SECTION 25A REPORT

REPORT DATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY	PREPARED BY
Date	Kilkenny County Council	Name
06/02/24		DENIS MALONE SENIOR PLANNER

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, covering the 2-year period 2022-2024, 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 Brigh Ryan at bryan@southernassembly.ie or Claire Breen at cbreen@southernassembly.ie

Please return the report to this office by **Friday, 26th January 2024**.

This can be submitted by email to: cbreen@southernassembly.ie

RSES THEME & RPO REFERENCE	RSES IMPLEMENTATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLAN POLICY & SUPPORTING PROJECTS/INITIATIVES
SUSTAINABLE PLACE FRAMEWORK & A TAILORED APPROACH RPOS 2 TO 30	Please complete the following table relating to the status of your County/City Development Plan

Name and Date Made	Date Came into Effect	Direction	Judicial Review	Variations
Kilkenny City & County Development Plan	*Came into effect on the 15th Oct 2021.*	*Yes.*	*No*	*One number to accommodate changes due to RZLT adopted on the 20th Nov 2023*

Please outline briefly how the Core Strategy supports the guiding principles and Settlement Typology contained in the RSES

The core strategy supports the principles and typologies of the RSES. The hierarchy of settlements within the City & County Development Plan follows that outlined in the RSES: Metropolitan area, Key Town, Towns >1,500, Rural Towns and villages and rural areas.
The Core Strategy supports compact growth and the integration of land use and transportation.

Please provide details on progress with the preparation of any Local Area Plans or other area-based plans (e.g. Masterplans) in your Local Authority

Masterplans have been prepared for the following:
Abbey Quarter regeneration area 2023
Loughmacask Neighbourhood, - 2023
Urlingford village, 2023

Masterplans are under preparation for
Ballyragget
Kilmacow,
Paulstown
St Canice's Campus (HSE lands in Kilkenny City)
These masterplans will be completed before the end of 2024.
A further 3 masterplans will be commenced for additional village settlements in Q3 2024.
A Local Area Plan for Ferrybank/Belview area and will commence in March 2024 and be completed in Q1 2025.
A Local Area Plan for Castlecomer will commence in April 2024 and be completed in Q2 2025.

METROPOLITAN AREAs - GROWTH AMBITION	How has the designation of a Metropolitan Area & the MASP impacted on the following?

RPO 6: Collaboration between Metropolitan Areas RPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas ALL MASP Policy Objectives	• 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. • Cross-boundary collaboration/key strategic initiatives in areas such as sustainable mobility, infrastructure delivery, urban regeneration. • Progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the Waterford MASP
	Designation of the Metropolitan area has: *a) Resulted in the preparation of a Joint Retail Strategy for the Waterford MASP area. It is currently under preparation in accordance with RPO 55 and Waterford MASP Objective 19* *b) Resulted in the preparation of a Blue & Green Infrastructure strategy (currently under preparation at the present time)* *c) Resulted in the preparation of WMATS (Transport Plan) for the MASP area.*
SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS RPO 11 Key Towns	**Please outline progress made in developing Kilkenny's role as a Key Town as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 12 Kilkenny City. Please identify progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the RSES**
	SUMP- The sustainable urban mobility plan is being developed for the city the achieve modal shift and to promote sustainable transport including the expansion of the town bus service. An objective of the SUMP will be to audit the City to identify barriers to the 10 minute city. *URDF- purchase of sites under Call 3 through CPO – Three sites have been identified for compulsory purchase.* *Kilkenny City has been identified as the Decorbonisation Zone for the County.* *Abbey Quarter Masterplan review has been completed allowing for more compact development. Construction of the main street and an urban park around the former St fRancis Abbey (A National Monument) will commence in 2024. This will allow all plots within the regeneration area to be developed and allow access to the Abbey by the public for the first time in 300 years.* *An integrated tourism attraction is proposed for the Tholsel-(City Hall). Part 8 has been secured. Funding is in the process of being secured through an application to Failte Ireland. Once funding is secured the development will proceed.* *Kilkenny County Council is supporting the KCETB in its proposal to develop a* *This will strengthen education, research and innovation capacity in Kilkenny City.*
REGENERATION & SUPPORT FOR COMPACT GROWTH 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	**Please provide details on the implementation of your Core Strategy to date, including the achievement of compact growth targets (include details of planning permissions, housing commencement and completion figures in the table below, where available)** **Please outline briefly, examples of significant regeneration projects/Initiatives planned or recently delivered, or innovative examples of delivering quality high-density residential development, or any projects to develop lands planned in conjunction with the LDA.**

