

**SECTION 25A REPORT**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| REPORT DATE | LOCAL AUTHORITY | PREPARED BY |
| Date January 2022 | Wexford County Council | Forward Planning Section |

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;](mailto: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;](mailto:twoyearreport@southernassembly.ie)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| RSES THEME & RPO REFERENCE | RSES IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY & SUPPORTING PROJECTS/INITIATIVES |
| **SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACH** | **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. |
| RPOS 2 TO 30 |  |
| **SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS**  RPO 11 Key Towns | **KEY TOWNS**  **Please outline progress made in developing Wexford & Gorey in their Role as Key Towns as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns, RPO 16 Wexford & RPO 25 Gorey** |
| RPO 16: Wexford  RPO 25 Gorey | Please identify any examples of planned/completed projects, good practice and other actions which you may wish to highlight in support of this theme. |
|  | **Answer:**  Chapter 3 Core Strategy sets out the Development Approach for both Key Towns. The approach is framed around a set of guiding principles, which are informed by RPO 11, 16 and 25, and which will help to fulfil their Key Town roles. This approach is further supported by a set of strategic objectives in this chapter for each town (WT01-WT09 and GT01-GT07 refer). These objectives, together with the respective LAPs for the towns, will progress the development of the Key Town role. In order to achieve Centres of Scale, both towns are also targeted for more than 30% population growth in the Core Strategy (Wexford Town is allocated 45% and Gorey Town is allocated 40% population growth to 2040).  **Wexford Town Projects**:   * Local Transport Plan – To be completed in 2022. * Local Area Plan 2023-2028. Currently being prepared. Will focus on identifying a sufficient quantum of industrial and commercial land to support both the Key Town designation and the development of Rosslare Europort. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **RSES Settlement Typology** | **Wexford CDP 2021 – 2027 Settlement Hierarchy** |
| Cities – Metropolitan Area | N/A |
| Key Towns | Level 1 Key Towns -Wexford Town and Gorey Town |
| Towns and Villages above 1,500 | Level 2 Large Towns Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town  Level 3 (a) Service Settlements and Level 3(b) Strategic Settlements. This level includes towns and villages >1,500 population and villages  <1,500 population. |
| Rural Villages less than 1,500 and the wider rural region | Level 4 Large Villages Level 5 Small Villages Level 6 Rural Nodes  Level 7 Open Countryside |
| Networks | Core Strategy Guiding Principle H - Connected Settlements and Networks refers e.g., settlements along the Eastern Economic Corridor. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | * Trinity Wharf – Significant mixed used urban regeneration project and identified as a Strategic Employment Location in the County Development Plan. The Trinity Wharf site will facilitate a new sustainable urban quarter with a high-quality public realm, mix of modern office space, hotel accommodation, leisure and residential development, a landmark cultural and events building, 58 residential units and a multi-storey car park. The leisure and residential development includes the provision of a 64 berth marina, a new boardwalk linking Trinity Wharf with Paul Quay and the Crescent, new public realm spaces and an urban greenway. It will provide a location at the south end of Wexford town that can be adapted for use for outdoor events, performances and festivals. Status: In development (At Tender for Works stage).   The development of Trinity Wharf will significantly enhance Wexford Town profile as an attractive environment for international companies seeking to locate in the county, or for existing companies looking to expand, providing property solutions that will meet investors’ expectations. Trinity Wharf will serve new businesses and the local community. It will create the capacity for people to live and work in a town centre area, supporting the local economy and making Wexford a viable location for FDI investment.   * Monck Street Public Realm Project. Status: In development (At Tender for Works stage) * Crescent Quay Public Realm Project. Status: Completed. * The Bull Ring Public Realm Project. Status: In development (Funding stage). * Wexford Campus of the Technological University of the South-East. Status: Potential lands identified. * Development of a new post primary school at Clonard. Status: Site identified, and planning permission secured. * Wexford Town Flood Relief Scheme. Status: In development (at Tender stage). * Rosslare Europort – Masterplan in place and various related planning permissions granted during 2020 and 2021.   **Gorey Town Projects:**   * Esmonde Street Public Realm Scheme - enhanced streetscape with high quality surfaces and landscaping, encourage increased pedestrian footfall and pavement activity, Create a distinct “Boutique Boulevard” identity and improved cycling infrastructure. Status: In development (at design stage). * St Waleran’s - WCC led scheme to deliver social and affordable housing on a 30 hectare of Council owned lands at Ballytegan, Gorey Town. Status: Masterplan prepared. Part 8 application to be lodged in early 2022. * Development of an additional post primary school. Status: Temporary site in operation at Ramsfort Park. * Redevelopment of the existing Gorey town park including the renovation of existing changing rooms and new café; new soccer pitch and perimeter walking trails; New playground; Increased parking for cars and campervans; Enhanced hard and soft landscaping & new public lighting. Status: Completed. * M11 Business Park which includes the Hatch Lab. Status: Completed. |
| **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. |
|  | **Answer:**  There are various objectives, initiatives and projects referenced throughout this report that together will strengthen the role and viability of our towns and villages. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | The CDP includes a strong focus on the revitalistion of the county’s towns and villages and to utilise suitable active land management measures, available resources and funding streams to achieve this. There will be a balanced approach to this which will ensure that future residential and commercial developments are appropriate in scale to the settlement and contribute to improvements to the public realm, environmental quality and enhances the attractiveness of these settlements.  Both Chapter 5 Design and Place Making in Towns and Villages and Chapter 9 Infrastructure Strategy highlight the importance of the delivery of wastewater and water infrastructure to support the implementation of the Core Strategy and associated objectives. While there is currently no potential unit yield identified for the Small Towns and Village Growth programme in the county, a proposed material alteration to the Development Plan identifies 12 candidate settlements – two are Level 3b Strategic settlements (Wellingtonbridge and Campile), nine are Level 4 Large Village settlements (Adamstown, Ballindaggin, Ballycanew, Camolin, Clongeen, Killinerin, Oilgate, Tagoat and The Ballagh) and one is a Level 5 Small Villages settlement (Davidstown).  **Initiatives include**:   * Enniscorthy Town Centre – Socio, Economic and Spatial Regeneration Study – WCC led initiative which will be used to inform future calls for funding under the URDF and the new LAP for the town. This strategy will also be informed by the Local Transport Plan for the town which is being prepared. Status of Study: Round 2 of public consultation on the strategy due to be held in February 2022. * December 2021 - €100, 000 funding allocated to New Ross Town under the Towns Centre First Initiative to prepare a masterplan to revitalise the town centre. This will also inform the preparation of the new LAP for the town. * New objective (as part of the proposed material alterations to the Plan) to prepare an economic and spatial strategy to inform the New Ross Town Local Area Plan, focusing on the town’s links to the Waterford MASP.   **Projects**   * Enniscorthy Town Business Park – WCC led project to develop a serviced business park at an existing commercial site on the Old Dublin Road. Status: In development (At works stage). * Enniscorthy Town Technology Park – WCC led project to provide serviced industrial sites to enterprise developments. Status: Infrastructure in place. Buildings under construction. * Enniscorthy North Business District (Old Dublin) – active travel and public realm improvements to 5km of urban streets/roads in Enniscorthy. Phase 1 to commence 2022. * Kilmore Quay Link Road – WCC led project to construct circa. 350m of new roadway to facilitate the opening up of potential industrial lands and to divert commercial and industrial traffic away from the village centre (removal of HGVs) improving traffic flow and safety and will add to the tourism experience. Status: Completed. * Advanced Manufacturing Factory in New Ross Town: WCC led development. Planning permission granted. * Enniscorthy Town Flood Relief Scheme. Status: Scheme Confirmation 2022 – in progress. Main Construction Work to commence 2022, duration 3 years. <http://enniscorthyfds.ie/> * Numerous enhancements funded under the Town and Village Renewal Schemes 2019 – 2021- examples to follow under subsequent sections. |
