



SECTION 25A REPORT

REPORT DATE	LOCAL AUTHORITY	PREPARED BY
05/04/2024	Waterford City & County Council	Hugh O'Brien

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														
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="444 359 667 426">Name and Date Made</th> <th data-bbox="672 359 889 426">Date Came into Effect</th> <th data-bbox="894 359 1112 426">Direction</th> <th data-bbox="1117 359 1334 426">Judicial Review</th> <th data-bbox="1339 359 1557 426">Variations</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="444 432 667 520">7th June 2022</td> <td data-bbox="672 432 889 520">19th July 2022</td> <td data-bbox="894 432 1112 520">No</td> <td data-bbox="1117 432 1334 520">Yes</td> <td data-bbox="1339 432 1557 520">No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Name and Date Made	Date Came into Effect	Direction	Judicial Review	Variations	7th June 2022	19th July 2022	No	Yes	No
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7th June 2022	19th July 2022	No	Yes	No											
	Please outline briefly how the Core Strategy supports the guiding principles and Settlement Typology contained in the RSES														
	<p>Based on the population targets set out in the NPF and RSES, and the assessment of existing services and infrastructure across the city and county, the Core Strategy identifies the quantum, location and phasing of development which can be facilitated over the plan period. It also identifies the investment priorities required to ensure development which takes place is led by the infrastructure required to service it. The Core Strategy seeks to ensure that Waterford continues to grow in a manner, and at a rate, which sustains and builds communities across all rural and urban locations.</p> <p>The underlying principles of the Core Strategy are based upon achieving sustainable social and economic development across Waterford, along with compact growth for urban and rural settlements and a concentric city model for Waterford City, as envisaged in PLUTS, the NPF and RSES/MASP.</p> <p>The Settlement Strategy (Table 2.2 of the CCDP) identifies the relevant categories of settlements across Waterford and underpins the overall settlement hierarchy provided for in the Development Plan. The Strategy is based on the NPF and RSES, but also reflects the overall importance of the various towns and settlements in terms of social, commercial and amenity functionality.</p>														
	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														
	<p>In February of 2023, WCCC commenced the preparation of LAPs for Tramore and Dungarvan/Ballinroad with the publication of strategic issues papers for each settlement.</p> <p>Having received submissions from a number of prescribed authorities, the NTA, OPR and OPW in particular, further study was required to address local transport planning and surface water management planning. Resolving these issues has delayed progression of the LAPs however further consultation with the NTA has resulted in commitment to fund the preparation of local transport plans. At time of writing appointment of consultants is imminent and it is understood that draft LTPs should be available in Q3-Q4 2024.</p> <p>Consultants have prepared surface water management plans for both towns.</p>														

Since the making of the CCDP in July 2022, National policy has been published relating to Town Centre First and the roll out of such plans has commenced in Portlaw and Ardmore.

METROPOLITAN AREAS - GROWTH AMBITION

RPO 6: Collaboration between Metropolitan Areas
 RPO 10 Compact Growth in Metropolitan Areas
 ALL MASP Policy Objectives

How has the designation of a Metropolitan Area & the MASP impacted on the following?

- **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**

- The CCDP has relied heavily on the RSES and MASP in terms of identifying strategy and policy objectives. A weighted catchment has been utilised to identify area of influence of Waterford City. Generally Elected Members are critical of the RSES and MASP in terms of its confined area when compared to Cork, Limerick and Galway MASP area extents.
- A Joint Retail Strategy with KK Coco is currently being prepared in accordance with MASP PO 19. Expected completion April/May 2024.
- Waterford BGI Strategy is currently being prepared in collaboration with KK Coco. Expected completion summer 2024.
- A total of 30 no. 'regeneration and opportunity' sites in Waterford City have been identified as being suitable for redevelopment. A number of these sites identified in current URDF program for targeted intervention with some brief commentary set out below:
 - OPS O1: Former St. Joseph's Manor Hill, Waterford City. The regeneration of the site for new residential use (71 units) is nearing completion.
 - OPS 05: Noth Quays, Waterford City. Contractors have commenced the construction of the new sustainable transport bridge linking the north and south quays. Ongoing enabling works in progress to support the relocation of the existing train station.
 - OPS06: Former Waterford Stanley Site, Bilberry, Waterford City, included in schedule of lands approved for acquisition under URDF Call 3.
 - OPS 08: Former St. Otteran's, Johns Hill, Waterford City. WCCC, the LDA and HSE have progressed to masterplan stage to seek regeneration of the lands of the former St Otteran's Hospital.
 - OPS 09: Former Brook's site, Newtown Road, Waterford City. Lands included in the WCCC URDF 3 program.
 - OPS 10: Former Poser Seeds, Dunmore Road, Waterford City. 72 sqm new commercial floorspace permitted while the property is included in the schedule of lands approved for acquisition under URDF Call 3.
 - OPS 12: Former Waterford Crystal, Cork Road, Waterford City. Lands transfer is now completed to support the development of an enlarged SETU campus.
 - OPS 13: Former Gasworks/Johnstown Business Park, Waterford City. A total of 2 no. dwelling units permitted on a peripheral portion of the site.
 - OPS17: The Former Ard Ri Site, Dock Road, Ferrybank, Waterford City, included in schedule of lands approved for acquisition under URDF Call 3.
 - OPS 23: Williamstown, Waterford City. Development of 120 dwelling units is progressing on a portion of the land.
 - OPS 30: The Glen, Waterford City. A portion of the lands have been placed on the Derelict Sites Register.