RPO 176 10-minute" city and town concepts	Please identify details (including amounts) of any funding sources identified to deliver such projects Please provide details on progress in the delivery of enabling infrastructure and identification of any capacity issues or challenges faced in progressing such projects, including details of programmed delivery of Uisce Éireann's Investment Plan and prioritisation programme Please identify any challenges faced in delivering objectives for development of compact growth, in particular the unlocking of key regeneration sites and/or development of brownfield land.

The population of the County grew by 5% to 104,160. This is an increase of 4,928 persons between 2016 & 2022.
The population of Kilkenny City was 27,184 in 2022. In 2016 the population of the City was 26,512. This is an increase of 672 persons in that period
Under the NPF the growth strategy identified a population of 110,00 & 29,822 for the County & City respectively.

The Council has an active land management policy which looks at the availability of zoned land and encourages land owners to release land particularly for housing through the operation of the Vacant Sites Levy and the Derelict Sites Act.
To date over 20 sites have been activated through the Vacant sites levy.

The Council continues to develop its flagship regeneration project of the Abbey Quarter in Kilkenny City. In Q2 tenders will be sought for the development of the urban park surrounding the St Francis Abbey along with delivery of the main street in the regeneration lands.

Details of planning permissions, housing commencements and completions

Housing requirement identified in Core Strategy	Units completed since beginning of Development Plan period	Units from extant planning permission – commenced	Units from extant planning permission – not yet commenced
4,649 units	XXXX	728	2601

Details of planning permissions, housing commencements and completions (Metropolitan and non-metropolitan areas)

	Housing requirement identified in Core Strategy	Units completed since beginning of Development Plan period	Units from extant planning permission – commenced	Units from extant planning permission – not yet commenced
Metropolitan Area Kilkenny City	*1,627 units*	XXXX	545	2139
Remainder of County	*3,022*	*XXXX*	183	462

SMALLER TOWNS AND VILLAGES RPO 26 Towns & Villages RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework	**Please outline progress made in strengthening the role and viability of towns and villages identified in the Development Plan, including details of housing units planned/developed through programmes such as the RRDF funding and 'Town Centre First'**
	Objective 4L aims to prepare design and best practice guidelines for the provision of cluster housing in the rural settlements and rural nodes of the County. This design and preparation of these guidelines has commenced and will be completed before the end of 2024. *Objective 4La aims to develop a set of criteria and a programme to carry out an analysis of the Smaller Towns and Villages (Tier 4) to consider:* *(a) The provision of zoning maps where appropriate (particularly for Ballyragget, Mooncoin, Paulstown, Piltown, Kilmacow and Urlingford)* *(b) Developing specific objectives for core areas, focal spaces, amenities and opportunity sites etc.,* *(c) Identify land with development constraints.* *This programme has commenced. The masterplan for Urlingford has been completed. Similar masterplans have been commenced for Ballyragget, Paulstown and Kilmacow. Draft version of these Plans will be published in the coming weeks as part of the consultation process before being finally approved by the Council.* *A variation to the City & County Development Plan will be completed to incorporate the objectives of the masterplans into the County Plan.*
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 RPO 47 Rural Partnership Models RPO 48 Innovation Hubs and Centres of Excellence RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas RPO 50 Diversification	**Please outline progress made in supporting vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development, such as initiatives to develop networks/shared resources between settlements.**
	Further to the completion of a Health Check Urlingford/Johnstown being carried out the Urlingford Town Team was formed in 2021. The group submitted expression of interest to KCC under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme 2021 to purchase and develop the vacant Bank of Ireland on Main street in the town for use as remote working hub. Subsequently the group received Department

approval (February 2022) of an grant to the amounts of €250,000, with total project cost €277,500.