| **RURAL AREAS / RURAL DEVELOPMENT / NETWORKS & CROSS BOUNDARY INITIATIVES**  RPO 27 Rural  RPO 28  Collaboration/Partnership | **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 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 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  RPO 47 Rural Partnership Models  RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres  of Excellence  RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas RPO 50 Diversification | adjoining rural areas/villages, joint initiatives to support tourism, joint projects to develop digital and training resources. |
|  | **Answer:**  This transcends most chapters in Volume 1 Written Statement. Guiding Principle J of the Core Strategy has a strong focus on supporting sustainable and vibrant rural communities, supporting and regenerating villages that are struggling or in decline, in particular villages that have lost services in recent years, supporting enterprise and employment an improving rural infrastructure and connectivity as a means of sustaining rural populations and improving quality of life. This principle underpins the strategies and objectives throughout the Plan.  Chapter 6 Economic Development and Chapter 7 Tourism includes section on rural based economic/tourism activity. The Plan highlights the importance of remote working, the development of enterprise hubs, and the need to support start up businesses. E.g., strategic rural development economic objective include ED81 (rural diversification and innovation), ED82 (development of sustainable rural based economic sectors), ED83 (leverage funding from sources such as the RRDF to develop the rural economy), ED84 (develop innovation hubs and centres of excellence), ED85 (support innovation, enterprise and start-ups), ED96 (develop a diverse base of smart economic specialisms in the rural economy),  During the last two years, WCC has focused heavily on supporting rural communities from an economic perspective in the roll out of Covid 19 supports such as Restart, Restart Plus, Small Business Assistance Scheme (SBAS), Outdoor Seating Accessories for Tourism and Hospitality Business (OSAS) and Street Scape.  **Examples of Economic related and Digital and Training Projects/Initiatives**   * In order to further development the capacity and quality of existing remote working facilities and Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) in support of the National Hub Initiative, WCC submitted two applications from existing Community Hubs as well as an application for funding for the county’s existing nine BCPs. * Trading Online Vouchers facilitated 163 businesses in 2021 to develop an ecommerce presence to allow them to trade locally and globally, optimising digital connectivity. * Local Enterprise Office Wexford in response to Covid 19 have delivered all their training programmes online. In 2021 LEO Wexford delivered 210 programmes to 1,540 participants. In addition, all mentoring/consultancy visits were facilitated through Teams or Zoom Platforms. * Development of remote working hubs/spaces e.g., the Hatch Lab in Gorey Town, Killinerin Business Centre, Enniscorthy Enterprise and Technology Centre in Enniscorthy Town, the Rising Tide Business Centre in New Ross Town and various spaces in Wexford Town such as the Cube, New Work Junction and the Allied Hub. Flexible working space proposed as part of the   Enniscorthy Technology Park Building. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | * John Street Enterprise Building, New Ross Town. Development of a disused grain store into a high quality Enterprise hub on two floors with communal working space including a community space with arts/creative arts focus. Status: In development. * Wexford County Council (WCC) and Waterford and Wexford Education and Training Board (WWETB) worked together to establish the High Performance Building Alliance Centre of Excellence in Enniscorthy Town as the first local authority provider of NZEB social housing and the first Education and Training Board to provide NZEB training nationally with over 1,000 people trained to date at the WWETB NZEB training centre in Enniscorthy. * Funding secured under Round 1 of the TVRS 2020 for a training and marketing initiative to drive tourism with a focus on coastal and mountain areas. * Funding secured under Round 2 of the TVRS 2020 and work completed for a tourism heritage environment exhibition at Our Lady’s Island and Tacumshane and outdoor seating facilities at various locations in both settlements. * Funding secured under Round 3 Covid-19 Accelerated Measures of the TVRS 2020, and work completed for village street improvement works and enhancement of the public realm to increase visitor footfall in strategic villages in the Rosslare Municipal District to assist their businesses to trade. * Funding secured under Round 3 Covid-19 Accelerated Measures of the TVRS 2020 and work nearing completion on the enhancement of the village centres of Carrig on Bannow and Wellingtonbridge to highlight the Norman heritage and tourism potential of these historic villages. This will create a cluster of attractive destination villages, increase footfall and generate additional revenue for shops, café and other businesses. * TVRS 2021 – funding secured and work progressing to develop rural tourism and economic initiatives in Taghmon, a heritage walking trail and to open up the castle for events. * Arthurstown Village – Duncannon Village Walking Trail. Status: Completed. * Our Lady's Island to Carne Walking Trail. Status: Funding secured. * South East Greenway – 24km greenway which will connect Ferrybank Waterford City to New Ross Town. It also includes a 6km loop around New Ross Town. Status : Under construction. Due for completion in 2023. * Continued expansion of rural transport services from Wexford Local Link. * Pedestrian and cycling connections between Castlebridge and Wexford Town – Objective CB3 in the Development Plan. |
| **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. E.g., Improvements to public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks |
|  | **Answer:**  In order to emphasis the importance of place making, the CDP contains a dedicated chapter (Chapter 5, Volume 1 Written Statement) on Design and Place Making in Towns and Villages. This chapter focuses on five key components - design quality (achieving attractive and well designed places), place based design, connected places and compact and rejuvenated places and vibrant, inclusive, resilient and adaptable places. These components are supported by a comprehensive suite of objectives. The Municipal Districts are playing a key role in achieving place making through their everyday work and engagement with local development groups and community groups while the Council’s Special Projects Unit lead on larger public realm capital schemes. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **REGENERATION & SUPPORT FOR COMPACT GROWTH** (These  RPOs identified as relating to Placemaking in Phase 3 analysis of RPOs)  RPO 34 Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development  RPO 35 Support for Compact Growth  RPO 36 LDA  RPO 37 Active Land Management  RPO 38 Retrofitting Initiative Priorities  RPO 176 10-minute” city and town concepts | Proposed Material Alteration to the Draft Plan to ensure that the local area plans for the Key Towns and Large Towns have regard to the principles of Health Place Audits.  **Projects/Initiatives:**   * Esmonde Street Public Realm Enhancement Scheme - Gorey Town. Status: In development. * Walls Mural Project Scheme, New Ross Town <https://visitnewross.ie/new-ross-murals/> * High Hill Street - New Ross Town – A new Norman themed garden on a strategic urban site, formerly derelict, which connects John Street and the town centre with the 12th century St Mary’s Church and Cemetery. Status: In development – substantially completed. * The removal of oil tanks from the Quay Front in New Ross Town has been completed (these were located adjacent to the Dunbrody Visitor Centre). This newly cleared space will be used a public park way/public realm space. Status: Part 8 application submitted. * Renewal of Brennan’s Lane and The Shambles areas of New Ross Town. Status: Funding currently being sought under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. * Monck Street Wexford Town – Public realm improvements. Funding secured for the construction of a retractable all-weather roof over the street in order to provide permanent outdoor dining facilities in the area. Status: In development (At Tender for works stage). * Crescent Quay in Wexford Town - Public Realm Improvement. Status: Completed. * Enniscorthy Town Walls Project – 5 walls completed to date. * Slaney Street, Enniscorthy Town – Public realm project funded under the Historic Towns Initiative – works carried out included replacement of windows and doors and painting on premises in Slaney Street with public realm works including replacement of public lights, bollards, railings, litter bins, gutters and downpipes. * Orchard Peace Park, Enniscorthy Town. Status: Completed. * Redevelopment of Gorey Town Park. Status: Completed. * Mim Ryan Park, Wexford Town. Status: Completed. * Library Park, New Ross Town. Status: Completed. * Funding secured under Town and Village Streetscape Enhancement Scheme 2021 for various to improve visual appearance of buildings e.g., shopfront painting in Enniscorthy Town and Bunclody Town. * The ‘Happy to Chat’ Benches – [https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/healthy-](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/healthy-wexford/healthy-wexford-initiatives/happy-to-chat-benches) [wexford/healthy-wexford-initiatives/happy-to-chat-benches](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/community/healthy-wexford/healthy-wexford-initiatives/happy-to-chat-benches)   **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?**  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 |
|  | **Answer:**  Chapter 3 Core Strategy includes supporting objectives such as CS04 (development of these sites and to carry out an audit of these sites during the preparation of local area plans and settlement plans), CS05 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | (ensure that 30% of all new homes are built within the existing built-up footprint) and CS13 (support the reuse of existing buildings and the regeneration of underutilised buildings and lands).  Chapter 5 Design and Place Making in Towns and Villages also includes key supporting objectives such as TV31 (prioritise projects and proposals that will result in social and economic rejuvenation and regeneration), TV33 (identify infill and brownfield sites when preparing local area plans and settlement plans), TV34 (identify obsolete and potential renewable areas within town and village centres when preparing local area plans and settlement plans) and TV35 (presumption in favour of the development of infill and brownfield sites). The proposed material alterations to this chapter also include the following new objectives:   * Pursue 5 derelict sites per Municipal District per annum and three sites per annum under the Urban Regeneration and Housing Acts. * In pursuit of RPO 34 the Council will implement an Active Land Management Strategy including the measures outlined in Tables 5.2 and 5.3 and subject to available resources and appropriate funding sources.   **Identification of Priority Locations for Regeneration, Brownfield and Infill Development**  As part of the proposed material alterations to the Draft CDP, a new table will be included in Chapter 5 Design and Place Making which identifies the priority locations for active land management measures and regeneration in the county. These are Wexford Town, Gorey Town, Enniscorthy Town, New Ross Town, Courtown and Riverchapel, Rosslare Harbour, Bunclody Town, Castlebridge, Rosslare Strand, Ferns, Kilmore Quay, Bridgetown and Taghmon.  **Current Local Authority Led Planned Residential Projects on brownfield lands:**   * Trinity Wharf Scheme, Wexford Town (Level 1 Key Town)- Scheme includes 58 residential units on this brownfield. * Francis St. Wexford Town (Level 1 Key Town) – demolish derelict dwelling and construct 2 one- bed apartments. * Bride St. Wexford Town (Level 1 Key Town) – demolish derelict dwelling and construct 3 apartments. * Wexford Street - Gorey Town (Level 1 Key Town) - 30 housing units on the site of the former St Joseph’s CBS school. Strategic brownfield site. Status: Part 8 application submitted. * The Bullaun, New Ross Town (Level 2 Large Town) – Demolish existing derelict dwelling and construct 1 bungalow and 3 apartments. Status: Part 8 application approved. * Ballygillane, Rosslare Harbour (Level 3a Service Settlement) – demolish derelict dwelling and construct 5 apartments. * Taghmon (Level 4 Village) – 16 houses on the site of the redundant treatment plant. * Adamstown (Level 4 Village) – demolish derelict dwelling and construct 2 houses. * Monamolin (Level 5 Small Village) – 5 houses on the site of a redundant treatment plant. |
| **RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY**  RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience | **How Does the Development Plan incorporate /support the RSES Economic Strategy?** Please provide a brief summary. |
| RPO 64 Facilitate new business  formation, growth and | **Does the Development Plan incorporate policies to support and develop the role of the Region’s Economic Drivers?** |
| industrial re-organisation |  |
| RPO 72 Brexit |  |
| RPO 74 Economic Risk Management |  |
| System |  |
|  | **Answer**  **RSES Economic Strategy** |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ECONOMIC CORRIDORS**  RPO: 42 Eastern Corridor | The CDP Economic Development Strategy, which is set out in Chapter 8 of Volume 1 Written Statement, incorporates the key elements of the Regional Economic Strategy. The CDP strategy is framed around 5 elements, each with a suite of supporting objectives:   1. **People**: This focuses on education and labour force skills, entrepreneurial activity and innovation and adaptability. 2. **Profile**: This focuses on marketing the county and attracting businesses and workforce. 3. **Pillars**: This focuses on sectoral specialisms and clustering and agglomerations. The identified pillars for growth are International Financial Services, ICT and Technology, Life Sciences and Agrifood, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Enterprise, Tourism and Maritime and Coastal. 4. **Place**: This focuses on the locations for economic development and place making, 5. **Property**: This focuses on providing property solutions, targeted market interventions and the provision of zoned/serviced lands.   The ‘People’ and ‘Profile’ elements will fall mainly under the remit of the Local Economic Office, the Economic Development Unit, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).  There are a number of material alterations proposed to the Draft CDP to strengthen the policy in relation to (i) strengthening the county’s regional economic resilience by widening economic sectors and boosting innovation, export diversification and productivity and increasing access to new markets,   1. to further expand on the policy around capacity building and the development of Learning Region under the ‘People’ element and (iii) to further expand on the policy around Smart Specialisms under the ‘Profile’ element.   **Regional Economic Drivers**  The CDP Economic Development Strategy incorporates and supports the key regional economic drivers.   * + Eastern Economic Corridor – forms a key component of the Core Strategy, the Economic Development Strategy and the Transportation Strategy, and is directly supported by objectives CSE, WT01, GT01, ET01, ED04, ED46, ED51, ED52, ED53   + Atlantic Corridor – This corridor is referred to in the Core Strategy in the context of New Ross Town and its strategic location on the route from the Eastern Economic Corridor to the Waterford MASP, Southern Region and the Atlantic Economic Corridor. Referenced in Objective ED54.   + Key Towns – Wexford Town and Gorey Town are identified as specific locations for economic development to support their Key Town designation.   + Networks – e.g., Eastern Economic Corridor.   + Towns and Villages – identified as key locations for economic development. |