<p>SUPPORTING GROWTH / DEVELOPMENT OF KEY TOWNS RPO 11 Key Towns</p>	<p>Please outline progress made in developing Dungarvan’s role as a Key Town as envisaged in RPO 11 Key Towns and RPO 24 Dungarvan. Please identify progress on delivering some of the key development sites/projects identified in the RSES</p>
	<p>The CCDP has applied the RSES growth target for Dungarvan and Ballinroad with a focus on delivering more compact growth based on the town center first principle.</p> <p>A Dungarvan 2040 Strategy has been prepared which will inform the new 2024 Local Area Plan for the Key Town.</p> <p>The LAP is currently in pre-Draft Stage with the appointment of consultants to prepare Local Transport Plan imminent. The LTP will inform the objectives of the LAP, which will be an action focused document with an emphasis in terms of placemaking and resilience with particular reference to tourism and other locally important economic sectors.</p> <p>Additional active travel infrastructure being planned with roll out in 2024 to further build on the opportunities provided by the Waterford Greenway along with additional supportive links to Gaeltacht na nDéise to support the role of Dungarvan as a Gaeltacht Service Town.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A total of 6 no. ‘regeneration and opportunity’ sites in Dungarvan have been identified as being suitable for redevelopment. Of these six sites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · DTOSO 1: Glanbia Site and adjacent lands, Davitt’s Quay, Dungarvan, included in schedule of lands approved for acquisition under URDF Call 3. · DTOSO 4: Car Park, O’Connell Street, Dungarvan, included in schedule of lands approved for acquisition under URDF Call 3.
<p>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 RPO 176 “10-minute” city and town concepts</p>	<p>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 tables below, where available)</p> <p>WCCC have developed a new GIS Dashboard to visually and spatially display all granted planning applications throughout the City and County since the adoption of Waterford City and County Development Plan on the 19th July 2022. It provides an up to date ‘what and where’ of all planning applications granted. Since the adoption of the CCDP 1,760 new residential units have been granted planning permission in County Waterford, of this total 967 units have been granted in Waterford City. The data can be broken down on a settlement basis and by type of dwelling (house, apartment, one-off dwelling, no of beds etc). The data required to monitor commencements and completions is provided through the BCMS system which is not fully compatible with the GIS Dashboard at present.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Construction has commenced and is progressing well on the relocation of Waterford Plunkett train station and a ‘sustainable transport bridge’ on the North Quays in Waterford City. The realization of the North Quays will be a transformative project for the future of Waterford.</p>

WCCC has set up a dedicated operational team within the Planning Directorate to assist in implementing policy objectives and deliver on new targets under the 3rd round of URDF programs. Furthermore, Planning, Economic Development and Housing Departments have engaged directly with the LDA to unlock potential for regeneration on state owned land in Waterford City. Initial discussions have been held with LDA regarding regeneration of publicly owned land in Waterford City. The redevelopment of St Otterans Institutional Lands is currently in design stage.

With regard to URDF 3, WCCC has been allocated €9M in funding to deliver urban regeneration in Waterford City, Dungarvan and Tramore. The fund aims for the delivery of compact and sustainable development, as set out within Project Ireland 2040 in a manner that complements current and future URDF projects and is specifically designed to address long term vacancy and dereliction and accelerate the provision of residential accommodation.

Please identify details (including amounts) of any funding sources identified to deliver such projects

North Quays:

URDF €100million

NTA €70million

St Otterans – Masterplan stage

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.