Department's requirements on approving the grant was that the Council would purchase and own the building and subsequently lease to UTT and subsequently Kilkenny County Council purchased the building in April 2022.

Opening in Spring 2024, the hub (Exit 4), located in Urlingford will provide fully serviced and expertly managed office spaces that cater to various users seeking a balance between shared office environments and individual privacy. It will serve as a destination for businesses, organisations, or agencies in search of a centrally located venue for conferences or training sessions.

Connected Hubs

There are now 10 remote or co working hubs located throughout the county. September 2023 saw the launch of a radio, paper and digital marketing campaign to promote the number of community and privately-owned remote working hub spaces in Kilkenny. The 'more than just a desk' campaign promotes the available desks, it promotes the quality of life in Kilkenny as a location to work. The Connected Hubs in Kilkenny include locations in Galmoy, Glenmore, Ballyouskill, Crosspatrick and Dunbell and were launched in May 2022. https://belongkilkenny.ie/careers-kilkenny/remote-working-hubs/

Digital Strategy 2024 to 2026

The Digital Strategy will be a three-year plan outlining Kilkenny County Council's strategic goals and objectives for the period 2024 - 2026. The strategy will set out an overall vision including a number of core objectives and outline a clear path for implementation. It will look to capitalise on digital technologies and infrastructure to benefit the staff of Kilkenny County Council and the citizens of Kilkenny City and County. The Digital Strategy will include four pillars – (1) Digital Infrastructure, (2) Digital Skills (3) Digital Transformation of Business and (4) Digitalisation of Public Services. There will be key strategic objectives and actions set out under each of these pillars

PLACEMAKING RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for Place-making RPO 70 Bidding capacity	**Please provide a brief summary of progress on major projects and initiatives identified through the Development Plan to support Placemaking such as improvements to the public realm, developing new streets/spaces/pocket parks. Details of funding sources (including amounts) to deliver such projects should also be included.**
	Through the development of masterplanning exercises the Council is delivering quality place making frameworks. Examples of this are the Abbey Quarter Masterplan, The Loughmacask neighbourhood plan and the Breagagh Valley Neighbourhood plan. *Masterplanning exercise is alsounder way for St Canice's Campus an extensive area of HSE lands within Kilkenny city*
RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience RPO 64 Facilitate new business	**Please provide details of progress in supporting the RSES Economic Strategy and the role of the Region's Economic Drivers. Details on progress with the delivery of Strategic Locations for Employment Development should also be included**

formation, growth and industrial re-organisation RPO 72 Brexit RPO 74 Economic Risk Management System RPO 62 Locations for Employment Development	
	Strategic locations for employment are identified as Kilkenny City & the Belview area which includes Waterford Port. *Significant progress has been made in the last two years with the delivery of investment by Abbott for a new manufacturing facility located on the IDA lands within Kilkenny city. This will create in the region of 1,200 jobs at full production. The investment by Tirlán and Royal A-ware of €200 million for a new continental cheese facility Belview will create 80 jobs It will support product mix diversification strategies and create a new route to market for continental cheese produced from milk from Irish family farms.*
	Please provide details of progress that has been made with respect to the preparation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) for your Local Authority
	The Local Economic and Community Plan was prepared and adopted by Kilkenny County Council in 20323. *It was formally adopted by the Council in May 2023.* *It contains objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and community development of Kilkenny. Appendix 4 of the LECP sets out the objectives which support the 11 strategic goals of the RSES.*
TOURISM RPO 53 Tourism RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment	**Please outline any recently completed or planned projects of significance to support tourism development, culture, heritage or the arts in your Local Authority**
	Fáilte Ireland has completed the its development strategy for Kilkenny and subsequently Kilkenny County Council has developed its *Our Tourism Strategy 2023-2028 will play an important role in promoting and developing tourism in Kilkenny. The objective is "realise the economic and social value of Kilkenny's built and natural heritage, its cultural reputation and its growing tourism, creative and cultural sectors"* *The Council through its City & County Development Plan and its local Tourism Plan continue the development of major flagship tourism projects within the county to enhance the tourism product and will develop Kilkenny City and County as a leading tourism destination through continued sustainable expansion of the tourism sector, with a focus on creating high-quality visitor services and the continued development and enhancement of visitor attractions and activities, capitalising on our natural and cultural heritage assets, whilst safeguarding these resources for future generations"*