| **Briefly Outline Development Plan policies that will advance development of the Eastern Corridor** |
|  | **Answer:**  Section 6.7.1 Specific Locations for Economic Development – Objectives ED46 and ED47 focus on strengthening economic development opportunities and transport along the Eastern Economic Corridor to Rosslare Harbour and to encourage clustering and the development of specialisms along the corridor (both within the county and with other towns/cities on the corridor outside of the county). |
| **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. |
|  | **Answer**: |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **EMPLOYMENT LOCATIONS**  RPO 62 Locations for Employment Development | The Development Plan includes a dedicated tourism development chapter, acknowledging the importance and economic potential of this sector for the county and wider region, while at the same highlighting the need to protect the natural assets and heritage that form the basis of the tourism offering. Key strategic tourism objectives are set out below. These objectives are further supported by a suite of objectives under the sub-section headings Tourism in Towns and Villages, Rural Based Tourism, Tourism in Coastal Areas and Specific Tourism Developments.   * Objective TM01 – protect and sustain the natural, built and cultural features that form the basis of the county’s tourism industry. * Objective TM03- facilitate the development of a diversified tourism industry. * Objective TM04 – implement the Council’s County Wexford Tourism Strategy 2019 -2023. * Objective TM05 – development tourism products and tourist related infrastructure and to carry out enhancements to the public realm in towns and villages and environmental improvements to ensure the county is an attractive place to visit and stay. * Objective TM08 – delivery the Ireland’s Ancient East Programme * Objective TM10 – develop Wexford Town’s profile as a unique and vibrant Maritime Town. * Objective TM13 – develop links by public transport and, where possible greenway and blueways, between towns and villages and rural heritage sites and beaches . * Objective TM14- support the development of specific Council tourism projects.   **Council’s Wider Involvement in Tourism – Projects/Initiatives:**   * New Ross Town Tourism Transformational Project – Combines renewal of prominent town- centre sites with compelling tourism experiences. Funded under Fáilte Ireland and RRDF and includes the redevelopment of the vacant ‘Murphy’s’ building on the Quay front as a Normal themed Museum, the High Hill Norman Garden development, and improvements to the Dunbrody Famine Ship experience. Status: Nearing completion.   Also, development of Goat Hill which will finish off the Old Town Walking Trail.   * The Norman Way – This is part of Ireland’s Ancient East. It is a heritage route that runs along the south coast of County Wexford. <https://thenormanway.com/> * Enniscorthy Tourism Project – Develop a world class visitor experience based around Enniscorthy Castle and the area’s key tourism assets in order to establish Enniscorthy as a key tourism destination. Status: In development (at Design Stage). * Wexfordia – Irish National Heritage Park – Establish a Viking village ‘Vykingar’ on the shores of the river Slaney as part of the existing Park and develop a world class visitor experience that aligns with Fáilte Ireland’s Ireland’s Ancient East. Status: In development (at Feasibility stage). * Hook Lighthouse – develop a world class visitor attraction at the site to complement the Hook Lighthouse Tower Experience. Status: In development (at Feasibility stage). * Greenways, Blueways and Walking Trails - discussed elsewhere in this report.   **Does the Development Plan identify future Locations for Employment Development?** Please provide a brief summary of relevant objectives/initiatives. |
|  | **Answer:**  Chapter 6.7 Specific Locations for Economic Development   * Section 6.7.1 Eastern Economic Corridor - Objectives ED46 and ED47 refer. * Section 6.7.2 Key Towns and Large Towns – General Objectives ED48 – ED50 refer. Specific economic objectives for each town– Wexford Town Objective ED51, Gorey Town Objective ED52, Enniscorthy Town Objective ED53 and New Ross Town Objective ED54. * Section 6.7.3 Service Settlements and Villages – General objectives ED55- ED62   Trinity Wharf is specifically identified as Strategic Employment Location for Wexford Town in Objective ED51. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. |
|  | **Answer:**  Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management and Marine Spatial Planning supports a balanced approach to the development of the county’s coastal and marine assets. This chapter recognises the significant threat of climate change to these assets, and the consequential need to both protect existing communities and assets from predicated climate change impacts and to ensure the careful planning and consideration of future developments in coastal areas. In this regard, the Development Plan mandates minimum distances for new development from the soft coastline (the minimum distance is dependent on whether existing coastal protection works are in place or planned) – Objectives CZM33- 35 refer.  The strategy and objectives in this chapter were framed around the emerging role of Marine Spatial Planning and the Draft National Marine Planning Framework, and includes a comprehensive section relating to landside developments to facilitate development in the Maritime area, energy developments in the Maritime area including offshore renewable energy, carbon capture and energy transmission, ports, harbours and shipping, defence and security, telecommunications and wastewater treatment and disposal.  **Completed Projects:**   * Development - Marina and port websites [www.newrossport.ie](http://www.newrossport.ie/) [www.newrossmarina.com](http://www.newrossmarina.com/) [www.wexfordharbour.com](http://www.wexfordharbour.com/) [www.kilmorequaymarina.com](http://www.kilmorequaymarina.com/) * Buoyage available on Navigation App [www.wexfordharbour.com](http://www.wexfordharbour.com/) * Installation of swim areas Courtown, Cahore and Carne * Development of Navigation Aids SMS * Installation of new buoyage scheme River Barrow * Safety distribution email lists to harbour / port users (e.g., promulgation of Marine Notices) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Planned projects/Feasibility Studies:**   * Development of marine public amenity area Ferrybank Wexford. * Marina extension at New Ross to facilitate new passenger boat service. * Installation of EV charging points in harbours. * Renewable energy source for piers and harbours feasibility study. * Courtown Beach Renourishment Scheme – In development (At preliminary design stage). * Rosslare Coastal and Flood Protection Scheme – In development (funding secured). * Rosslare Europort – Masterplan prepared and various planning permissions secured. * Marinas at Trinity Wharf, Wexford Town and Courtown Harbour. * Curracloe Water Sports Facility- development of facilities to support water sports in the aera including showers, toilets, changing facilities and lockers in partnership with Fáilte Ireland. Status: In development (At Funding application stage). |
| **CLIMATE ACTION: TRANSITION TO A LOW**  **CARBON ECONOMY & SOCIETY**  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 | **Does the Development Plan give priority to addressing Climate Action?** Please provide a brief summary of how the Development Plan addresses Climate Action. |