Policy objectives seek to reflect national and regional policies in terms of regeneration and active land management for a mix of uses but particularly for residential and employment. Additional policy objectives relating to reuse of vernacular buildings and other structures with added focus on reducing CO2 emissions and enhancing our built heritage. General focus on compact town centre first approach which is reflected in the core strategy and the important role regeneration plays in placemaking across all settlement classes.

Appendix 21 of the CCDP has identified key infill opportunity and regeneration sites across Waterford City (30), Dungarvan (6), Tramore (7), and a further 17 across other settlements in the County.

There are a number of constraints for the development of these sites including land ownership, cost of construction, appetite for development of these lands, infrastructural issues, lack of developers etc...

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
4824	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

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	3169	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available
Remainder of County	1655	Data not available	Data not available	Data not available

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’

Development Plan is supportive of these initiatives through its core strategy and policy objectives. The following policy objectives are of relevance: CS 12 Rural Regeneration, CS 15 Rural Strategy, CS 16 Rural Towns and Villages and H 01 – H 35 (inclusive) regarding housing provision.

Town Centre First plan prepared for Portlaw

Dunmore East included in Round Two of the initiative. TCF plans planned for Ardmore and Tramore thereafter.

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

Please outline progress made in supporting vibrant rural communities and sustainable economic development, such as initiatives to develop networks/shared resources between settlements.

RPO 49 Innovation in Rural areas RPO 50 Diversification	<p>Development Plan support of these initiatives through its core strategy and policy objectives. The following policy objectives are of relevance: CS 12 Rural Regeneration, CS 15 Rural Strategy, ECON 02 Strategic Employment Locations including rural clusters/synergies, ECON 04 City & Town Centre First Approach, ECON 06 Regeneration, ECON 11 – ECON 18 (inclusive) relating to Rural & Marine Economy, ECON 22 – 30 (inclusive) relating to Tourism, UTL 06 Urban Wastewater Treatment, UTL 16 ICT/ Communication.</p> <p>In particular the following rural clusters are identified as important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Blackwater Valley • Copper Coast • Comeragh Uplands • Waterford Estuary • Waterford Greenway • Gaeltacht na nDéise <p>The following potential networks are also supported in the Dev Plan in a manner consistent with the RSES:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limerick – Waterford Transport and Economic Network: This potential network along a strategic east-west axis across the region links the cities and MASP areas of Limerick and Waterford and the Atlantic Economic Corridor and Eastern Corridor along with the Key Town of Clonmel and the towns of Carrick-on-Suir, Cahir, and Tipperary. Early initiatives along this axis include the River Suir Blueway. • Waterford-Kilkenny-Carlow-Dublin M9/Rail Network: A potential inter-regional network and opportunity for economic collaboration connecting the Waterford Metropolitan Area and Key Towns of Carlow and Kilkenny City on a strategic road and rail corridor linking the region to the Dublin Metropolitan Area and Eastern and Midland Region. • Cork, Limerick-Shannon, and Waterford Metropolitan Area Network. • Cork to Waterford Transport and Economic Network including the River Blackwater Blueway and inter-county Greenway network. • Eastern Corridor (Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor extending to Rosslare Europort including • Gorey-Enniscorthy- Wexford & strong connectivity to New Ross, Waterford/Belview Port)).
PLACEMAKING RPO 31 Sustainable Place Framework RPO 61 Health Place Audit (HPA) for Place-making RPO 70 Bidding capacity	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Placemaking is supported through Chapter 8 and Appendix 5 by the provision of 29 specific placemaking policy objectives and a placemaking strategy. In addition, policy objectives relating to sustainable communities and amenity provision are of relevance. Policy Objective W City 19 Cultural Quarter and W City 20 Amenity/ Recreation and BGI Strategy are of particular note in terms targeted placemaking.</p> <p>Current URDF program includes for the enhancement of placemaking and amenities across the city centre while RRDF program is focusing on settlements such as Cappoquin, Portlaw, Dunmore East and Dungarvan also.</p>

