through programmes such as the ‘small towns and villages growth programme 2020- 2024’ and progress made in the provision of services sites  **Strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages**   * **Section 3.10 *Revitalisation of Towns and Villages*** of the Draft Plan establishes that the towns and villages outside of Limerick City have distinctive roles to play in the County’s |

economy and as places for communities to live, work and visit. These settlements provide key resources that are essential to the economy and society of rural Limerick,

with many being important drivers of their local economies as well as servicing their rural hinterlands.

# Policy CGR P2 P4- Revitalisation of Towns and Villages:

* **Objective CGR 09 O21- Town and Village Revitalisation Sustainable Place Framework**
* The development of a network of settlements that work together to the benefit of Limerick and all its inhabitants, including those in rural areas can only occur in a coordinated and planned manner as established in Chapter 2.
* The main tool of achieving this, is through a robust Settlement Strategy supported by the following policies and objectives - **Policy SS P2 - Development of Limerick in accordance with the Settlement Hierarchy, Objective SS O1 - *Capacity of Town/Village to Absorb Development*, Objective SS O2 *Monitoring Growth* below. (Chapter 13 sets out details in relation to Implementation and Monitoring of development. Objective SS O2 -**

# Monitoring Growth).

* **Chapter 10 of the Draft Plan entitled *Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure*** is dedicated to the social infrastructure and how it fits into the overall land use planning framework for Limerick to foster healthy, sustainable, inclusive and attractive

communities.

* The Sustainable Place concept is reinforced in Section 10.4 in addition to consideration of the policy framework in respect of healthy environments firstly and then the principles of place-making secondly ( **Objective SCSI O8 Place-making for the Community).** This section is supported by the wider text content in section 10.4 and includes reference to relevant support policy documents.

However, the growth and development of towns and villages is dependent on the availability of critical infrastructure, such as water and wastewater, The Council have and will continue to work with Irish Water in the interest of developing this infrastructure, however, investment is crucial. In the absence of such infrastructure, The Council have proposed policies to support serviced sites in towns and villages to support the growth and vitality of these settlements.

# Serviced Sites

Section 4.3 Serviced Sites in Towns and Villages establishes that to help strengthen and consolidate the settlement structure. This approach is consistent with the Government’s

Rural Development Policy 2021 – 2025 – Our Rural Future, which sets out a clear ambition to support the regeneration, re-population and development of rural towns and villages, to contribute to local and national economic recovery. **Objective HS O1 - Serviced Sites in**

# Towns and Villages without adequate Water Services

**Town and Village Renewal Scheme Initiatives**

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is a key initiative under the Action Plan for Rural Development Realising our Rural Potential and Project Ireland 2040.

**Some examples** of projects, which have been awarded funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, include:

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|  | * The creation of a pedestrian friendly Town Centre in Askeaton; * Public realm improvements in Ballingarry; * Refurbishment of the Parish Hall to create a community centre in Broadford; * Creation of a village heritage trail and town park improvements in Dromcollogher; * Development of a community wildlife area in Kilteely; * A walkway and public lighting at Murroe Town Park; * Refurbishment of the Countess of Dunraven Fountain and seating in Adare; * Resurfacing of footpaths and universal access in Grove Public Park in Bruff; * Improved access to Priory Walk, seating in the Pocket Park and amenities in Kilmallock; * Sensory garden, walking track and universal recreational area in Pallasgreen   **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) Initiatives**  The Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) is a key component of Project Ireland 2040, which is the Government’s plan for balanced regional development across the  country. A number of projects in Limerick have been awarded funding as follows:   * The Rural Limerick Housing Development Project identified the towns and villages of Abbeyfeale, Ardagh, Askeaton, Bruff and Rathkeale, which all have issues of   dereliction/vacancy and decline, the funding seeks to deliver housing and bring life back to these settlements, through a number of measures such as CPO powers and revitalise these towns and villages.   * RRDF funding has been awarded for the West Limerick Tourism Gateway. This proposal consists of the preparation of a comprehensive tourism plan for Newcastle West Town Centre. * Murroe Community Hub is a community driven project, which involves the construction of a two-storey multi-purpose building.. The Murroe Town Park Project aims to create public space for sport and recreation, while enhancing economic and social activity by drawing footfall into the village, creating employment opportunities and enhancing the   attractiveness of the area as a high quality place to live;   * The Glenbrohane Local Hub project seeks to significantly enhance the range of services available to local residents and businesses. The project involves the conversion of an old public house into a community facility housing a café, shops for local crafts and produce, a Men’s Shed, office and meeting rooms. |
| RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES  RPO 27 Rural  RPO 28  Collaboration/Partnership  RPO 29 Rural Settlement Networks  RPO 43 Rural Economy & EU Good Practice  RPO 44 Common Agricultural Policy  RPO 45 Action Plan for Rural Development  RPO 46 Digital and Physical Infrastructure in Rural Areas | How Does Development Plan policy support vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development?  Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives including those relating to island and coastal communities, the development of networks / shared resources between settlements?  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. E.G new walking/cycling routes developed between adjoining rural areas/villages, joint initiatives to support tourism, joint projects to develop digital and training resources. |

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| RPO 47 Rural Partnership  Models  RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres  of Excellence  RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas  RPO 50 Diversification |  |
|  | **Rural Areas/Rural Development**  The vision for Limerick includes ‘self-sustaining rural communities’ and this themes runs right through the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan is centred on the concept of compact growth  and revitilisation of towns and villages in accordance with the provisions of the NPF and the RSES. **Objective SS 01 Compact Growth** which states ‘It is an objective of the Council to strengthen the core of settlements and encourage compact growth, through the  development of infill sites, brownfield lands, under-utilised lands/buildings, vacant sites and derelict sites, within the existing built-up footprint of the settlements and develop outwards from the centre in a sequential manner’.  Section 10.3.2 Rural Communities **policy SCSI P4** incudes policy support for Our Rural Future: Rural Development Policy 2021-2025.  ***Approach***  Section 3.2.4 ***A Collaborative Approach* of** The Draft Plan recognises the value of collaboration and establishes that Limerick City and County Council are committed to a collaborative intra-regional partnership approach between the Limerick-Shannon, Cork, Waterford and Galway regions.  This is further supported in Chapter 5, A Strong Economy including:   * Objective **ECON O8 *County Towns and Villages*** relating to policy support for economic growth and development * Objective ECON O9 relates to **Rural Retail** and provides support for retail ancillary to farm diversification. * Objective ECON 030 supports **farm diversification** and Objective ECON 035, which supports **Limerick Food Strategy,** the aim of which is to develop and enhance Limerick’s reputation for outstanding food and drink, by supporting Limerick’s food and drink producers. * The Draft Plan sets out policy support for the development of **rural working hubs** in rural towns and villages to support remote working and the Council have been   actively progressing the development of hubs through Innovate Limerick (ECON O27). In addition to Community Hubs Chapter 10 -Objective SCSI 03.   * Objectives ECON O17 and ECON 018 relate to the development and enhancement of   **education and skills**.   * Objective IN O2 **Digital Connectivity** provides policy support for the development of digital services to enhance digital innovations and digital transformation throughout Limerick. **Objective SCSI O7 relates to Smart Towns and Villages**.   *Key Initiatives*   * In June 2021 Fáilte Ireland launched a new strategy to develop Limerick as a compelling visitor destination and base for exploring the Wild Atlantic Way |

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|  | * The **MMIAH Atlantic Area Interreg project** has an exciting long-term view to creating a joint tourism product - Limerick as part of an Atlantic Coastal route, from Southern Spain to Northern Scotland. * **PLACE-EE** is a transnational partnership of public health agencies, local authorities, academics and ICT experts from Ireland, UK and Sweden, led by Ulster University, dedicated to improving the quality of life for older people. |
| PLACEMAKING  RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework  RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for  Place-making  RPO 70 Bidding capacity | How Does the Development Plan support Placemaking? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. Eg. Improvements to public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks |
|  | **Background Context**  The Council have in recent months established a dedicated Directorate within Limerick City and Council dealing specifically with Environment, Planning and Placemaking. The  importance and significance of place making is key to improving quality of life, increasing residential development in the city and town centres and creating employment  opportunities. A public realm strategy for the city centre and a number of towns have policy support in the Drfat Plan and are currently progressing.  **Policy Context**  The principle of quality placemaking **Sustainable Place Framework** is embedded in the Draft Plan as identified in Section 1.3 Interlinked Strategic Objective 4.  **Section 3.3.1 Place-making states** placemaking is a collaborative approach to shaping,  improving and creating high quality public places that are at the centre of every community and establishes a number of principles that should be incorporated into the design of any projects. **Section 3.3.1.2 relates to Public Realm** (Objective CGR 01 O3- Place-making,  Universal Design and Public Realm). These objectives are further supported by the DM Guidance in Chapter 11.  With respect to *RPO* 70 **Bidding capacity** – Limerick City and County Council is a multidisciplinary organisation working collaboratively with all relevant stakeholders to ensure appropriate levels of background research and knowledge to advance future development in a sustainable manner across all infrastructure and development projects. This is established under the various chapter of the Draft Plan and will adhere to budget requirements. (**Objective CGR 04 O5 - Active Land Management**: It is an objective of the Council to a) Promote an active land management approach through cooperation with  relevant stakeholders and infrastructure providers to deliver enabling infrastructure to achieve compact growth).  **Chapter 10** includes an objective to support the creation of attractive, enterprise  development friendly, liveable, well-designed, high-quality places that are home to a diverse enterprise base mix and integrated communities by using tools such as **Health Place Audits.**  The Council have prepared a **Community Facilities Audit,** which will inform the future  development Strategy on Community Facilities in Limerick (**Objective SCSI O6 Strategy on** |