|  | **Answer:**  In order to prioritise climate action, the CDP includes a separate chapter (Chapter 2, Volume 1 Written Statement) on climate action, and each chapter in this volume is prefaced with a section on climate action and how it relates to the chapter topic e.g., housing, transport, heritage, coastal zone management.  The CDP includes a number of targeted climate action measures and supporting objectives including:   * By the end of the plan period (2027) 100% of electricity consumption in the county will be from renewable sources. * The proposed material alterations to Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy include ambitious targets for travel to work and school. These targets will be reviewed as part of the Local Transport Plan process for the four main towns. Increase the modal split share in favour of sustainable transport modes. * Reduce the demand for travel by ensuring development is compact and well connected. * New developments will be required to provide Electric Vehicle (EV) infrastructure. * Support the development of the green economy, support businesses in their transition to a low carbon operation and increase job opportunities in the county to reduce the levels of out of county commuting. * Direct new vulnerable development away from areas at risk of flooding and/or coastal erosion. * The use of nature-based surface water management solutions and the integration of green infrastructure into the preparation of future local area plans and settlement plans and the design of new developments. * Support the further development of the High Performance Building Alliance UN Centre of Excellence in Enniscorthy Town. The UN Centre of Excellence is named as a key driver in reducing carbon emissions in the built environment and providing training for the construction   industry in the National Development Plan. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| **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 |
|  | **Answer:**  The CDP contains objectives to support the decarbonisation of the energy section (Objective CA12), the transport sector (Objective CA14) and the agricultural sector (Objective CA16). This chapter also includes an objective (Objective CA13) to support change across business, public and residential sectors to achieve reduced greenhouse gas emissions and increase the use of renewable energy.  As part of the proposed material alterations to the Draft CDP, it is proposed to include a sub-section to describe the role of Decarbonisation Zones and include an objective in Chapter 2 Climate Action to ensure that spatial planning is fully embedded in, and contributes to, achieving the targets set for the Decarbonising Zone.  Wexford County Council has nominated Enniscorthy Town as the pilot Decarbonisation Zone for the county and are currently awaiting confirmation of this designation from the Department. This designation will be embedded in the new local area plan for the town (the preparation of this LAP will commence in 2022) and will focus the need to ensure that the local area plan include a sustainable spatial planning framework which successfully integrates land use and transportation and facilitate mixed used developments as a means of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and decarbonising the town. |
| **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 |
|  | **Answer:**  Volume 10 Energy Strategy includes the renewable energy strategy for the county. County Wexford has been to the forefront of renewable energy development having a wind energy strategy in place since 2007 and already has made a significant contribution to the State’s installed renewable energy (182.5MW). As for September 2021, planning permission has been granted for 36 solar farms in the county with a combined anticipated output of 475 MW and covering an area of approximately 885 hectares.  Section 3 of the Energy Strategy includes renewable energy targets for the county which are aligned with the Renewables Directive and the National Energy and Climate Action Plan (NECP) for 2021-2030. The strategy sets a target of 100% of electricity consumption in the county to be from renewable sources by 2027. This will assist in achieving the national renewable energy targets, with County Wexford providing well in excess of its population share towards the 70% national renewable energy target by 2030. This target will be meet through a combination of renewable energy sources, both onshore and offshore. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | The Council is also a leading authority in building Nearly Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) social housing and retrofitting social houses, resulting in important reductions in fuel poverty for the occupants of those houses. |
| **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 | **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. |
|  | **Answer:**  The importance of ecosystem services and biodiversity has been incorporated as an underlying theme of the plan, and each chapter contains text and objectives to protect, enhance and restore ecosystems and biodiversity. The importance of green infrastructure is also reflected throughout the plan, with Section 11.12 of Chapter 11 dedicated to Green Infrastructure (note this term is also deemed to include blue infrastructure). Relevant objectives in this section include:   * GI01 – contains guidance that planning applications must demonstrate they have had regard to including nature based solutions. * GI02 – identify, protect, enhance and manage green infrastructure in all local area plans and settlement plans. * GI03- support investment in the on-going maintenance and enhancement of existing green infrastructure and support the provision of new public parks, green space corridors and other public open spaces. * GI04- to have regard to the Inland Fisheries Ireland document ‘Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment’ when considering proposals in the vicinity of rivers and streams. * GI05 – ensure suitably sized riparian buffer zones are provided. * New objectives (as part of PMA) to promote the appropriate retroffiting of streets and spaces in towns and villages and to promote the re-opening of existing culverts to daylight streams as part of a wider restoration plan.   **Projects/Initiatives**   * ‘Rewilding Wexford’ – Council led initiative which identified a number of Council owned site for woodland creation. Planting currently progressing on four sites. * ‘Wex Bee Aware’ - [https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-cultural-and-natural-](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-cultural-and-natural-heritage/natural-heritage/wex-bee-aware) [heritage/natural-heritage/wex-bee-aware](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-cultural-and-natural-heritage/natural-heritage/wex-bee-aware) * Funding obtained for Changing Landscapes – an ecologist delivered talks to the residents of Council owned estates to provide guidance and encouragement to change open space maintenance habits to encourage better pollinator landscapes. The Council then paid for pollinator planting in five housing estates – one in each MD. * Green Estate Pilot Programme -Council led initiative to eencourage residents to begin to think about creating areas for nature within the public spaces of their estate. * Council initiative - 250 apple trees will be planted in various locations in the county by end Jan 22. * ‘Life Lives on the Edge’ - [https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-cultural-and-natural-](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-cultural-and-natural-heritage/natural-heritage/life-lives-on-the-edge) [heritage/natural-heritage/life-lives-on-the-edge](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/planning/built-cultural-and-natural-heritage/natural-heritage/life-lives-on-the-edge) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **WATER FRAMEWORK DIRECTIVE**  RPO 110 Ecosystem Services RPO 111 Water Resources RPO 112 Water Quality  RPO 121 Effective Collaboration to Implement River Basin Management Plans and Water Framework Directive  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  **DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIES**  RPO 133 Smart Cities  RPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region: | * Citizen Science Project: Household Water-Energy Efficiency [https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment/biodiversity-community-and-schools/citizen-](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment/biodiversity-community-and-schools/citizen-science/citizen-science-project-household) [science/citizen-science-project-household](https://www.wexfordcoco.ie/environment/biodiversity-community-and-schools/citizen-science/citizen-science-project-household)   **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.  