<p>RSES ECONOMIC STRATEGY RPO 40 Regional Economic Resilience RPO 64 Facilitate new business formation, growth and industrial re-organisation RPO 72 Brexit RPO 74 Economic Risk Management System RPO 62 Locations for Employment Development</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>The Dev Plan (Chapter 4) supports and reflects the RPO’s relating to economic growth, resilience and economic drivers, particularly for Waterford City. Emphasis is also placed on the tourist and economic functions of Dungarvan as a Key Town while policy objectives also identify the importance of social enterprise, clustering, interlinkages within and across regions and the need to support collaboration across these areas.</p> <p>Chapter 3 of the Dev Plan focusses on Waterford City as the key economic driver of the SE Region and supports the key growth enablers set out in the RSES and MASP.</p>
	<p>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</p>
	<p>The Waterford LECP 2023-2029 was adopted on 14th December 2023</p>
<p>ECONOMIC CORRIDORS RPO: 42 Eastern Corridor</p>	<p>Please provide details of progress that has been made to advance development of the Eastern Corridor</p>
	<p>The core strategy recognizes the importance of inter-regional linkages along both the eastern and Atlantic corridors and the need to support the enhancement of these functional and physical linkages for the benefit of the city, county and beyond. The Dev Plan recognizes the importance of fostering collaborative effort and synergies across corridors and these are noted as being strategic employment drivers in Table 4.1.</p>
<p>TOURISM RPO 53 Tourism RPO 54 Tourism & the Environment</p>	<p>Please outline any recently completed or planned projects of significance to support tourism development, culture, heritage or the arts in your Local Authority</p>
	<p>Chapter 4 of the Dev Plan identifies significant sustainable tourism policy objectives which focus on both tourism strategy/project development and delivery, supporting and managing tourism accommodation and tourism attractors in a way that prevents environmental damage and supports community/social enterprise.</p> <p>The Council will seek to develop its key flagship tourism projects through Objective ECON 23 within the lifespan of the Plan There are a significant number of sub-actions associated with this policy objective and a brief comment is provided hereunder where relevant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North Quays Regeneration Project: The main contractor is on site since Q2 of 2023 and progressing the construction of the new sustainable transport bridge which will be the initial infrastructural element releasing potential for private

investment while rockface stabilisation and works to relocate Plunkett Station are continuing. At time of writing, it is understood that a planning application for development on the north quays will be forthcoming in early 2024.

- **The 'Guardian of the Déise' Project':** At conceptual stage
- **The further development of the Waterford Experience centered on the Waterford Viking Triangle and Waterford Crystal Visitor Centre:** Significant reconfiguration and rebranding of Waterford Crystal on The Mall has taken place and is programmed to continue into the medium term to enhance customer/visitor experience.
- **The extension of the Waterford Greenway through the city centre to connect with the New Ross Greenway':** Works to connect the south quays to Billberry have been substantially completed.
- **Extending the Greenway to the west of Dungarvan:** The Greenway project from Dungarvan to Mallow is currently at the route options selection stage (Phase 2 of TII PM guidelines).
- **Developing a Waterford to Tramore and a Waterford to Portlaw/ Carrick-on-Suir Greenway:** The feasibility study was recently undertaken along with initial public consultation on preferred route selection for the link from Kilmeaden to Carrick-on-Suir which may include a link to Portlaw. Tipperary County Council is the lead authority on this project.
- **Development of sites of interest along the existing Waterford Greenway e.g., Woodstown Viking Site, Train Station in Kilmacthomas:** It is hoped the project will be supported in 2024 as progress will be dependent on government funding.
- **The development of the Waterford Cultural Quarter:** The development of the Waterford Cultural Quarter (WCQ) is continually progressing.
- **Improved access to the River Suir and Waterford Harbour:** The potential for delivery of this objective is constrained by a number of factors including inter alia, access, land ownership, tidal conditions, conflicting activities/interests, environmental considerations, and the emerging processes relating to marine spatial planning.
- **The development of Blueways along the River Blackwater, River Suir and Waterford Estuary:** The River Blackwater Outdoor Recreation Feasibility Study Report which was funded under the Cappoquin RRDF (Category 2) is currently at draft stage.
- **To maximise the potential of Waterford as a cruise ship destination:** WCCC is working closely with Visit Waterford and various stakeholders to maximise potential for this valuable tourism sector.
- **The development of a looped route(s) around County Waterford taking in the many tourist attractors, amenities, trails, and heritage assets:** WCCC along with relevant agencies continues to gather and assemble data on important assets which support this objective.
- **The development of a regional scale park within the Waterford Metropolitan Area:** The identification of such an amenity at scale has been included as an important element in the brief for the BGI, Wide -open Space and Amenity Strategy which is currently being developed.
- **The development of Mount Congreve House and Gardens as a major tourist attractor:** On March 1st2023, Mount Congreve Gardens was officially opened to