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|  | **Community Facilities**). This will be published in early 2022. The preparation of the  Community Facilities Strategy will implement the findings of the Community Facilities Audit and provide enhanced policy support to address the identified deficits in community and/or cultural infrastructure in specific area. This will be complete within the lifetime of the Plan. |
| REGENERATION & SUPPORT FOR COMPACT GROWTH  (These RPOs identified as relating to Placemaking in  Phase 3 analysis of RPOs) | How Does the Development Plan address Compact growth targets on brownfield and infill sites? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.  Has the Development Plan identified priority locations for Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development? |
| RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development  RPO 35 Support for Compact Growth | Please briefly outline any examples of Regeneration Projects/Initiatives delivered to date or innovative examples of delivering quality high density residential development, successful brownfield development or any projects to develop lands jointly with the LDA |
| RPO 36 LDA |  |
| RPO 37 Active Land Management |  |
| RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative Priorities |  |
| RPO 176 10-minute” city and town concepts |  |
|  | **Addressing Compact Growth Targets**  The Draft Plan includes policy support as follows:  ***Section* 3.3.1.3 Brownfield**  A number of strategic brownfield consolidation sites have been identified for redevelopment in Limerick City Centre, which will have transformational effects on the revitalisation of the City. Such strategic consolidation sites include, for example, the Opera Square Centre,  Cleeves Riverside Quarter, the University of Limerick Riverside Campus and Colbert Station Quarter.  **Section 3.3.1.4 Infill Sites**  The development of infill sites will facilitate the most sustainable use of urban land and existing infrastructure, **while facilitating compact growth.**  The Planning Authority will encourage the appropriate development of infill sites in accordance with the Development Management Standards.  **Section 3.3.1.5 Backland Sites**  The Planning Authority will encourage the development of backland sites where appropriate opportunities exist.  The above text is supported by **Objective CGR 03 O4- Urban Lands and Compact Growth and Policy CGR P2 - Monitoring of Brownfield/Infill Sites relate to the above.**  **Revitalisation**  **Section 3.3.2 Active Land Management** states that the creation of compact, dense and sustainable urban centres as envisaged in the National Planning Framework, requires the use of active land management to bring vacant and underutilised land in urban areas into beneficial use **(**Objective CGR O5 - Active Land Management)  Limerick City and County Council envisages that effective approaches to revitalisation by the public sector will facilitate and encourage the mobilisation of development land in private ownership, to generate housing supply and create high quality neighbourhoods in the |

settlements. Key legislative components of active land management with respect to private owned lands are the Vacant Site Levy, Derelict Site Levy and incentives of the Development Contribution Scheme.

# Section 3.3.2.1 Vacant Site Levy, Objective CGR 05 O6- relate to Vacant Site Levy.

**Section 3.3.2.2 Derelict Sites, Objective CGR 06 O7 relate to Derelict Sites, objective CGR 07 O8 relates to Unfinished Estates.**

In accordance with the National Planning Framework and Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy Objectives, Limerick City and County Council has a number of proposals for

revitalisation over the lifetime of this Draft Plan. Such projects aim to capitalise on the potential of underutilised, publicly owned, centrally located and strategic sites and their

potential to have transformational effects, boosting the residential population, employment opportunities and economic output levels of a compact and sustainable City Centre as a

driver for the wider Mid-West Region.

**Section 3.4.3 Strategic Revitalisation** set out examples of some of the key initiatives and strategic sites including those identified as part of Limerick 2030 to facilitate the

revitalisation of Limerick City Centre in a consolidated and compact manner (**Objective CGR 08 O11 – Revitalisation**)

**Section 3.4.4** relates to the **Land Development Agency**. Objective LDA 01 - Land

Development Agency states that it is an objective of the Council to support and work with the Land Development Agency in the planning, co-ordination and development of large- scale and strategic land banks, particularly lands in state ownership, in order to achieve compact growth, sustainable development and economic and physical revitalisation.

Further to the sites identified under the Limerick 2030 Plan and LDA, **Section 3.4.5** *Limerick City and Environs Opportunity Sites* identifies sites for re-development which would contribute to the revitalisation of the area of the city and environs in which they are located while contributing to compact population and employment growth.

**Section 3.4.6 *Limerick City Opportunity (Regeneration) Areas*** relates to the four Limerick Regeneration Areas of Moyross, Southill, Ballinacurra Weston and St. Mary’s Park, which the Draft Plan acknowledges present substantial opportunities for growth, investment and

employment creation in the suburbs of the City.

In accordance with the National Development Plan 2018 – 2027, continued investment in the Limerick Regeneration Programme will see the completion of the works identified in the 2013 Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan (LRFIP), which should be read in tandem with this chapter (**Policy RA P1 - Regeneration Strategy**).

# 10-minute City/Town

Section 2.10 Settlement Strategy sets out that the concept of developing a **10 minute city/town** with a series of neighbourhoods and vibrant towns and villages, which are

compact, that can support a range of jobs, services and housing choice, not only provide the basis of strong economies and communities, but also support a greater range of sustainable modes of transport, both within and between settlements The main tool of achieving this, is a robust Settlement Strategy (**Objective SCSI 04 - 10 - Minute Neighbourhood**)

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|  | A 10-minute city/town is supported across the entire interlinked Draft Plan in terms of sustainable travel (Objective TR O9 - Climate Proofed Transport Infrastructure), placemaking (Section 10.3) and climate change (Section 9.2.2).  The settlement strategy, land Use Zoning, Settlement Capacity Audit and accompanying policies and objectives support the concept of a 10-minute city/town |
| RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY | How Does the Development Plan incorporate /support the RSES Economic Strategy? Please provide a brief summary. |
| RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience  RPO 64 Facilitate new business | Does the Development Plan incorporate policies to support and develop the role of the Region’s Economic Drivers? |
| formation, growth and |  |
| industrial re-organisation |  |
| RPO 72 Brexit |  |
| RPO 74 Economic Risk Management |  |
| System |  |
|  | The RSES sets out the five economic principles, which includes Smart Specialisation,  Clustering, Placemaking for enterprise development, Knowledge Diffusion, and Capacity  Building. The Council acknowledge the importance of the need for economic transformation throughout Limerick and have mobilised many building blocks for this transformation, such as the establishment of purpose built vehicles to support economic growth, including  Limerick Twenty Thirty and Innovate Limerick.  Section 5.4 of the Draft Plan outlines that the success of economic growth in Limerick is  intertwined with maintaining and enhancing its attractiveness as a high quality place to live, work and visit. It is this wider package, which includes everything from high quality public transport, availability of housing, education infrastructure, quality place-making and  heritage, culture, recreational and community facilities, which will ultimately attract business. In spatial terms, the Limerick employment strategy aims to provide for the expansion of employment through the designation of a range of highly accessible  employment locations.  The **Employment Strategy** of this Draft Plan seeks to align strategic employment locations with public transport corridors, increasing the efficiency of land-use, reducing sprawl and minimising carbon footprints and seeks to retain and enhance the important role of  employment in Limerick City and Environs and the County’s Town Centres. From a sectoral perspective the Draft Plan aims to support and facilitate the economic development of Limerick across a broad range of sectors, while acknowledging in particular the importance of the knowledge economy. The focus on employment creation is based on consolidating the strong job generation capacity of professional services, ICT, advanced manufacturing, life  sciences and logistics technology and knowledge based industries. In addition, the Draft Plan provides for a wide range of employment needs to ensure that people with a diverse range of skill levels can both find and help grow employment opportunities.  Furthermore, the Council will seek to work in conjunction with state agencies and the government to support and facilitate education, upskilling and job creation programmes.  **Chapter 5, A Strong Economy sets out policies and objectives relating to the Enterprise and** |