MARINE ECONOMY 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	**Please provide a brief summary of relevant recent initiatives, planned or completed projects that support development of our marine and coastal assets**
	Although Kilkenny has no direct coastline, it does have direct access to the sea via the River Suir Estuary. As a result, Kilkenny has no significant fishing interests or Coastal communities or potential for offshore wind energy. The Belview Port Masterplan was recently compiled by the Port of Waterford at Belview. The Council will commence a new Local Area Plan for Ferrybank/Belview which will revise update and outline policies for the Port of Waterford at Belview.
CLIMATE ACTION AND DECARBONISATION: **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 RPO 90 Regional Decarbonisation. RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector	**Please provide a brief summary of relevant recent initiatives, planned or completed projects to address Climate Action, including progress with the preparation of your Local Authority's Climate Action Plan and Decarbonisation Zone**
	Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Plan 2024-2029 *The Kilkenny County Council commenced the preparation of a Climate Action Plan in late 2022 ahead of the Ministerial instruction. The Draft Plan outlines the measures that Kilkenny County Council will take to reduce energy use by 50% by and carbon emissions by 51% by 2030 across its*

	buildings, fleet and public lighting. It includes measures to embed a climate action and sustainability approach across its governance, operations and services; and to demonstrate leadership and partnership in the county. It also identifies Kilkenny City as a Decarbonising Zone. Development of the Plan, overseen by the Climate Action Steering Committee of Kilkenny County Council, began on the 24th February 2023 on receipt of Ministerial instruction. The process included extensive consultation with staff, elected representatives, SPC, stakeholders and the public. Kilkenny County Council published a Draft Plan for public consultation from 15th November - 20th December 2023. 32 submissions were received on the Draft Plan. The Draft Plan will be brought to the Council Plenary on the 19th February 2024 for adoption.
RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGY RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan	**Please provide details of renewable energy targets, projects or initiatives to support renewal energy**
	The renewable energy targets are set out in the Draft Kilkenny Climate Action Plan which sets out a target to reduce energy use by 50% by and carbon emissions by 51% by 2030 across its buildings, fleet and public lighting. *These targets are set out at a national level and have been adopted by the Council in accordance with its statutory obligations.* *The Council supports the implementation of national and regional renewable energy targets through its policy as outlined in Sections 2.1 & 3.9 of the City & County Development Plan.*
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	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the development of Blue Green Infrastructure, ecosystem services and biodiversity**
	In conjunction with Waterford City & County Council KCC has embarked on a Blue Green Infrastructure Plan for the Waterford MASP Area. This study is currently under way and will be completed in 2024. *As part of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) for Kilkenny City currently being developed the Council will examine the potential of integrating blue green infrastructure with the SUMP.* *The Council has also embarked on integrating in a detailed manner sustainable urban drainage system for urban areas in new builds and also in retro fitting projects.*

RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS	Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support recreation and sporting facilities including blueways and greenways
	South East Greenway
	The initial 6km between New Ross and Glenmore was officially unveiled in July 2023. South East Greenway. When fully completed the amenity will link New Ross in Co Wexford to Waterford city, with most of the 24km track in South Kilkenny.
	The works contract for the next phase of the Greenway a 5.5km section from Ferrybank to Curraghmore, was awarded in Q4 2023 and works thee are ongoing.
	The design of the remainder of the 24km greenway is continuing and will be completed in 2025.
	Freshford Playground.
	In June 2023 a new playground which extends to just under one acre and includes a zip-wire, swings, slides, play tower, basket swing and woodland play equipment along with a new access road and carparking area to service the amenity. The site also caters for a new wildflower meadow and additional tree planting all of which will help to combat the decline of pollinators.
	The completed project, located beside St Lachtain's GAA Club and national school, sees an investment of over €240,000 into Freshford village, made up of a combination of funding streams
	Dunmore Bio diversity park
	A former Kilkenny landfill site has been given a new lease of life and turned into a bio diversity park.
	The former municipal landfill at Dunmore has been transformed into a new countryside park. It occupies an area of circa. 24 acres and is located just 5km north of Kilkenny city centre.
	It offers the public access into the countryside with three themed trails to walk and includes a dog friendly enclosure.
	Slieverue park
	A new amenity space, located at the northern end of the village of Slieverue, was delivered under two phases. Under Phase One works commenced back in 2021 having secured funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme whilst Phase Two commenced in 2022 and was completed in 2023. It was opened to the public in June 2023.
	Amenity Projects
	The Project Office & Parks Department oversees the development and maintenance of a wide variety of outdoor recreational amenities in Kilkenny city and county, including playgrounds, parks, walking trails, multi-use game areas and sports pitches, which are available for use to people of all ages. The Project Office & Parks Department also manage grass cutting, pollinator and biodiversity projects, tree surgery and the day-to-day upkeep of parks and playgrounds.
	The total number of playgrounds maintained by the Project Office & Parks Department is now 33.
	Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS)
	Under ORIS Measure 1, a total of 7 no. projects, were completed in 2023. The projects included:
	• *Dock Road to Barrow Valley Outdoor Activity Hub - Pedestrian/Cyclist Connectivity Link Upgrade – Graiguenamanagh;*
	• *Windgap Village Loop - Repair & Enhancement of Walking Trail;*
	• *Mooncoin Rose Walk;*
	• *Castlemorris Woodland Trail Repair & Enhancement Scheme;*
	• *Outdoor Kilkenny Digital/Social Media, Marketing and PR Campaign 2023;*
	• *The Wood Road to the River Barrow Amenity Area - Pedestrian Connectivity Link- Graiguenamanagh;*
	• *Woodstock Estate Marketing and Communications Plan*

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	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive including ecosystem services, SuDS and biodiversity**
	In conjunction with Waterford City & County Council KCC has embarked on a Blue Green Infrastructure Plan for the Waterford MASP Area. This study is currently under way and will be completed in 2024. *As part of the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) for Kilkenny City currently being developed the Council will examine the potential of integrating blue green infrastructure with the SUMP.* *The Council has also embarked on integrating in a detailed manner sustainable urban drainage system for urban areas in new builds and also in retro fitting projects.* *Kilkenny and Tipperary County Council jointly manage LAWPRO across 13 separate local authority centres within a five-region structure of:* *Border* *Midlands and East* *South East* *South West* *West.* *LAWPRO is a national shared service working on behalf of all 31 local authorities in Ireland. It coordinates efforts to achieve good or high water quality in our rivers, lakes, transitional and coastal waters, and groundwater, as required by the European Union Water Framework Directive. Healthy rivers and catchments support a healthy environment, a robust economy, our health, and wellbeing.*
DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY/SMART REGION/SMART CITIES RPO 133 Smart Cities RPO 134: Smart Cities and Smart Region:	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support the development of a Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns. 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.**
	Connected Hubs *There are now 10 remote or co working hubs located throughout the county. September 2023 saw the launch of a radio, paper and digital marketing campaign to promote the number of community*

and privately-owned remote working hub spaces in Kilkenny. The 'more than just a desk' campaign promotes the available desks, it promotes the quality of life in Kilkenny as a location to work. The Connected Hubs in Kilkenny include locations in Galmoy, Glenmore, Ballyouskill, Crosspatrick and Dunbell and were launched in May 2022. https://belongkilkenny.ie/careers-kilkenny/remote-working-hubs/

Digital Strategy 2024 to 2026
The Council have commenced the preparation of a Digital Strategy. It will be a three-year plan outlining Kilkenny County Council's strategic goals and objectives for the period 2024 - 2026. The strategy will set out an overall vision including a number of core objectives and outline a clear path for implementation. It will look to capitalise on digital technologies and infrastructure to benefit the staff of Kilkenny County Council and the citizens of Kilkenny City and County. The Digital Strategy will include four pillars – (1) Digital Infrastructure, (2) Digital Skills (3) Digital Transformation of Business and (4) Digitalisation of Public Services. There will be key strategic objectives and actions set out under each of these pillars.