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.  **Answer:**  Chapter 10 Environment Management contains a suite of objectives to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive and the relevant River Basin Management Plan along with requiring compliance with the European Communities Surface Water and Groundwater Regulations, and the Council will continue to work with LAWPRO and other relevant State agencies. The CDP includes an objective (Objective EM) to apply a catchment-based approach to the assessment of planning applications which may impact on water quality, and to ensure that the development would not result in a reduction in the water quality status of a waterbody in that catchment.  Section 10.5.5 of this chapter identifies the priority areas for action in County Wexford (as identified in the River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021). The CDP will ensure that future planning applications in these areas contribute to the achievement of objectives for these priority areas. This is supported by objectives -  Section 10.5.6 relates to the Blue Dot Catchment Programme. This programme is supported by a specific objective – Objective WQ16.  **Projects/Initiatives**   * Duncannon Blue Flag Farming and Communities Scheme <http://duncannonblueflag.ie/> * Blue Dot Programme – Led by LAWPRO. There are 6 blue dot watercourses in County Wexford.   **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. |
|  | **Answer:**  Core Strategy Guiding Principle I supports the development of Smart growth in settlements, in particular, the role of digital connectivity in improving access to a range of services including public administration, transport services, education and health, and improving the wellbeing and quality of life of our residents including our ageing population and people with disabilities.  Enniscorthy Town is a designated Smart Town in the RSES. The development approach for the town, which is set out in Section 3.6.2 of the CDP, includes a sub-section titled ‘Enniscorthy as a Smart Town’. This section outlines 5 keys aspects that will be focused on (see pages 60-61 of the CDP). Enniscorthy Town Municipal District has established a Smart Town Team. Projects that have emerged include Town  of Trails Study and Re-Imagining Enniscorthy Group. The key element of the Smart Town Team is |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | collaborative working between the MD and community groups. This designation will be explored in further detail in the preparation of the local transport plan and local area plan.  **Projects/Initiatives:**   * Gorey Town – ‘Town of Things’ pilot project. Collaboration between WCC and the Irish Institute of Digital Business at DCU and funded by the DRCD under the Digital Innovation Programme 2021. This will include ‘Hello Lamp Posts and benches’’ which will enable the public to interact with objects in their everyday surroundings - all through text messaging on their phones. By scanning a QR code on the lamp post or bench, members of the public will be able to engage in a friendly two-way conversation via text, enabling real-time answers to questions and information on Gorey town’s rich variety of cultural sites and landmarks. This project will also include connected sensors placed along Gorey Main Street to measure air quality and noise throughout the day as well as the amount of vehicles and pedestrian traffic passing through the street. * WWETB Enniscorthy Town FAB LAB. * Enniscorthy Technology Park. This will include the UN Centre of Excellence in energy efficiency in High Performance Buildings. * Smart Bins – Enniscorthy Town. * E-parking in town centres. * Interactive tourism information kiosks. |
| **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 | **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 |
|  | **Answer:**  **International Connectivity**  The development of the Eastern Economic Corridor is a key component of the Plan’s Core Strategy, the Transportation Strategy and the Economic Development Strategy. The corridor will facilitate international connectivity via Belfast Airport, Dublin Airport, Dublin Port and Rosslare Europort while improved connections to the Southern Region and the Atlantic Corridor will provide international connectivity via Waterford Airport, Belview Port, Cork Airport, the Port of Cork, Shannon Airport and Shannon Foynes Port. Supporting objectives in the Development Plan include:   * Objective TS03 – strengthen the county’s regional, national and international connectivity by all transport modes. * Objective TS04/Objective RHK29– seek investment in and secure the development of the TEN- T Network. * Objective TS05/Objective RHK31 – support the development of multimodal transport infrastructure and services on the Eastern Economic Corridor which has strong links to the Southern Region and the Atlantic Corridor. * Objective TS06 – support actions which will transition ports, freight and all transport modes towards a low carbon future. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | * Objective RHK32 – support the development of electric and low carbon fuel infrastructure along the TEN-T Core and Comprehensive Network including at Rosslare Europort. * Objective TS84 – support the continued operation and growth of Waterford Airport and measures to enhance connections, particularly by public transport, from County Wexford to Waterford Airport and other airports in the country.   **Ports**  Addressed in both Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy and Volume 3 - Rosslare Harbour and Kilrane Settlement Plan, the Development Plan includes objectives to:   * Seek Tier 1 status for Rosslare Europort (Objective RHK30). * Support the further development of Rosslare Europort including passenger amenities, bus and fail facilities, freight handling facilities, customs and security facilities e.g., Objectives TS76-77, Objectives TS81, Objective RHK36, Objectives RHK40-44. * Support the development of New Ross Port (Objective TS78).   **Rail Connectivity**   * Objective TS34 – promote and support proposals for physical improvement works to enhance the effectiveness of the Rosslare – Dublin railway line.   **Freight and Logistics**   * Objective TS35/Objective RHK37 – support the development of rail freight services and the necessary infrastructure for retail freight services at appropriate locations in accordance with the Regional Freight Strategy to be prepared under the RSES. * Proposed material alteration to the Development Plan to include an additional objective to examine the feasibility of reopening the disused Rosslare Europort to Waterford Railway as a sustainable transport corridor which would accommodate a reopened passenger and freight line and a greenway for active travel and amenity use and as an important transport corridor between Rosslare Europort and Belview Port and the Waterford MASP. |
| **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 transpot services.** |
|  | **Answer**  In addition to the objectives referenced in the preceding question, the Development Plan includes additional objectives to improve regional connectivity including:   * Objectives TS50-56 – support for development of the national road network to improve connectivity within the county, throughout the region and improving access to Rosslare Europort and Belview Port e.g., M11 Oilgate to Rosslare Harbour Scheme, N25 Rosslare Harbour Access Road Scheme, the N30 Clonroche Bypass Scheme, improvements to the N80 to improve capacity and connections to the Midlands. * Objective TS10/TS20– integration of transport modes including the development of public transport interchanges and transport hubs in the main towns. * Objective TS27 – support and promote bus, rail and taxi public transport services in the county. * Objective TS29 – support and facilitate the delivery of enhanced public transport services including improved quality, frequency and speed of existing train and public bus transport services and facilitate the provision of public transport infrastructure in the county. * Objective TS32 – ensure the provision of public transport stops and routes are coordinated with developing, liaising with public transport provides and coordinators. * Objective TS64 – manage, maintain and improve the regional road network. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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 | **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. |