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|  | **Employment** across a range of sectors including a section on Economic Principals as identified in the economic vision set out in the RSES.  Overarching Policy support includes:  **Policy ECON P1 Strong Economy**  **Policy ECON P2 Economic Development and Enterprise -** It is a policy of the Council to promote and facilitate opportunities for sectoral development in Limerick, to increase productivity, create employment and to diversify the economy and ensure future economic resilience.  **Policy ECON P3 Urban Economy Policy ECON P4 Retail**  **Policy ECON P5 Enterprise and Employment Development Opportunities Policy ECON P6 Tourism**  **Policy ECON P7 Marine Economy** |
| ECONOMIC CORRIDORS  RPO 41 Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) | Briefly Outline Development Plan policies that will advance development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor |
|  | The strategic location of Limerick City in relation to the other regional cities and Dublin, and its location on the Atlantic Economic Corridor, presents tremendous potential for growth and investment across the county and is acknowledged in **Chapter 1 and Section 2.6.1**  **Employment Strategy**. Limerick City and County Council are committed to the AEC initiative and committed resources to progress proposals identified by the AEC.  Newcastle West has been identified by the RSES as a Key Town and forms part of the Atlantic Economic Corridor, with special potential for economic growth. The RSES identifies the  importance of supporting Newcastle West as a strategically located urban centre of  significant sub-regional context and highlights that strong subregional interdependencies exist between Newcastle West, Listowel, Rathkeale and Abbeyfeale. Such interdependencies provide an opportunity for collaboration and economic growth, including opportunities for partnership projects.  Initiatives of the Atlantic Economic Corridor will support Limerick and Newcastle West in realizing its full potential, enhancing enterprise assets to support job creation, improve competitiveness, attract investment and create future economic growth. |
| TOURISM  RPO 53 Tourism  RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment | Please Outline Key Development Plan policies that will support Tourism development Please briefly outline wider Council involvement in tourism development. |
|  | Chapter 1 :Introduction, Vision and Strategic Overview includes objective 10 in Section 1.3 which states that the Draft Plan will “support growth in the tourism sector in limerick,  specifically focusing on sustainable tourism, and capture key opportunities to develop the sector based around five key drivers – Greenways, Waterways, Activities, Heritage, Arts and Culture and rural environment”. The importance of tourism to the economy of Limerick was identified as a key element of the overall vision for Limerick. |

Chapter 5, A Strong Economy, Section 3 sets out the policies and objectives of the Draft Plan with respect to Tourism. This is supported across the wider Draft Plan with respect to natural heritage, Blue Green Infrastructure, cultural, historical and built heritage and

rural diversification.

**Objective ECON O36** includes d) Support and harness the tourism potential of existing rural and heritage site amenities/attractions.

The Draft Plan is further supported by tourism related plans and strategies which have been referenced, where applicable, in the Draft Plan.

The Draft Plan also includes support for the Limerick Tourism Development Strategy 2019- 2023, the Limerick 2030 Economic and Spatial Plan for Limerick and the River Shannon Tourism Masterplan, which inform the development of tourism in Limerick.

The development of lands within towns and villages for tourism to enhance the economy of these settlements and is supported in the Draft Plan as is development to support the Limerick Greenway in settlements along the route.

The need to improve **Wayfinding, Placemaking and Public Realm** is acknowledged in Chapter 5, Urban Tourism: City Centre and Environs.

During the lifetime of the Draft Plan, Limerick will increase the range of day and evening experience options for visitors by working collaboratively to deliver an improved visitor

environment. Ongoing public realm improvement works in the City Centre and a recently completed Wayfinding Orientation and Signage Strategy will enhance the visitor experience, by introducing and orientating visitors through the city, delivering new and coherent visitor experiences.

# Recent investments in the tourism sector include:

* The €172 million investment in Adare Manor and Golf Course
* The €10 million investment in the Engage Rugby Experience museum.
* Other accolades such as Limerick City’s Purple Flag status.

**The Limerick Tourism Development Strategy sits amid a wider strategic policy backdrop that includes major national tourism initiatives such as the Wild Atlantic Way; (Limerick sits in the Wild Atlantic Way Region); Ireland's Ancient East and Ireland's Hidden**

**Heartlands.**

**Wider Council involvement in Tourism Development**

1. The Tourism Department of Limerick City and County Council has developed a [Tourism](https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/business-supports/limerick-tourism-strategy) [Development Strategy](https://www.limerick.ie/council/services/business-and-economy/business-supports/limerick-tourism-strategy) for Limerick.
2. The Tourism Department are implementing the following:
   * **Tourism Sector Support Scheme**, which will pay a financial support to occupiers of commercial properties, directly linked to the tourism and hospitality Sector. The property types that qualify for the scheme include Hotels, Licensed Houses,

Restaurants / Cafes and Hostels.

* + **Funding of streetscape and shopfront enhancement** projects under the 2021 Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement scheme.
  + IPB **Pride of Place** Competition in association with Co-operation Ireland

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|  | o Research Evaluator Tender on the **impact of Covid-19 on the Arts and Culture** Sector in Limerick to gather data from the sector in Limerick, evaluate and support the  integration of this information into policy making |
| EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS  RPO 62 Locations for Employment  Development | Does the Development Plan identify future Locations for Employment Development? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives. |
|  | **Future Locations for Employment Development** |
|  | With respect to the Draft Plan proposed **zoning for Enterprise and Employment** has regard |
|  | to the ‘Guiding Principles to identify locations for Strategic Employment Development’, and |
|  | RPO 62 Locations for Employment Development of the RSES with regards to a sequential |
|  | and compact approach to development, while increasing the integration of land use and |
|  | sustainable modes of transport. |
|  | Chapter 5, A Strong Economy includes **Policy ECON P5 *Enterprise and Employment*** |
|  | ***Development Opportunities*** and further states that the Local Authority supports the on- |
|  | going operations of the strategic employment zones identified in the MASP, the Draft Plan |
|  | and any sustainable economic development opportunities on appropriately zoned lands. In |
|  | this regard, the capacity for employment growth is acknowledged and lands have been |
|  | zoned to cater for existing and new industry and enterprise and employment related uses. |
|  | Bus, pedestrian and cycle linkages will connect many of the potential employment areas to |
|  | the City Centre as identified in the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy. |
|  | Chapter 5 includes the following: |
|  | **Objective ECON O13 *Strategic Employment Locations City and Environs*** |
|  | **Objective ECON O14 *Employment Locations County Limerick*** |
|  | **Objective ECON O15 *Location of Industry or Enterprise in Brownfield Site*** |
| MARINE ECONOMY (RELATING TO  Instructive RPOs)  RPO 76 Marine Economy  RPO 77 Maritime Spatial planning -  Consistency and Alignment  RPO 78 First Mover under the National Marine Planning Framework  RPO 79 Shannon Estuary and Other Harbour Plans  RPO 81 Fishery Harbour Centres and  Local Authority Harbours RPO 82 Seafood Sector  RPO 83 Island and Coastal Communities  RPO 84 Fishing Local Area Group (FLAG) Development Strategies  RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy  effects on European Sites and  potential for adverse effects on the  RPO 86 Marine Cluster | Does the Development Plan include objectives that support development of our marine and coastal assets? Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |

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| CLIMATE ACTION: TRANSITION TO A LOW CARBON ECONOMY &  SOCIETY | **Marine Economy**  The value of the Marine Economy is recognised in Chapter 5 and identified as part of the land use zoning provisions as established in the Draft Plan.  **Maritime Spatial Planning**  The Maritime Area Planning Bill (2021) and National Marine Planning Framework are recognised in Chapter 5, Section 4 under subsection Marine Spatial Planning including an objective relating to National and Regional Marine Planning.  **Shannon Estuary (Shannon-Foynes Port, Marine Cluster, Limerick Docks)**  The Council fully support the operations at Limerick Port as a key trade route for Limerick and the region and acknowledge the importance of the Port for direct and indirect  employment, business and economic growth. The Council recognise the importance of the Shannon Estuary, **Objectives Econ O43** sets out policy support for strategic development  locations along the estuary. **Objective ECON O44** relates to **Shannon Foynes Port** and includes (c) to promote Limerick to become the primary hub for the development of  Ireland’s west coast renewable energy potential in research, innovation, logistics, development, maintenance and administration.  In terms of identification of lands for development, particularly in Foynes Village and on Foynes Island are in line with the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary. The Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary is also included as Appendix 6 of the Draft Plan and sets out a comprehensive framework for the development of Limerick’s coastal assets.  The Draft Plan also includes **Objective TR O32 Docks and Ports** to support the continued development of Shannon Foynes Port as an EU Core Network Port (TEN-T) and Limerick Docks as marine related assets, in accordance with the 2013 National Ports Policy.  **Renewable Offshore Wind Energy**  Section 9.5.4 relates to *Wind Energy* and includes the following objectives: **Objective CAF O29 Wind Energy Development and Environmental Considerations Objective CAF O33 Development of Foynes Port**  **Projects and Initiatives**   * The **MMIAH Atlantic Area Interreg project** provides Limerick with an extra €274,000 to recover and add value to our maritime, military and industrial heritage. Through the MMIAH project LCCC are working with Waterways Ireland to bring about this   improvement. The MMIAH project also has an exciting long-term view to creating a joint tourism product - Limerick as part of an Atlantic Coastal route, from Southern Spain to Northern Scotland.  **The CAPITEN Project** - This project seeks to develop a number of exciting new  elements including marine product innovation, environmentally sustainable marine tourism, inshore and sea-going navigation aids, port information points and marine tourism itineraries. |
| Does the Development Plan give priority to addressing Climate Action.  Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses Climate Action. |