	<p>the public following a €7 million re- development.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of world class activity facility centres for watersports in Ardmore and Tramore in association with Fáilte Ireland: The delivery of these centres and facilities is progressing • Improved public access to the Metalman in Tramore: Private landowners will need to be engaged with regard to consent/ license/ land acquisition with regard to this proposed project. • Interpretation of Waterford Medieval City Walls: WCCC has completed an interpretation plan for the Medieval walls and towers and is actively seeking funding through the Heritage Council and other sources to secure its implementation.
<p>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</p>	<p>Please provide a brief summary of relevant recent initiatives, planned or completed projects that support development of our marine and coastal assets</p>
	<p>The Dev Plan (Section 4.7) supports marine and coastal development as part of broader rural development policy objectives. Particular focus in on aquaculture, fisheries and leisure along with enhanced access facilities with a focus on maintaining high water quality. Policy objective ECON 17 refers.</p> <p>In addition, policy objective ECON 18 refers specifically to the preparation of the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for Waterford Estuary during the lifetime of the Plan in collaboration with the SRA and relevant neighbouring local authorities. Further consideration will be given to preparation of the SIFP, in full consultation with neighbouring local authorities, following the imminent consultation on the preparation of the DMAP for the southeast maritime area.</p>
<p>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.</p>	<p>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.</p>

<p>RPO 91 Decarbonisation in the Transport Sector RPO 94 Decarbonisation in the Agricultural Sector</p>	<p>Addressing Climate Change and developing Waterford as a climate resilient city and county are strategic policy objectives of the Dev Plan. This will be achieved in tandem with our own recently adopted Climate Action Plan 2024-2029.</p> <p>The Dev plan identifies renewable energy targets (Table 6.3) while action towards climate resilience is identified as a key strategic outcome of the CCDP. As such measures to seek enhanced climate adaptation and mitigation peppered throughout each chapter of the Plan.</p> <p>Please see below WCCC achievements in Climate Action in recent times.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The creation of a Climate Action Plan for Waterford including a plan for Decarbonising Waterford City. · The completion of 13 Active Travel Schemes in 2023. · Fossil fuel heating removed from 8 WCCC buildings between 2022-2024. This included removal of oil / gas boilers, which were replaced with air-sourced heat pumps. · The role out of 5 new electrical vehicles including three environmental inspector vans and two TRV's and installation of EV charging points. · Building fabric and led lighting upgrades to 8 WCCC buildings. · Solar PV installations to two buildings. · Energy upgrades to existing housing stock and all new housing stock achieving an "A" rating. · Installation of led lighting replacements to flood lighting in Waterford. · Facilitation of installation of new public EV charging infrastructure
<p>RESOURCE EFFICIENCY INCL. RENEWABLE ENERGY RPO 98 Regional Renewable Energy Strategy RPO 109 Bio-Energy Implementation Plan</p>	<p>Please provide details of renewable energy targets, projects or initiatives to support renewal energy Any update of permissions granted form the Dev Plan Monitor</p>
	<p>Renewable energy targets have been set out in the Dev Plan in Table 6.3. Appendix 7 of the CCDP contains the Co Waterford Renewable Energy Strategy 2016-2030 which includes wind energy mapping for areas preferred, open for consideration and not open for consideration.</p>

Table 6.3 Renewable Energy Targets 2030

Source	Operational (MW)	Permitted Undeveloped (MW)	Target 2030 (MW)	Shortfall (MW)	Note
On shore	62.87	34.85	211.20	113.48	Note 1
Solar	0.00	220.70	345.70	125.00	
Other, including auto production solar PV, CHP and hydro	4.68	0.00	76.40	71.72	
Total	67.55	255.55	633.30	310.20	Note 2

Note 1: Climate Action Plan 2021 target of 8GW onshore for 2030 based on Waterford land mass of 2.64% of Republic of Ireland. The Climate Action Plan 2021 states that 13.2 MW (5.57%) of this 2030 Waterford target will be delivered through local community-based projects, subject to competition as appropriate.

Note 2: These targets are considered to be minimum targets.

Note 3: There is a significant off-shore wind capacity that will go towards meeting the national renewable energy targets to 2030.

Significant Planning Permissions:

- Knocknamona Windfarm (8 Turbines c34-36MW capacity) - c. 12km to the west of Dungarvan Granted ABP 28/09/2022 -
- An Bord Pleanala Ref. SID Application ABP-309121-21 –17 turbine windfarm on a site in the townlands of Lyrenacarriga, Co. Waterford and the townlands of Lyremountain, Co. Cork,
- Granted 08/11/2023 - estimated installed capacity of between 60MW and 85MW
- Dyrick Hill Windfarm – Current SID Application REF NO 317265 12 turbines – c 48MW Capacity
- Mothel Solar Farm 60MW – Currently on appeal

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.