Timeline on Digital Strategy
•   Consultants will be appointed shortly (early February 2024) to complete a full and comprehensive audit of data capture and usage in Kilkenny County Council
•   Feb 2024, each directorate will appoint digital champions - these digital champions, through the development of the digital strategy will work with the Broadband Officer to identify and support improvements and actions to develop digital services and technologies to enhance customer service and improve our sustainable climate actions within Kilkenny County Council
•   March 2024 Complete audit of digital assets at KCC
•   March to Sept 2024 Develop Strategy and Action Plan

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	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support development of the Region's International Connectivity, development of ports, airports, freight and logistics.**
	KCC has supported the redevelopment of Waterford Regional Airport through financial investment *KCC supports the development and expansion of Belview area which contains Waterford Port* *The Belview area is a major logistics hub for the South East.* *The Belview area is designated as a strategic location for employment.*
ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY RPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities RPO 170 Rail RPO 171 Bus	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support enhanced regional connectivity – by road, rail and public transport.**
	N24 connection between Waterford and Cahir. *Design of this scheme continues with Kilkenny county Council leading the project team.*

	The section of the N24 being considered by this project is approximately 60km in length. It extends from the M8 Junction 10 Cahir North Roundabout, north of Cahir in Co. Tipperary, to the southern terminal of the M9 Dublin to Waterford motorway at the Quarry Roundabout, north of Waterford City in Co. Kilkenny. *A non-statutory public display of the Preferred Transport Solution will be available on the N24, Waterford to Cahir project from January 23 to February 9 2024.*
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	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support sustainable mobility e.g. public transport, walking cycling, the 10-minute city/town concept, sustainable mobility targets. Please also provide details of any Local Transport Plans in respect of relevant settlements in your Local Authority.**
	Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan(SUMP) *The SUMP is a strategic plan that will be designed to satisfy the mobility needs of people and businesses in the City and its surroundings for a better quality of life. This plan will see the implementation of a vision, objectives and specific measures that relate to the movement of people in the city, such as the design of the streets, integration of public transport and safer walking and cycling infrastructure. The measures will be designed to make the City a vibrant, more user friendly, healthier and sustainable city for people. The plan process is taking place over 12 months, and will be completed by Quarter 3 2024.* *The Council are currently assessing tenders for the preparation of a new Local Area Plan for Ferrybank Belview. This will in clude for a Local Area Based Transport Plan building on the work already completed by TII on the delivery of the Waterford Metropolitan Area Transport Plan.* *Mobility Plans have been completed for the towns of Callan, Thomastown, Castlecomer, Graiguenamanagh and funding has been secured to deliver on elements of the mobility plans through the area engineers office.*
INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE RPO 181 Equal Access RPO 182 Ageing Population	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support and develop Inclusive Communities and Places and Improved Quality of Life**
LEARNING REGION	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region**

RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63, Also, RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative	
	Kilkenny County Council has and is supporting development of primary and second level education facilities within the City and County. *Currently there are 4 second level projects at various stages of development , from planning permission to on site construction.* *In addition the Council is supporting the KCETB in the establishment of a campus for the FET College of the Future within Kilkenny City though site selection and planning evaluation.*
GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS	**Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support Gaeltacht, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks**
	Kilkenny has no Gaeltacht Service Towns or Irish Language Networks

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, reduce barriers to implementation or ways to improve implementation.

Insert answer here

PLEASE PROVIDE A CONTACT POINT IN THE EVENT THAT WE NEED TO CONTACT YOU ABOUT THIS FORM.

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