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| RPO 56 Low Carbon  Economy  RPO 57 National Policy Statement on  Bio-economy  RPO 85 Renewable offshore energy  RPO 88 National Mitigation Plan and National Adaptation Framework  RPO 89 Building Resilience to Climate Change | **Climate Action**  The Draft Plan recognises one of the key challenges for the climate-neutral transition is to reallocate resources from carbon-intensive to climate-neutral developments and  infrastructure. Successful economic modernisation requires stimulating local economic diversification towards clean industries through decarbonisation, innovation and  digitalisation.  The integration of land use and transportation is a fundamental principle of the Draft Plan, which supports the rebalancing of the transport system towards more sustainable modes of transport, in order to mitigate against the potential impacts of climate change and to remove congestion from our city, towns and villages. The Draft Plan acknowledges the promotion of use and increased delivery of sustainable modes of transport is fundamental to achieving Ireland’s carbon emission reduction requirements of 30% by 2030.   * **Chapter 1, section 1.3** states that the “plan will foster the linkages to transition from linear model to a circular model which keeps resources in use for as long as   possible”.   * The Draft Plan has been prepared with climate action and transition to a low carbon economy, as key considerations throughout formulation of all policies and objectives. * **Table 9.1** demonstrates how climate action provisions have been incorporated into elements of the Draft Plan and highlights the important and significant role it has to play, in the formulation of policies and objectives for the overall development of Limerick. * Chapter 5, A Strong Economy includes an objective to support the economic benefits and opportunities that exist in the transition to a more circular economy.   **Bio-Economy**  **Section 8.7.1.4 Bio economy** states that the circular bio-economy is a manifestation  of the circular economy and covers potential for recovery of materials and by products  to create new products of high value, or alternatively recovery of biomass as energy. In this regard, the Draft Plan includes **Objective IN O15 Waste Management and the Circular Economy** Supporting innovative, smart solutions and processes, based on the principles of the circular economy in a collaborative and sustainable manner. **Section 8.7.1.2 -**To adopt the principle of the **circular economy** more fundamentally, applicants shall be required to submit a Resource Management Plan, including a Circular Economy Statement.  In Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy, Objective  **CAF O1 *Compliance with Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance*** |

sets out the Council’s commitment to climate action and transition to a low carbon economy and to support measures to build resilience to climate change throughout

Limerick, to address impact reduction, adaptive capacity, awareness raising, providing for nature-based solutions and emergency planning. It also supports the development of a regional decarbonisation plan and measures, such as carbon sequestration and carbon

capture and storage**.** Section 9.2.4 *Climate Mitigation* includes Objective CAF O9 specifically relates to Achieving Climate Resilience Objective CAF O10 Woodland Creation, Forestry and Preservation of Bogs, Objective CAF O11 Nature Based Solutions Objective CAF O12 Urban Greening

# Chapter 9 Section 9.2.6 addresses Limerick’s Transition to a Low Carbon Economy with associated policy support in CAF P2, CAF P3 and CAF P4.

**Off-Shore Renewables**

In term of **off -shore renewables** Objective ECON O45 provides policy support for relates to Offshore Renewable Energy in addition to Objectives CAF 32 and 33 support the development of offshore wind. CAF037 supports the adoption of emerging renewable technologies as they become available.

# Addressing the National Mitigation Plan and Adaptation Strategy

The Draft Plan seeks to deliver a robust response to dealing with climate change, with much stronger policies and actions to deal with the challenges of climate adaptation and mitigation.

The policies and objectives set out in the Draft Plan are much more far reaching in terms of compliance with EU, national and regional policy than those of previous plans. Climate Change/Action is a theme from the Strategic Vision and carried right throughout the plan, with a dedicated Chapter in Chapter 9.

The Draft Development Plan sets out how this change will be implemented, with policy changes to more sustainable settlement patterns. The focus on compact growth, place making, sustainable transport, and focus on the sustainable location of development, all of these key elements are fundamental to deliver benefits to climate action. The Draft Plan focused on the growth of existing settlement with consolidation of development within settlements, in a bid to reduce the need to travel for work purposes.

**Section 9.1** outlines that in July 2019, the Council adopted the Limerick City and County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024. The Climate Adaptation Strategy concentrates on dealing with the effects of climate change, such as flooding, storms or

increased temperatures. Climate mitigation on the other hand, refers to efforts to reduce or prevent emission of greenhouse gases. Mitigation can mean using new technologies and

renewable energies, making older equipment more energy efficient or changing practices and behaviors.

# Building Resilience

**Objective CAF O9 Achieving Climate Resilience** outlines that it is an objective of the Council to promote climate resilience in development and economic activities that are regulated by planning. It is important to ensure that any developments are climate resilient as they will need to function in a climate-altered environment. This means that they will be able to

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|  | withstand increased intensity of storm events and rainfall and through adequate design, location and drainage elements, would not contribute to problems elsewhere, such as increased run off.  Other Objective include **- Objective CAF O10 Woodland Creation, Forestry and Preservation of Bogs, Objective CAF O11 Nature Based Solutions and Objective CAF O12 Urban Greening.** |
| DECARBONISATION  RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation.  RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the  Transport Sector  RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the  Agricultural Sector | Does the Development Plan include objectives that support Decarbonisation? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives including progress in identification of a Decarbonisation Zone |
|  | **Decarbonisation** |
|  | The Draft Plan recognises one of the key challenges for the climate-neutral transition is to |
|  | reallocate resources from carbon-intensive to climate-neutral developments and |
|  | infrastructure. Successful economic modernisation requires stimulating local economic |
|  | diversification towards clean industries through decarbonisation, innovation and |
|  | digitalisation. Specific **Objective CAF O19 Decarbonising Zones states**: It is an objective of |
|  | the Council *to support the identification of a Decarbonising Zone by designating a spatial* |
|  | *area, in which a range of climate mitigation, adaptation and biodiversity measures and* |
|  | *action owners are identified, to address local low carbon energy, greenhouse gas emissions* |
|  | *and climate needs, to contribute to national climate action targets and work with statutory* |
|  | *agencies and stakeholders as appropriate*. |
|  | **Section 9.2.1** sets out International, National and Regional Policy including - the Climate |
|  | Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 is a whole of Government plan, which was |
|  | published in 2017 and is Ireland’s first Plan in setting out a pathway to achieve the required |
|  | level of decarbonisation. |
|  | **Transport Sector** |
|  | **The integration of land use and transportation is a fundamental principle** of the Draft Plan, |
|  | which supports the rebalancing of the transport system towards more sustainable modes of |
|  | transport, in order to mitigate against the potential impacts of climate change and to |
|  | remove congestion from our city, towns and villages. **Chapter 6** of the Draft Plan |
|  | acknowledges the promotion of use and increased delivery of sustainable modes of |
|  | transport is fundamental to achieving Ireland’s carbon emission reduction requirements of |
|  | 30% by 2030. |
|  | The Planning Authority recognizes the importance of ensuring the policy provision is |
|  | incorporated into the plan in support of Park and Ride in Limerick. LSMATS provides the |
|  | commitment to the preparation of a Park and Ride Strategy for the Limerick Shannon |
|  | Metropolitan Area as recommended in the Climate Action Plan. A Park and Ride Strategy |
|  | will be determined by the National Transport Authority and the Local Authority following the |
|  | preparation of other strategies including LSMATS |
|  | **Agriculture Sector** |
|  | In **Section 9.5.1 *Biomass Production*** the Council acknowledges the predominant nature of |
|  | agriculture, within the rural area, as beef and dairy production and the importance of |

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|  | maintaining sustainable agriculture in line with the European Green Deal. Therefore, the opportunities associated with specifically grown products as sources of bio-mass may be limited. The forestry sector can also make a contribution to the biomass sector through the use of by products from the forestry sector as fuel. Forestry thinnings and waste timber can be localised fuel sources(Objective CAF O26 Bio Energy)  **Initiatives**   * The **+CityxChange [Positive City Exchange]** project is working to develop areas of “positive energy” in Limerick City which produce more energy than they consume. Limerick City and County Council is a lead partner on the +CityxChange project along with the city of Trondheim in Norway and is funded by the EU Horizon 2020 programme. * **‘Take Control of Your Energy’** was the open innovation call stream to fund projects that test ideas to reduce the amount of energy used in the city, and increase the   energy generated from innovative sources. The teams will demonstrate different possibilities for changing the way we use energy in the city.   * One funded project, **‘Greening the Smart Grid’,** a collaboration between the Urban Co op, Community Power and Clean Tech Energy will be using a solar powered   microgrid to extend the growing season on local allotments.   * The implementation of Limerick’s strategies dealing with the environment has led to infrastructure analysing and improving air quality and noise levels in the city. This is part of a broader aim as Ireland’s first digital city, integrating several public services, creating smart homes and buildings, energy districts and smart neighbourhoods. In recognition of this success in terms of green initiatives, Limerick City was awarded   **Green Leaf City 2020** by the European Commission in a competitive process. |
| RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGY  RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy  RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan | Does the Development Plan support the development of renewable energy in accordance with national/regional policy/targets?  Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses renewable energy  **Renewal Energy**  **Section 9.5 Renewable Energy** outlines that renewal energy continues to play an important role in terms of energy production nationally and within Limerick. This section recognises that as technologies emerge and alter, Limerick needs to position itself, to ensure that it has a safe, secure, sustainable and affordable supply of energy, which is central in securing sustainable development in line with national targets. This section is supported by reference to relevant supporting policy documents.  Section 9.5 establishes the following policies:  **Policy CAF P6 Renewable Energy** -It is a policy of the Council to support renewable energy commitments outlined in national and regional policy, by facilitating the development and exploitation of a range of renewable energy sources at suitable locations throughout Limerick, where such development does not have a negative impact on the surrounding  environment landscape, biodiversity, water quality or local amenities, to ensure the long term sustainable growth of Limerick. |