BGI/NBS are considered centrally as lying at the core of the Dev Plan and are specified as a key alternative within the Development Plan SEA Environmental Report. Policy objectives area set out to support the role of BGI in terms of amenity, tourism, climate change mitigation, infrastructure and in particular SuDS and Integrated Constructed Wetlands.

Land Use Consultants have been appointed to undertake the preparation of the BGI Strategy, in collaboration with Kilkenny County Council as set out in Objective W City 20. It is intended that the

strategy will be completed in Q2 2024. WCCC have also recently appointed a new Biodiversity Officer, who will deliver a countywide Waterford BGI Strategy

WCCC has completed the construction of a ICW to manage surface water runoff at Mt. Congreve as part of a significant tourism development on the estate and enhance understanding of the role of BGI as part of the overall tourist product development. SuDS will also form a significant part of the next program of works funded in Waterford City under URDF

In term of specific projects relating to Biodiversity please note the following initiatives/measures:

LBAP 22- Environmental DNA survey in River Clodiagh catchment with objective of testing see if the presence of FPM can be detected using this method.

Barn Owl and Swift Nesting Project in collaboration with Waterford for Nature.

LBAP 23- Feasibility Study for wetland enhancement at Ballinlough pNHA

Survey of Barn Owls in Co. Waterford

LBAP 24 (pending funding) Wetland enhancement at Ballinlough pNHA and Duckspool Stormwater Pond

Removal of invasive species at Goffs Wood, Waterford City.

RECREATION & SPORTING FACILITIES INCL. BLUEWAYS & GREENWAYS

Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support support recreation and sporting facilities including blueways and greenways

Greenways and Blueways are supported in their roles as amenities, drivers for tourism and the economy and their supporting role for sustainable transport in the Plan. In particular, section 10.3.1 and 10.3.2. and policy objectives BGI 06 – BGI 09 support the further expansion of these networks and support infrastructure while ECON 23 recognize their economic potential in terms of developing tourism infrastructure across the city and county. Furthermore, policy objective Trans 10 seeks to deliver a more comprehensive network of interconnected blueways and greenways. Finally, policy objective BGI 17 seeks to ensure that the development of greenways and blueways is achieved in a manner that does not adversely impact on the receiving environment.

ECON 23 –Flagship Tourism Project Status Update:

- **Extending the Greenway to the west of Dungarvan:**
The Greenway project from Dungarvan to Mallow is currently at the route options selection stage (Phase 2 of TII PM guidelines).
- **Developing a Waterford to Tramore and a Waterford to Portlaw/ Carrick-on-Suir Greenway:** The feasibility study was recently undertaken along with initial public consultation on preferred route selection for the link from Kilmeaden to Carrick-on-Suir which may include a link to Portlaw. Tipperary County Council is the lead authority on this project.
- **The development of Blueways along the River Blackwater, River Suir and Waterford Estuary:** The River Blackwater Outdoor Recreation Feasibility Study Report which was funded under the Cappoquin RRDF (Category 2) is currently at draft stage and is due to be finalized.

**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

Section 9.4 and policy objectives WQ01 and WQ02 detail requirements under the Water Framework Directive and associated water quality legislation for the local authority. It is a specific objective to “Develop the associated Blue Dot Catchment network program under the River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 to protect and maintain the excellent quality of “High” status river water bodies”. Figure 9.1 presents a map displaying the Blue Dot catchments within the county. Section 2.5.2 of the Natura Impact Report on the Draft Plan lists the Blue Dot Rivers in the county.

The local authority is aware of its obligations under Article 4(7) of the Water Framework Directive and looks forward to the statutory guidelines on planning and the WFD.

In term of specific projects please note the following initiatives/measures:

Biodiversity

LBAP 22- Environmental DNA survey in River Clodiagh catchment with objective of testing see if the presence of FPM can be detected using this method.

Barn Owl and Swift Nesting Project in collaboration with Waterford for Nature.

LBAP 23- Feasibility Study for wetland enhancement at Ballinlough pNHA

Survey of Barn Owls in Co. Waterford

LBAP 24 (pending funding) Wetland enhancement at Ballinlough pNHA and Duckspool Stormwater Pond

Removal of invasive species at Goffs Wood, Waterford City.

SuDS

Development Management- promotion and application of SuDs measures including extension to Mahon Falls Car Park involving permeable paving.

Forward Planning -,Appointment of Biodiversity Officer, Development of Waterford BGI Strategy

WFD

Appointment of Assistant Scientist to lead on Agricultural Inspections,

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.