|  | **Answer:**  The Development Plan strongly promotes and focuses on active travel and its multi-benefits including climate action, a healthy county and more attractive town and village environments. Active travel underpins most chapters of Development Plan with Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy containing the key active travel objectives:   * Objective TS02 - integration of land use and transport planning, the implementation of the 10- minute town concept in local area plans and compact growth. * Modal shift targets for the four main towns focusing on trips to work and school – Objective TS09 (Note these targets will be revisited as part of Local Transport Plans). * Implementation of the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets (DMURS) – Objectives TS16 and 22. * Preparation of Walking and Cycling strategies for the county. * Connecting active travel routes/greenways to nearby towns and villages to provide multi-use benefits (active travel and recreation).   It is proposed to prepare Local Transport Plans (LTP) for the county’s main towns (Wexford Town, Gorey Town, Enniscorthy Town and New Ross Town). Work has commenced on the Enniscorthy Town LTP. The LTPs will be used to inform the Local Area Plans for those settlements, including the development of the 10-minute town concept.  **Projects/Good Practice Examples:**   * Over €3m spent on 71 active travel projects in the county in 2021 including delivery of 20km of cycleways. * Numerous new walking trails delivered or in progress e.g., Arthurstown – Duncannon Walking Trail (connects two settlements). * Wexford Town Flood Scheme – proposes to incorporate a coastal walkway behind hard flood defences. |
| **INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE**  RPO 181 Equal Access  RPO 182 Ageing Population | **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. |
|  | **Answer:**  A key element of the vision is to make the county a great place for everyone to live, work and visit. Chapter 1 Introduction identifies ‘Social Inclusion, Accessibility and Age Friendly’ as an underlying |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | theme of the plan and outlines the Council’s commitment to develop a socially inclusive society in the county. This is reflected throughout the plan, for example:   * Guiding Principles G, H, I and J in the Core Strategy. * Chapter 4 Sustainable Housing – Objectives SH01 – SH04, SH08 (Universal Design and Lifetime Housing) and Objectives SH29-36 (Specific housing needs). * Chapter 5 Design and Place Making in Towns and Villages - Objectives TV01, TV02, TV04 and TV10. * Chapter 6 Economic Development Strategy – Objectives ED07, ED08, ED10, ED16 and ED17. * Chapter 8 Transportation Strategy – Objectives TS11, TS12, TS16, TS21, TS24, TS30, TS31, * Chapter 12 Coastal Zone Management – Objectives CZM22, CZM55, CZM60, CZM62, CZM65, CZM68, CZM74, CZM75 * Chapter 14 Recreation and Open Space Strategy – Objectives ROS01, ROS03, ROS08, ROS10, ROS19, ROS27 and ROS51. * Chapter 15 Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure Strategy – Objectives SC01, SC02, SC03, SC04, SC06, SC10, SC12, SC13, SC14, C28 and SC31   Wexford County Council included a specific objective in the Development Plan requiring the provision of Changing Place Facilities in any large building development where the public have access in numbers and/or where the public might be expected to spend longer periods of time – Objective SC14 refers.  **Initiatives include:**   * Enniscorthy is designated as an Age Friendly Town. Implementation of an Age-Friendly walkability audit and action plan for the town. Enniscorthy is also a designated Autism Friendly Town. * Provision of Changing Place facilities e.g., Mim Ryan Park. * Communication Boards e.g., Mim Ryan Park. * Access initiatives such as beach wheelchair facilities at designated beaches in the county and pool-pods. * Accessible playgrounds. * Age Friendly car parking. * Age Friendly public libraries and digital ambassadors in all libraries. * Adaption of a number of Wexford Walking Trails so that they are universally accessible * Telehealth pilot project with partners the HSE, Waterford IT and Tunstall Emergency Response * Age Friendly Business Training with Enniscorthy Chamber of Commerce and local businesses. * Age Friendly Housing and Public Realm training for WCC technical staff in Housing, Planning and Engineering staff, * HSE Understand Together & National Dementia Office Inclusive Design training for WCC technical staff. * Appointment of an Age Friendly Housing Technical specialist in Wexford County Council |
| **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 |
|  | **Answer**  The socio-economic baseline report, prepared as part of the first Local Economic and Community Plan for the county (2015-2021), highlighted that the county had below average education attainments for primary, post primary and third level education. As a result, High Level Goal 1 in the LECP, aimed to foster the culture of educational attainment and lifelong learning in the county and provide  opportunities to develop educational and workforce skills, to improve work readiness and access to |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | employment. This goal, together with the regional focus on the importance of lifelong learning and the development of a Learning Region, forms a key component of the Development Plan, informing the ‘People’ element of the Economic Development Strategy and Section 15.72 Education in Chapter 15 Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure Strategy.  The Development Plan includes a suite of supporting objectives including: Objective ED11, Objectives ED14-17, Objective SC19 and Objectives SC24-SC25.  It is also proposed, as part of the Material Alterations to the Development Plan, to include additional ‘People’ objectives in Chapter 6 Economic Development Strategy to (a) specifically support the development of a Learning Region, (b) to support and facilitate the development of adult education in the county and to work with providers to facilitate development which will serve the needs of existing employers, attract new employers and provide up-skilling opportunities for the existing workforce, and  (c) support the initiatives of the Regional Skills Forum to match the diverse skills of our people with existing and potential employment opportunities in the region. |
| **CULTURE, HERITAGE & THE ARTS** | **Does the Development Plan include policies that support culture, heritage & the arts?**  Please provide a brief summary of objectives/initiatives |
|  | **Answer:**  Support for culture, heritage and the Arts is reflected in various sections of the County Development Plan, with Chapter 13 Heritage and Conservation providing the main policy framework and a suite of objectives supporting natural heritage (Objectives NH01-NH254), archaeological heritage (Objectives AH01-AH13), built heritage (Objectives BH01-16 and Objectives ACA01-08) and culture and the Arts (Objectives CH01-CH05). Chapter 15 Sustainable Communities and Social Infrastructure Strategy also contains a sub-section on the Arts, Culture and Library Services with two associated objectives (SC35 and SC36).  Chapter 5 Design and Place Making in Towns and Villages also includes supporting objectives such as Objective TV37 - to encourage and participate in historic led regeneration including consideration of the potential to participate in the Heritage Council’s Historic Towns Initiative.  The Council’s new Heritage Officer, appointed in 2021, will be a key driver of the Development Plan heritage and conservation strategy along with the delivery of supporting plans (i.e., County Heritage Plan), projects and initiatives such as the recently completed Historic Towns Initiative project for Slaney Street in Enniscorthy Town, funded under the Built Heritage Scheme.  **Initiatives:**   * SCREEN Wexford – An initiative of Wexford County Council’s Arts & Economic Development Departments focusing on the development of the Film, TV & Animation industry in the county. [https://screenwexford.com/.](https://screenwexford.com/) Currently looking to appoint a full-time film and tv coordinator (3 year contract). * ‘Living Arts’ Programme – An arts-in-education programme created by Wexford County Council in partnership with Wexford Arts Centre. The aim s to provide children with an understanding and appreciation of contemporary visual art. Selected primary schools have the opportunity to host an artist in residence for fifteen weeks during the school year. * ‘Creative Communities’ Programme – Led by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council, the programme provides 50% matched funding up to a maximum of €3,000 to enable meaningful collaboration between artists from the WCC panel and County Wexford based community groups, for arts projects of 1 intensive week to 5 months in duration. * WCC county wide support, collaboration and funding for cultural events including festivals of national and international acclaim e.g., Opera Festival, Piano Festival, Kennedy Summer   School, Aims Choral Festival and Sounds of the Summer. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | * Wexford Arts Centre. Grant aid approved to extend and re-develop this historic protected structure. * Development of a Performance Pavilion on the boardwalk in Wexford Town. Status. Permission granted and funding secured. * Work progressing to create a heritage and cultural experience in Our Lady’s Island by providing public realm works including ancient pilgrimage path, outdoor reflection space, education realm and lighting of public monument. |
| **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 |
|  | **Answer:**  While there are no Gaeltachtaí or Gaeltacht Service Towns in the plan area, the CDP does contain objectives to support and promote our cultural heritage – Objectives CH01-05 in Chapter 13 Heritage and Conservation Strategy refer. The Council’s Placenames Committee require proposed placenames to have regard to development plan policy, reflect local placenames or names which reflect the local landscape, history, culture or historical persons associated with the area, and must be provided in both English and Irish. |
| **RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS** | **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. |
|  | Chapter 7 Tourism Strategy and Chapter 14 Open Space and Recreation Strategy contain a comprehensive set of objectives to support the development of recreation and sporting facilities. Future LAPs and Settlement Plans will provide more specific proposals for the relevant plan area. The delivery of these projects will be supported by various Council departments including Special Projects, Community Development, Environment and Transportation and the relevant Municipal District office.  **Completed/Planned recreation projects in the county include:**  **Greenway Projects**   * New Ross Town to Waterford Greenway including Redbridge – Mountelliot. Status: Under construction * Rosslare to Waterford Greenway. 56km of greenway mostly along a disused railway line across south county Wexford, linking the settlements of Rosslare Harbour, Rosslare Strand, Killinick, Mayglass, Duncormick, Wellingtonbridge, Ballycullane, Campile and Waterford. Status: Currently on hold pending the outcome of the All Island Strategic Rail Review. * Wexford Town to Rosslare Strand – 14km of off-road greenway linking Wexford Town (Ferrybank) to Rosslare Strand and the Rosslare to Waterford Greenway. Status: At preliminary design/feasibility stage.   **Blueway Projects**   * The Bannow Blueway on the Corack River- Bannow Bay watercourse, will be County Wexford’s first Blueway development. The development of the 11 km blueway amenity for water-based activity will connect three locations – Foulksmills Village, Wellingtonbridge Village and Little Sea/Bannow Estuary. This Blueway directly links into the existing Slí Charman coastal walking trail; the Norman Way and the EuroVelo 1 route. The important villages of Wellingtonbridge (Level 3b Strategic Settlement), Carrig on Bannow (Level 4 Large Village) and Foulksmills (Level 5 Small Village) will directly benefit from this development, whilst the greater South Wexford area will likewise benefit in tourism and recreation terms with the integration of the Blueway into the overall tourism offering of the area. * The Slaney Blueway from Enniscorthy Town to Wexford Town. Status: Feasibility studies being undertaken. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | * Marina at Trinity Wharf. Status: Planning permission granted. Objectives CZM62 refers. * Marina at Courtown Harbour. Status - Feasibility. Objective CZM62 refers.   **Carrigfoyle Adventure Centre**   * Outdoor Activity Centre and Forest Walking Trails located at Forth Mountain, 3km southwest of Wexford Town Centre. Joint venture between Wexford County Council and Wexford and Waterford ETC. Status: Phase 1 completed (access road, car parking, trails and services). Phase 2 will include the construction of the activity centre building that will include climbing walls, indoor training facilities, and a coffee shop/restaurant.   **Enniscorthy Sports Hub**   * Development of a Hub building at the recently developed running track. Status: In development (at Tender for Works stage).   **Public Parks**   * Recently completed Mim Ryan Park in Wexford Town. * Recently completed redeveloped Gorey Town Park. * Library Park, New Ross Town. * Orchard Peace Park, Enniscorthy Town.   **Trails/Coastal Walkway**  Numerous projects completed or in progress under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) e.g.,   * Murntown Community Trail - 600m extension to park trail (completed). * Boro River Walk - 300m wood trail plus rehabilitation of 100m long boardwalk and carpark at Ringwood Trail (completed). * Duncormick Trail - 600m riverside walk improvements including replacing handrail (under construction). * Killinerin and Mt.Nebo – walking trail and carpark improvements (under construction). * Kilmichael – south to Tara Hill signage improvements and trail access to beach (under construction). * Slí Charman – add stream footbridges on beaches at Seafield, Kiltennel, St.Helen’s and Duncannon (under construction). * Kellyswood Trail – Link path to New Ross town (at tender stage) * Duncannon to Ballyhack – link path from Dunbrody Park to Duncannon & permanent steps at Arthurstown (as tender stage). * Our Lady’s Island – 600m roadside path from village (under construction). * Equestrian Trail – 9km bespoke trail on Forth Mountain (under construction) * Ballybrittas Tomb Trail – 900m trail from Bree Hill to tomb (under construction) * Tintern Trails – Winner of the 2021 RDS Irish Forest and Woodlands Awards in the Walking Trails Category. |
| **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’?** |
|  | As demonstrated in the answers provided throughout the report, the RSES vision is reflected in the CDP Vision (see wording further below), all chapters and strategies of the Development Plan, both directly and indirectly encapsulating all four elements of the RSES vision (Creative, Innovative, Greenest and Liveable).  By 2027, County Wexford will:   * Be a self-sustaining, low carbon, climate resilient county where people want to live, work and play. |

* Offer high quality sustainable employment opportunities and high quality residential developments.
* Have sustainable urban and rural environments supported by excellent physical and social infrastructure.
* Continue to value its unique natural environment, built and cultural heritage, and which offers a range of high quality experiences to both residents and visitors.

**PLEASE ALSO INDICATE THE PROGRESS THAT HAS BEEN MADE WITH RESPECT TO THE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) FOR YOUR LOCAL AUTHORITY.**

|  |
| --- |
| 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. |
| Preparatory work has commenced on the new LECP with the Community Department leading. The indicative timeline is:   * The establishment of an interdepartmental project team: Q1 2022 * The establishment of the Advisory Group: Q2 2022 * Complete review of the current plan: Q2 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.** |
| We have not experienced any issues do date with implementing the RSES. |

|  |
| --- |
| PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM. |
| Name: Pauline Doyle  Position: Executive Planner, Forward Planning Section Email: [pauline.doyle@wexfordcoco.ie](mailto:pauline.doyle@wexfordcoco.ie)  Contact phone number: 087 7931577 |