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| BLUE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE  RPO 110 Ecosystem Services  RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS)  RPO 124 Green Infrastructure  RPO 125 Green Infrastructure Corridors  RPO 126 Biodiversity  RPO 127 Invasive Species RPO 128 All-Ireland  Pollinator Plan 2015 – 2020 | **Policy CAF P7** Atlantic Green Digital Basin (GDB)  **Policy CAF P8** Community Based Renewable Energy  **Policy CAF P9** Renewable Energy Technologies  It is further acknowledged that the contribution of both large and **small-scale renewables**, including domestic and agricultural is likely to grow, over the lifetime of the Draft Plan. This  has proven to be the case in many European countries, where micro renewables in the form of photo-voltaic installations on houses and other structures make a significant contribution to energy generation.  Chapter 9 outlines extensive policy support and objectives with respect to renewable energy development under the following section headings:   * 9.5.2 Hydro-power * 9.5.3 Solar Energy * 9.5.4 Wind Energy including Map 9.1 Wind Energy Locations * 9.5.5 Tidal and Wave Energy * 9.5.6 Geothermal Energy * 9.5.9 District Heating * 9.5.10 Combined Heat and Power * 9.5.11 Community Investment in Renewable Energy   **Bio-Energy**  **Section 9.5.1 Bio-energy Production** notes that this aspect of renewable energy can lend itself well to collective community or district combined heat and power plants.  Sources of bio-mass in Limerick can vary from products specifically grown for use as bio-  mass fuels, such as Miscanthus or Short Rotation Coppice, to animal waste and by products of the food industry. Technologies such as anaerobic digestion (AD) and dry digestion can play a role in helping to manage sources of farm waste in particular and can help to provide an outlet for farm waste, municipal solid waste, or by products from the food industry.  **Objective CAF O26 Bio Energy -**It is an objective of the Council to support the development of bio energy and projects in suitable locations and subject to adequate assessment. The development of grid injection, where this is necessary for renewable energy input will also be supported.  **Objective CAF O27 Renewable Energy Production** includes bio-energy considerations. |
| Does the development plan support the development of Blue Green Infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity. Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses these areas  Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |

# Ecosystems

**Ecosystems Services is addressed in Chapter 6,** Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure. **Section 6.3** establishes that the condition of natural habitats and species, affects how they can provide ecosystem services, including providing us with resilience to climate change.

**Objective EH O1** states -*The Council, will through the planning enforcement process where applicable, seek to restore the ecological functions of designated sites, where they have been damaged through inappropriate development.* The protection and enhancement of out

biodiversity is a cross-cutting theme across the Draft Plan

SuDs

**Sustainable Urban Drainage** is addressed across a number of sections including Chapter 8, Objective IN O10 Surface Water and SuDS and Section 11.3.11 SuDS (Sustainable Drainage Systems).

# Green Infrastructure

The interlinked strategic objectives set out in Chapter 1 of the Draft Plan include, No 8 -

Protect, enhance and connect areas of **natural heritage, green infrastructure and open**

**space** for the benefits of quality of life, biodiversity, protected species and habitats, while having the potential to facilitate climate change adaptation and flood risk measures

**Chapter 6** of the Draft Plan is dedicated to Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure. Section 6.3.7 relates to Blue/Green Infrastructure.

Specific **objective EH O12** relates to **Blue Green Infrastructure** and includes b) Projects which would be detrimental to existing Blue – Green Infrastructure features will not be

permitted and e) Seek to advance the use of an ecosystem services approach and ecosystem services valuation as a decision-making tool in plans and projects, subject to appropriate

ecological assessment. Objective EH O13 provides for a Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy, which is being progressed at present.

# Green Infrastructure Corridors

Section 11.3.6 *Open Space Requirements* in the Development Management Standards includes the requirement to address:

* Existing and proposed open space shall where possible be linked, providing green linkages/corridors for wildlife habitats and improving walking and cycling

permeability through the site;

* A landscaping plan will be required for residential developments.
* Where a proposed development adjoins a river or canal bank, a linear

walkway/cycleway access for the public may be required. The overall layout of the scheme will not compromise the future development of Blue/Green infrastructure proposals;

**Objective EH O18 Riparian Buffers** seeks to maintain riverbank vegetation along

watercourses and ensure protection of a 20m riparian buffer zone on greenfield sites and sites maintain free from development. **Section 11.3.8.2 Soft Landscaping sets out** Key

requirements in relation to site development and landscaping works include the following:

* Existing trees and vegetation (hedgerows) should be retained and incorporated into the landscaping of the site, where possible;
* Where a large site adjoins a green corridor, public open space or area of high ecological value, any new public open space on the site should be contiguous to same to encourage visual continuity and expansion of the green infrastructure/biodiversity network;
* Landscaping works should incorporate sustainable urban drainage systems such as

biodiversity areas or wetlands, which can reduce surface water run-off. Green roofs, walls and permeable surfaces will be encouraged.

# Biodiversity /All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

The protection and enhancement of out biodiversity is a cross-cutting theme across the Draft Plan. Relevant objectives relating to the protection of biodiversity include:

Objective EH O1Designated Sites and Habitats Directive Objective EH O2 Lesser Horseshoe Bat

Objective EH O3Ecological Impact Assessment Objective EH O4 Creation of New Habitats Objective EH O5 New Infrastructure Projects Objective EH O6 Barn Owl Conservation Objective EH O7 All Ireland Pollinator Plan Objective EH O8 Roosting Habitats

# Invasive Species

Section 6.3.6 *Invasive species* acknowledges the threat of invasive species and includes Objective EH O11 Invasive Species.

WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE

RPO 110 Ecosystem Services RPO 111 Water Resources RPO 112 Water Quality

# Good Practice examples include –

* **Cycling Routes (Off Road)**
  + Limerick Greenway
  + Ballyhoura Mountain Bike Trails
  + Condell Road Riverside Trail
  + Park Canal to Athlunkard Bridge
  + Shannon Fields, Corbally to Guinness Bridge, Canal Cycle Route, Dublin Rd

# Cycling Routes (On Road)

* + The Riverside Loop (4km)
  + Limerick to Patrickswell Cycle Route
  + Rhebogue Neighbourhood Greenway
  + Rhebogue to UL
  + Mulgrave Street to Newtown, Anna

How does the development plan support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses these areas with particular focus on the strategy taken take to protect and enhance Blue Dot Catchments.

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| RPO 121 Effective  Collaboration to Implement River Basin Management Plans and Water Framework Directive | Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you  may wish to highlight in support of this theme. This should include internal structures established to improve the interaction between planning and water quality issues. |
| RPO 122 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) |  |
| RPO 123 River Basin  Management Plan and Spatial Planning |  |
| RPO 124 Green Infrastructure |  |
| RPO 126 Biodiversity |  |
| RPO 127 Invasive Species |  |
|  | **Water Framework Directive**  **Section 6.3.9 Water Quality** of the Draft Plan recognises that the European directives such as the Water Framework Directive and the Nitrates Directive have implications for Limerick in dealing with issues associated with preserving water quality.  The Draft Plan states that one of the most effective ways of ensuring the protection of  ground water is to use ground water protection schemes as part of land use planning. This is  **reinforced the Development Management Standards in Chapter 11.**  The Draft Plan include a number of **specific objectives to protect water quality including biodiversity:**   * Objective EH O15 Ground Water, Surface Water Protection and River Basin Management Plans * Objective EH O16 Septic Tanks and Proprietary Systems * Objective EH O17 Water Quality * Objective EH O18 Riparian Buffers   **River Basin Management and spatial planning is further addressed across a multitude of related land uses in chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green**  **Infrastructure, Chapter 8: Infrastructure and Chapter 11 Development Management**  **Sustainable Urban Drainage** is addressed across a number of sections including Chapter 8. **Objective IN O10 Surface Water and SuDS** includes b) Work in conjunction with other public bodies and c) in accordance with the National **River Basin Management Plan** for Ireland  2018-2021 (DHPLG) and the associated Programme of Measures and any subsequent River Basin Management Plan.  Chapter 6: Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure Section 6.3.9 *Water Quality* provides context to the **water framework directive in** the Draft Plan and is supported by relevant polices as outlined above relating to Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity and Invasive Species. \*\*See also Section Blue/Green Infrastructure above  **Chapter 8: Infrastructure Section 7.5 *Water Services and Surface Water*** also provides context to the water framework directive in the Draft Plan and is supported by Objectives relating to water and wastewater. **Similarity Chapter 11 provides Development Management Criteria where appropriate including land reclamation and the extractive industries.** |