The Development Plan embraces the concept of the Smart City and Region with a particular emphasis on utilising smart technology to enhance the quality and environment in support of a vibrant city centre neighbourhood. Furthermore, the concept is referred to specifically in terms of its role in employment and innovation (S3.5 of the plan), transport (S5.13), achieving the Decarbonising Zone (S 3.9) and education (S 4.11).

Improving remote working facilities has been supported and funded through the Connected Hubs funding call for locations in Dungarvan Enterprise Centre, Dunhill EcoPark, Waterford City Enterprise Centre, Worklabs and Boxworks (Waterford City) in 2021.

4 new Enterprise Centres are to open in Tallow, Villierstown, Lismore and Cappoquin funded under the Leader Program.

In support of remote working in smaller rural settlements, 4 Broadband Connection Points have been developed in Modeligo Community Hall, Mount Mellary Community Hall, Knockanore Community Hall & Ballysaggart Community Centre to further support remote working with additional connections planned.

List of projects to support the development of a Smart Region/Smart City/Smart Towns

Waterford City & County Council WiFi4EU Public WiFi

Summary: Installation and maintenance of public WiFi across key city and town locations, improving digital accessibility for citizens.

Year Completed: 2022.

Smart Bins

Summary: Deployment of the Bigbelly Smart Waste System, significantly reducing the frequency of waste collection and associated costs.

Year Completed: 2022

Bring Bank Sensors

Summary: Implementation of IoT-enabled sensors in recycling bins to monitor fullness and optimize collection schedules.

Year Completed: 2023

Active Travel Data Analytics

Summary: Utilization of data analytics to enhance infrastructure and promote active travel modes such as walking and cycling.

Year Completed: 2022.

Footfall Analytics

Summary: Analysis of pedestrian traffic patterns to support the gradual reopening and economic recovery of the city.

Year Completed: 2022

Smart SE - Govlab

Summary: A proposal for a smart city innovation platform to support local enterprises, startups, and academia. SmartSE

The proposal is for the delivery of a technological innovation and exhibition space which establishes itself with regional significance through the information it analyses and generates from city-wide sensors, informing the decision-making process of local government, researchers, and industry. It will create new opportunities for commerce, industry, and technology through the provision of simulation laboratories and flexible, adaptive office space with circulation areas which allow for informal meetings or collaborative idea-sharing.

Year Completed: In development.

Digital Story Trail Web AR

Summary: An augmented reality application that offers a digital storytelling trail across Waterford City, enhancing tourist experiences.

Year Completed: Not specified.

Rural Focus

National Broadband Plan

WCCC is committed to supporting the National Broadband Plan and ensuring universal access to high-speed broadband.

12,000 premises in the Waterford intervention area are now available for connection.

Broadband Connections Points/ Hubs

High speed broadband continues to be available across 4 Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) across Waterford. The broadband office continued to support communities to leverage the technology. Free Wi-Fi is available at these locations. Several primary schools were also connected under the Schools BCP initiative and were supported by the Waterford broadband officer and The Department of Rural and Community Development.

BlackWater Valley Hubs

Four new enterprise hubs in Tallow, Lismore, Cappoquin and Villierstown were officially opened on Friday last while the 'Dungarvan 2040' programme was also published. The four hubs have been developed to encourage people to live and work in the Blackwater Valley Economic Development Zone.

Dungarvan Digital Transformation Hub

Site acquired – project progressing

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.

The Dev Plan recognizes the importance of developing connectivity to areas outside the region. In particular policy objectives ECON 10 and 11 refer to the support for enhancements to Waterford Airport and Waterford Port to increase commercial activity and investment into Waterford and the region.