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|  | **Examples** –   * **Recognising the Value of Wetlands** - Section 6.3.10 *Wetlands* notes that Wetlands are an important part of the ecology of Limerick and play a part in the regulation of flood waters as well as providing a natural amenity, such as the following within Limerick City: Westfields, Park Canal, Lucas Lough Shannon Fields, Monabraher Longpavement and Ballinacurra Creek. The Blue/Green Infrastructure Strategy will consider in greater detail the connection of these assets, in terms of the creation of healthy places, enhancing   biodiversity, addressing climate change, etc. |
| DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIES  RPO 133 Smart Cities  RPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region: | How Does the Development Plan support development of a Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns. Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives.  In rural areas, please outline progress made in the development of Remote Working & Digital Hubs and other relevant initiatives for the optimisation of digital connectivity. |
|  | **Smart City and Region** |
|  | **Section 5.8 Smart City states that** Limerick City and County Council has an objective to |
|  | create a sustainable Smart Limerick City and communities, through the use of digital |
|  | technologies and embracing new work practices to empower communities, create better |
|  | services, accelerates sustainable social and economic growth and to improve quality of life |
|  | for all (**Objective ECON O21 Smart City).** The Draft Plan recognises that collaboration across |
|  | communities and agencies is required. |
|  | The Local Authority has been very proactive in recent years in the development of a Smart |
|  | Economy in Limerick. An example of a proposed initiative to develop a smart economy in |
|  | Limerick is the proposed Atlantic Green Digital Basin, which aims to accelerate sustainable |
|  | economic growth and the utilisation of new digital technologies. It will develop a new |
|  | economic corridor - a unique, internationally scaled innovation hub powered by green |
|  | energy. The Council recognises the potential societal benefits that can be attained through |
|  | technological advancements and will continue to support the Smart Limerick initiative, |
|  | Limerick is also transforming itself into Ireland’s first Digital City with the integration of a |
|  | number of public services, the creation of smart homes, smart buildings, energy districts and |
|  | smart neighbourhoods. |
|  | **Section 8.4 Digital Connectivity and Limerick’s Digital Strategy** acknowledges that |
|  | advancements in information and communication technologies (ICT) continually evolve and |
|  | access to quality digital systems is a prerequisite for successful e-commerce, remote working |
|  | opportunities, distance education, lifelong learning opportunities, digital health services and |
|  | other opportunities, including cultural experiences offered through digital means and |
|  | engagement. |
|  | Limerick City and County Council is aware of the need for high quality digital and mobile |
|  | information communication systems. The Draft Plan establishes that Limerick has been to |
|  | the forefront in terms of digitalisation initiatives by a Local Authority, having published the |
|  | first Local Authority digital strategy – Building Ireland’s First Digital City – Smart Limerick |
|  | Roadmap in 2017. |

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| INTERNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY/ PORTS/AIRPORTS, FREIGHT & LOGISTICS  RPO 139 Low Carbon International Connectivity  RPO 145: Ports and Harbour Strategy for the Southern Region  RPO:149: Airport Strategy for the Southern Region  RPO 141: Regional Freight Strategy  RPO 143 Ports and Airports | Limerick is also transforming itself into Ireland’s first Digital City with the integration of a number of public services, the creation of smart homes, smart buildings, energy districts and smart neighbourhoods. The EU +CityxChange Programme (Positive City Exchange) has selected Limerick, along with Trondheim in Norway, to roll out a project that has the potential to revolutionise how we produce and use energy in cities and towns.  **Section 9.2.5** outlines that The +CityxChange project is developing and deploying Positive Energy Blocks and Districts (PEB/PED) and scaling these out as part of the European Clean Energy Transition in cities  **Objective IN O2 Digital Connectivity:** (h) Support emerging innovations in the digital transformation of transportation, E-Mobility and sustainable mobility in line with RPO 160 Smart Mobility, including those identified in LSMATS.  **Chapter 8 - Digital Innovations:** Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area: It is an objective of the Council to continue to develop digital services and work with relevant stakeholders to  enhance digital innovations and digital transformation throughout Limerick and the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area, as opportunities arise.  **Rural Working Hubs**  The Draft Plan sets out policy support for the development of **rural working hubs** in rural towns and villages to support remote working and the Council have been actively  progressing the development of hubs through Innovate Limerick (ECON O27).  To this end **ENGINE Hubs** across Limerick have secured €230,000 funding, enabling Innovate Limerick to further develop this network of Hubs. ENGINE Hubs across Limerick are located in ENGINE, Upper Cecil Street; LEDP Roxboro; The Yard, Newcastle West; Croom Enterprise Centre and The Development Centre Kilfinane**.** |
| How Does the Development Plan support the Region’s International Connectivity, development of ports, airports and policies in relation to freight and logistics.  Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives. |
| **Connectivity – Port/Airports/Freight**  **Section 6.2.1** recognises that in order to achieve significant reductions in greenhouse gases, the Government’s approach to reducing emissions from the transport sector is to adopt policies, to influence both the transport intensity of growth and the carbon intensity of travel.  **Section 6.7 Strategic Connections** includes: |

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|  | * **6.7.1 Airport** -The Council recognises the importance of air travel for international connectivity and in improving the attractiveness of Limerick for business   opportunities and development of the tourism industry supported by **Objective TR O26 - Shannon Airport.**   * **6.7.2 Strategic Ports and Harbours** -Limerick has significant port facilities in the natural harbour of the Shannon Estuary. These comprise of the Shannon-Foynes deep-water cargo port, Limerick Docks in Limerick City and a jetty facility at   Aughinish, between Foynes and Askeaton. Shannon Foynes Port is identified as a Tier 1 Port of National Significance in the current National Ports Policy (DTTAS, 2013) and is an EU Core Network Port (TEN-T). Continued growth is supported by **Objective TR O27 - Docks and Ports**.  Chapter 9: Climate Action, Flood Risk and Transition to Low Carbon Economy, **Section 9.2**  established International, National and Regional Policy with respect to climate policy including **Policy CAF P1 Climate Action Policy** and **Objective CAF O1 Compliance with**  **Higher Tier Climate Legislation and Guidance** including **s**upporting the National Adaptation  Framework 2018 and the National Climate Change Strategy, including the transition to a low carbon future, taking account of flood risk, the promotion of sustainable transport. |
| ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY  RPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities | Briefly outline Development plan policies to improve enhanced regional connectivity – by road/rail and public transport services.  **Connectivity – Road/Rail**  **Section 6.4 Key Enablers for Growth** in Limerick establishes regional connectivity as a key enabler. **Policy TR P6 - Delivery of Transport Infrastructure in line with National Policy** - to support **enhanced connectivity within Limerick and inter-urban connectivity within the regions**.  **Section 6.5.8 recognises the importance of Rail Connections and includes the following objectives, Objective TR O16 - Rail Network** which includes (a)Explore a pathway to rail- based development in the review of the RSES and MASP in conjunction with the National Transport Authority and the Southern and Western Regional Assembly, (b) Support  encourage, and facilitate new and upgrading of existing rail networks, railway stations and services across Limerick as identified in LSMATS and protect, as required, lands necessary for the upgrading of existing railway lines or stations, which would improve journey times and  enable an increase in the frequency of services and connections and **Objective TR O17 – Limerick to Foynes Line.**  **Section 6.8 *Strategic Roads Infrastructure*** establishes that Key projects which are critical to enabling sustainable mobility and economic growth in Limerick. The Draft Plan provides the following objectives in support of these key projects   * Objective TR O28- N/M20 Cork to Limerick Project * Objective TR O29 - Foynes to Limerick (including Adare Bypass) Road |

* + - Objective TR O30 - N21 Newcastle West and N21 Abbeyfeale Road Schemes
    - Objective TR O31 - N24 Cahir to Limerick Junction
    - Objective TR O32- Motorway Network Arterial Roads
    - Objective TR O33 - O’Connell Street Improvement Works
    - Objective TR O34 – Connecting Limerick’s Southside
    - Objective TR O35 - Limerick Northern Distributor Road

The road network also plays a vital part of Limerick’s transport infrastructure to support economic development as well as for social journeys. Proper management of use,

maintenance of roads and improvements to the network is vital. The protection of road

hierarchy, carrying capacity and road safety is established in **section 6.9 Protection of Road Hierarchy** including relevant objectives addressing national, regional and local road networks.

SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY

/ LOCAL TRANSPORT PLANS (AND OBJECTIVES/INITIATIVES

RPO 151 Integration of Land Use and Transport

RPO 152 Local Planning Objectives

RPO 154 Land Use Plans

RPO 157 Local Transport Plans (LTP)

RPO 163 Sustainable Mobility Targets

RPO 165 Higher Densities

Within the lifetime of the Draft Plan and as resources become available, Limerick City and County Council will seek to deliver a number of new road schemes within Limerick. These are set out in **Section 6.9.4 Proposed Upgrade Works/New Schemes** and include Objective TR O42 - Upgrade works/New Road Schemes, Objective TR O43 - Link Roads (including new road links as outlined in LSMATS).

How does the Development plan support sustainable mobility – including walking cycling, the 10 minute city/ town, sustainable mobility targets.

Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives.

Are there plans to undertake Local Transport Plans in respect of relevant settlements in your Local Authority.

Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight.

**Sustainable Mobility**

**Integration of Land Use and Transport Planning**

**Chapter 6 Section 6.3 relates specifically to Integration of Land Use and Transport Planning**

**Policy TR P3- Integration of Land Use and Transport Policies states -** *It is a policy of the Council to support and facilitate the integration of land use and transportation policies, to ensure the delivery of sustainable compact settlements, which are served by sustainable modes of transport*

The Draft Plan recognises that rebalancing the transport system towards walking, cycling and public transport, including ensuring high quality interchanges between modes, will require sustained investment, including improving street environments to make walking and cycling safer and more attractive and providing enhanced public transport services to ensure that alternatives to the car are accessible, affordable and appealing. Consolidation of

development in appropriate locations is fundamental to ensure that development can be

well served by sustainable modes of travel, including public transport, walking and cycling

# infrastructure (Policy TR P4 - Promotion of Sustainable Patterns of Transport Use, Policy TR P5 - Sustainable Mobility and Regional Accessibility)

**Local Planning Objectives**

**Table 6.1 Avoid-Shift-Improve – Integrated Land use and Transport** Policy offers a clear and legible outline summary of relevant policies and objectives.

# Local Transport Plans

It is a policy of the Council to prepare a Local Transport Plan (LTP), Mobility and Public Realm Plan for the Key Town of Newcastle West, in consultation with the National Transport

Authority, Transport Infrastructure Ireland and other relevant stakeholders, as part of the of the Local Area Plan process and for other settlements as deemed necessary - **Policy TR P8 - Local Transport Plans**

# Sustainable Mobility Targets

**Section 6.5.2 relates to Promoting Active Travel** and associated implementation objectives.

**Section 6.5.3 Promoting Modal Split.** A full breakdown of baseline modal split is provided in **Table 6.2 Baseline Modal share and Table 6.3 establishes Target Mode Share**. An analysis of the data confirms and highlights the challenges facing Limerick, in both the urban and rural context, with regard to promoting a modal shift away from the private car. The Draft Plan

will strive to reduce the reliance on the private car, by promoting and facilitating more sustainable modes of transport and supporting development in locations, which can support compact growth. In facilitating the delivery of the objectives of the final LSMATS and in pursuing the objective of encouraging modal shift, the Council will co-operate closely with other relevant agencies and stakeholders, including the NTA and TII.

The implementation of change is established **under TR O6 Delivering Modal Split and Objective TR O7 - Behavioural Change Measures.**

# Sustainability Mobility and Density

Chapter 6 reaffirms the council’s commitment to compact growth. This requires the

integration of land use and transport, an intensification of use of existing underutilised lands and the consolidation of the built environment through the development of brownfield and infill lands, as well as the reuse of vacant and derelict buildings in urban settlements.

Successful compact growth requires enhanced connectivity and accessibility for pedestrians and cyclists, as well as the provision of viable public transport services through the

**concentration of higher density** developments at strategic employment locations and along public transport nodes. The Local Authority acknowledges the social and economic benefits of more compact settlements. Therefore, this Draft Plan will continue to support the sequential approach to the delivery of development, with priority given to the revitalisation of settlements and the consolidation of the existing built environment, through the

development of brownfield, infill and backland urban sites through the implementation of the following objectives: - **Policy CGR P1- Compact Growth and Revitalisation, Objective SS O4 CGR O1- Prevention of Urban Sprawl , Objective SS O3 CGR O2 - Capacity of**

# Town/Village to Absorb Development.

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|  | **Key enablers**   * Key projects which are critical to enabling the sustainable mobility and economic growth in Limerick are identified in Section 6.4 * Objectives in support of road projects identified as key growth enablers are outlined in Section 6.8 Strategic Roads Infrastructure * Planned Projects – Bus Connects (Objective TR O12: Limerick BusConnects Programme). * Throughout the lifetime of the Draft Plan, the Council will continue to engage with the   NTA in seeking to improve transport services and infrastructure throughout Limerick (Objective TR O11 - Enhanced Public Transport) |
| INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE  RPO 181 Equal Access RPO 182 Ageing Populatio | Does the Development Plan include policies that will support and develop Inclusive Communities and Places? Please provide a brief summary of plan objectives & other initiatives that will improve Social Inclusion and Quality of Life. |
|  | **Inclusive Communities** |
|  | **Chapter 10** focuses on social infrastructure and how it fits into the overall land use planning framework for Limerick to foster healthy, sustainable, inclusive and attractive communities in a manner that both enhances people’s quality of life and connection to place, while  minimising their carbon footprint. Social infrastructure ranges across the spheres of health, security, education, community assembly and governance, worship, sports, recreation, play, arts and culture and provides objectives for the support of same. (Policy SCSI P1 Sustainable Communities, Policy SCSI P2 Location of Community Facilities, Policy SCSI P3 Social  Infrastructure). |
|  | **Quality Placemaking**  The principle of quality placemaking in embedded in the Draft Plan as identified in Section  1.3 Interlinked Strategic Objective 4. Quality placemaking necessitates equal access for all and this is a cross cutting theme across the Draft Plan, in particular, **Objective CGR O1 Place-making, Universal Design and Public Realm**. |
|  | **Age-Friendly**  **Section 10.8** relates to Age Friendly Strategy referencing The **Age Friendly Strategy** 2016- 2020 and **Objective SCSI O16.** |
|  | Residential support for the Ageing Population is provided through a variety of means in the Draft Plan - Section 4.2.11 supports Housing for Older People Limerick (Objective HO O9 - Support Housing Options for Older People). Section 4.2.12 Nursing Home/Care Home  Accommodation (Objective HO O10 - Location Criteria for Nursing Homes/Care Home Accommodation). Section 4.2.13 Housing for Dependent Relatives (Objective HO O11 - Subdivision of Dwelling to Accommodate Dependent Relative) |
|  | **Equal Access** |

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|  | **Chapter 6 provides Objective TR O4 - Universal Design -** to ensure that all transport schemes incorporate high-quality urban realm design that is attractive, safe, comfortable and accessible for all individuals.  The Council have prepared a Community Facilities Audit, which will inform the future development Strategy on Community Facilities in Limerick The preparation of the Community Facilities Strategy will implement the findings of the Community Facilities Audit and provide enhanced policy support to address the identified deficits in community and/or  cultural infrastructure in specific area. This will be complete within the lifetime of the Plan. |
| LEARNING REGION  RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63,  Also RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative | Does the Development Plan include policies that support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region?  Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives  Does the Development Plan include policies that support the development of UNESCO Learning Cities? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives  **Learning Region**  Chapter 5, A Strong Economy includes **Section 5.7.4 Knowledge Economy** outlines that Limerick is an UNESCO Learning City and has excellent potential to create a Learning. Encouraging collaboration between higher education institutes, the Regional Skills For Limerick and the Educational and Training Boards, presents the potential to develop skills and knowledge in areas most exposed to technological disruption. By supporting community and education providers, Limerick City and County can ensure that knowledge and skills are spread to all citizens to help address skills shortages and lifelong learning challenges. This is supported by **objective ECON O16 Knowledge Economy.**  **Education and Training**  **Section 5.7.5 Education and Skills recognises that t**he continuing presence and growth of excellent Further and Higher Education Institutes and research and development nodes in Limerick, will be critical to ensuring success and is supported by **Objective ECON O17 Education and Skills and Objective ECON O18 Further and Higher Education Institutions**  **Section 9.4 Digital Connectivity and Limerick’s Digital Strategy** recognises that as  advancements in information and communication technologies (ICT) continually evolve and access to quality digital systems is a prerequisite for successful e-commerce, remote working opportunities, distance education, lifelong learning opportunities, digital health services and other opportunities, including cultural experiences offered through digital means and  engagement (Objective IN O2 Digital Connectivity).  **UNESCO Learning Cities**   * Limerick joined a select number of cities in being awarded the UNESCO Learning City Award 2017 * As part of the **Find your Greatness URBACT programme** for smart cites, in December 2021 Limerick Innovation Virtual Event (LIVE) brought together a diverse mix of authorities, agencies, industry partners, universities, citizen networks and more; all   collaborating to bring attention and focus on some of the elements of the current and evolving landscape of innovation in Limerick. |