	<p>The Dev plan recognizes the important role of rail freight and logistics in support of the Regional Freight Strategy (RPO 141). Furthermore, policy objective Trans 23 supports the development of rail freight to service Waterford Port and Rosslare Europort along the Waterford to Rosslare line while Trans 52 recognises the important role that can be played by smart technology in terms of efficient logistics in and around Waterford City in particular.</p>
<p>ENHANCED REGIONAL CONNECTIVITY RPO 169 Strategic Road Network Improvement Priorities RPO 170 Rail RPO 171 Bus</p>	<p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support enhanced regional connectivity – by road, rail and public transport. Local Link and other bus upgrades,</p>
	<p>Regional connectivity is recognized in the CCDP as an important enabler of employment and economic activity across all locations with a particular reference to inter-urban and sub-regional connectivity along the Limerick-Waterford Transport and Economic Network, Waterford-Kilkenny-Carlow-Dublin M9/rail networks, Cork to Waterford Economic Network and the Eastern Corridor.</p>
<p>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</p>	<p>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.</p>
	<p>Sustainability mobility is considered in tandem with the broader concepts of the walkable 10-minute neighbourhood, supported by compact growth and where possible public transport and facilities for active travel modes. There are a suite of policies requiring consideration of sustainable transport in terms of integrated land use and transportation planning, permeability, housing development/scheme layout and design, mobility management and BGI.</p> <p>Modal share ambitions have been identified in Section 5.4 of the CCDP with objectives to monitor progress in achieving greater sustainable transport use during the lifetime of the Plan. Policy support is also set out for WMATS while the importance of developing greater modal shift through cycling and walking is supported through policy objectives Trans 07 – 13 and public transport in Trans 14 – 26.</p> <p>LTPs will be prepared to support the preparation of LAPs for Tramore and Dungarvan with the appointment of consultants imminent.</p> <p>The majority of projects to date have supported active travel and segregated cycle and walking routes, notably along the corridor of the Suir linking areas along the Dunmore Road to the city centre. Works also underway to complete the Waterford Greenway lint into the</p>

	<p>city centre while projects to extent the greenway to Tramore is at planning feasibility stage. Greenway bridge link to North Quays at advanced stage.</p>
<p>INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES & PLACES -IMPROVING WELLBEING AND QUALITY OF LIFE RPO 181 Equal Access RPO 182 Ageing Population</p>	<p>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</p>
	<p>Section 7.17 of the CCDP deals specifically with social inclusion issues in addition to equality and participation, supported by policy objectives SC 02, 07 and 08 which commit to reducing forms of social exclusion and ensuring improved access to services and facilities, engagement in decision making and community building/placemaking for all sectors of our communities including minority groups, elderly, youth, special needs groups and other marginalised groups/persons.</p>
<p>LEARNING REGION RPO 186: Lifelong Learning & RPOs 39, 63, Also RPO 187 Education & Training, RPO 190 Lifelong Learning & Healthy Cities Initiative</p>	<p>Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support lifelong learning and development of a Learning Region or the development of UNESCO Learning Cities</p>
	<p>Waterford has recently been designated a UNESCO Learning City. As a member of the UNESCO Global Network of Learning Cities, Waterford can grow and develop as a recognised city of learning and build upon the strong stakeholder commitment and political support of the Learning City Initiative.</p> <p>The Development Plan reflects the statements and policy objectives of the RSES in terms of lifelong learning. A principal objective for the MASP area is to ensure lifelong learning and the learning city are achieved through the TUSE and broader education sector/service providers. It is also one of the key strategic outcomes of the Plan as set out in section 1.6 i.e.," To support a strong, sustainable, diverse and successful economy underpinned by enterprise, innovation and skills and access to quality education for all".</p> <p>This is further supported by the provisions of section 4.0 reiterating the importance of lifelong learning to our citizens, communities and broader economy. In this regard policy objective EDU 01 refers to the role of lifelong learning, drawing on the potential to be delivered through the TUSE and other opportunities across the city/ county.</p> <p>The Learning City concept is also supported as above in the strategic outcomes underpinning the draft plan while the vision statement refers specifically to the UNESCO Learning City and its importance for Waterford city and broader area/region. Policy objective W City 17 also supports the role of Waterford in this regard and the importance of the UNESCO initiative is similarly recognized as underpinning the economic and social wellbeing of Waterford in</p>

	section 4.0 of the draft plan. Policy objectives EDU 02 and 03 also refer to the importance of the Learning City and how the initiative is supported through the Development Plan.
GAELTACHTAÍ, GAELTACHT SERVICE TOWNS(GSTs) & IRISH LANGUAGE NETWORKS	Please provide details of any recently completed or planned projects or other actions to support Gaeltachtaí, Gaeltacht Service Towns (GSTs) & Irish Language Networks
	The Dev Plan includes policy objectives to support the role of Dungarvan as a Gaeltacht Service Town, in particular core strategy policy objective CS 13 (Chapter 2), and support for the delivery of Plean Teanga na nDéise 2018 – 2024 in collaboration with Údarás na Gaeltachta, Comhlucht Forbartha an nDéise, and the broader community through policy objective ECON 15 (Chapter 4) recognizing the role of Dungarvan.

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.

There has been little progress in putting in place a MASP implementation body which is now overdue. It important that the MASP implementation body be progressed in the immediate term to assist in the delivery of the concentric city and the necessary infrastructure to support infrastructure led compact growth both north and south of the Suir.

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

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