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| CULTURE, HERITAGE & THE ARTS | Does the Development Plan include policies that support culture, heritage & the arts? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
| **Arts and Culture**  **Section 10.4 *Arts and Culture*** recognises the value of the arts to the social, cultural and economic development and their impact, direct and indirect on communities. The implementation of quality place making is a development management function guided by the policies and objectives set in the Development Plan.  The Draft Plan also recognises the Council’s pivotal role in the promotion and encouragement of the arts and culture, while prioritising direction for future development and investment. The Draft Plan includes specific **Objective SCSI O30 Art and Culture** to Support the objectives of Limerick Cultural Strategy 2016-2030, Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 and Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2030. In addition to objectives **SCSI O31 Public Art Strategy, O32 Limerick City Gallery of Art Strategy, O33 Museum Service, O34 Limerick Museum.**  The Draft Plan includes policy objectives in **support of the provision of venues and art and cultural infrastructure** in Limerick. Specifically, the objective includes the provision of such infrastructure to help revitalise the City Centre. In this regard, **Objective SCSI 030 Arts and Culture of Chapter 10 Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure supports the development of the Arts industry.**  The Council recognises the value of Arts and Culture to the development of Limerick and continue to support and work with all the relevant stakeholders to progress the industry in Limerick. The value of Arts and Culture for Limerick is also recognised from both an economic and social perspective and is acknowledged in the Draft Plan and the policy support help further progress the sector. A number of strategies have been prepared by the Council in recent time and the plan seeks to support the implementation of these strategies  **Proposed Initiative** - Section 10.4. In addition, the Community, Tourism and Culture Directorate have committed that Limerick will undertake a **dynamic database for a Cultural Audit and Map** similar to the Dublin City Council Model. Section 10.14 provides policy support for this database and establishes policy support for **festivals and events** and that the Council are currently preparing Limerick’s Festival and Events Strategy.  **Heritage**  Chapter 6, Environment, Heritage, Landscape and Green Infrastructure provides policy support and objectives relating to section 6.4.2 Views and Prospects, Section 6.4.3 Historical landscapes, Section 6.4.4 Historic Garden and Designated Landscapes. **Section 6.5 relates to Archaeology and Built Heritage** establishing a range of objectives to preserve protect and enhance these heritage assets for the benefit of all.  The Draft Plans is supported by Limerick City and County Heritage Plan 2017 – 2030. Key priorities are identified for a number of heritage areas in which Limerick City and County Council works including archaeology, built heritage, architecture, public realm,  archives, the museum, biodiversity and environmental awareness, cultural heritage, local  history, the diversity and integration of new communities. |

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|  | **Key successes** already achieved by Limerick City and County Council with the support of the |
|  | Heritage Council under the heritage plan programme include: |
|  | * Limerick’s Golden Mile |
|  | * Ecological studies on the Shannon Estuary in partnership with Clare County Council |
|  | * Environmental awareness programmes |
|  | * Research on the medieval core of the city |
|  | * Structural studies of Bouchiers Castle in Lough Gur |
|  | * Programmes on Limerick’s industrial heritage, including Limerick Lace |
|  | * Local heritage programmes with local schools |
|  | **Festivals/Events** |
|  | Other success include the annual St. Patricks Day Festival Weekend and Riverfest Weekend |
|  | including the Great Limerick Run, as well as many other local and community festivals |
|  | throughout Limerick. Although the sector has suffered from the impact of Covid 19, it is |
|  | anticipated both will return in 2022. |
|  | Pigtown Limerick’s Pigtown festival developed by Limerick Food Group and supported by |
|  | Limerick City and County Council is a Food and Culture Series celebrating Limerick’s food |
|  | culture, local food producers, and famous food heritage. |
| GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS | Does the Development Plan policies that support Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks? Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | This is not generally applicable in the context of Limerick. In a broader context, the Draft  Plan provides policy support for education. The Draft Plan is also supported by the Limerick City and County Council's Official Languages Act 2003 Language Scheme 2019-2022. |
| RECREATION & | * Does the Development Plan include policies that support recreation & sporting facilities incl. blueways & greenways? * Please provide a summary/overview of all recreation/ greenway/blueway projects planned /under way |
| SPORTING FACILITIES |
| INCL. BLUEWAYS & |
| GREENWAYS |
|  | The Draft Plan includes policies and objectives across multiple chapters to support and progress recreation and supporting facilities including blueways and greenways.  Objective 10 in section 1.3 as follows: Support growth in the tourism sector in  Limerick, specifically focusing on sustainable tourism, and capture key opportunities  to develop the sector based around **five key drivers – Greenways, Waterways, Activities, Heritage, Arts and Culture in an urban and rural environment.**  The land Use Zoning and Matrix includes **Open Space and Recreation** zoning with the Objective to protect, provide for and improve open space, active and passive recreational amenities with the intended purpose to provide for active and passive  recreational resources including parks, sports and leisure facilities and amenities including  **greenways and blueways.** |

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|  | Chapter 6 sets out the Council’s approach to safeguard biodiversity and the natural  environment. The development of greenways offers an opportunity for the development of biodiversity corridors of both blue and green infrastructure, depending on the nature of the scheme. The Council are currently considering this issue in the Blue – Green Infrastructure Strategy, which is progressing alongside the proposed development Plan  Section 6.3.7 includes Objective **EH O12 Blue Green Infrastructure and Objective EH O13 Blue Green Infrastructure Strategy.** The Draft Plan also provides **for Objective EH O14 Nature Based Solution.**  **Objective ECON O37 of** the Draft Plan deals with Limerick Greenway and potential  development from this greenway to provide connections to enhance the development of other routes, including the development of the connection between Limerick City and  Rathkeale.  **TII will led the development of a Strategic national Cycle Network**, which will include proposals for a core network covering and linking as appropriate, cycleways and greenways coherently across rural and urban areas. The outcomes of this Strategy will and drive  investment towards high quality, coherent and efficient national cycle network. The Council will continue to work with all relevant stakeholders to progress the development of cycle networks and greenways, subject to resources.  **Objective EH 018 sets out the objective in relation to Riparian Buffers**  Walking and Cycling: Chapter 6 Sustainable Mobility and Transport includes the following objectives:  **Objective TR O14 Walking and Cycling Infrastructure** including the greenways  **Objective TR O15 Limerick Cycle Network**: It is an objective of the Council to implement in full, the Cycle Network, which will be set out in the final LSMATS, with priority given in the short term to delivering the primary cycle network and cycle routes serving school.  Chapter 10 address Sports and Recreation and provides policy support for the protection and enhancement of sporting facilities and amenities.  Limerick has received funding of €583,868.24 to develop a number of outdoor recreation projects across the county as part of the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme operated by the Department of Rural and Community Development, as part of the Our Rural Future strategy in 2021, which will support the development/upgrade of recreational  walking routes. The Council will continue to seek funding opportunities as they arise. |
| REGIONAL VISION  RPO: 73: International Branding of the Region and reputation. | How does the Development Plan Vision incorporate the RSES vision for the Region as *‘one of Europe’s most Creative, Innovative, Greenest and Liveable Regions’?* |
|  | The Strategic Vision for Limerick is – “A Green City Region on the Waterfront By 2030,  Limerick will become a green City region on the Shannon Estuary connected through people and places. This will be achieved through engagement, innovation and resilient urban  development and self-sustaining rural communities”. |

The vison seeks to enhance the primary assets of Limerick and to enhance, develop and build upon these assets under four key ambitions - Green Region, Embracing the River

Shannon, Resilient, Connected and Inclusive Communities and a Sustainable, Innovative and Competitive Economy. At the core of the vision is cohesive and sustainable communities, where our cultural, natural and built environment is protected. The vision embraces

inclusiveness and a high quality of life for all, through healthy place-making and social justice, including the ongoing development of the Regeneration Areas and disadvantaged communities. An integrated approach will align housing and public transport provision.

Human and environment wellbeing including climate adaptation are at the core of the vision. The strategic vision has been prepared having regard to the National Strategic Outcomes of the National Planning Framework, the Regional Strategic Outcomes of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy, the UN Sustainable Development Goals, the 8

Corporate Goals of the Corporate Plan 2019 – 2024 and the aspirations of the people and stakeholders in Limerick

Implementing the Strategic Vison, Key Ambitions and Strategic Objectives as set out in Chapter 1 of the Draft Plan will ensure Limerick will play a significant part in realising the RESE vision for the region.

PLEASE ALSO INDICATE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH RESPECT TO.

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| THIS COULD INCLUDE DETAIL ON:  THE EXPECTED REVIEW DATE AND PREPARATION OF A NEW LECP AND ANY PREPARATORY WORK THAT HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT TO DATE OR IS CURRENTLY BEING PLANNED FOR. PLEASE INDICATE TIMEFRAMES ASSOCIATED WITH SAME. |
| It is anticipated that the review of the Local Economic and Community Plan will commence in 2022. |
| Please provide any other comments that you would like to make with respect to your Local Authority and implementing the RSES. This may include any recommendations that you consider would facilitate this process. |
| The Council will continue to liaise and work with the Regional Assembly to realise the objective of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy. |

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| PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM. |
| Name: Karen Burke  Position: Senior Executive Planner Email: [Karen.burke@limerick.ie](mailto:Karen.burke@limerick.ie)  Contact phone number: 087 – 6775366 |