

SEA STATEMENT

ON THE

STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

OF THE

SLIGO COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-2017

for: Sligo County Council

County Hall
Riverside
Sligo



by: CAAS Ltd.

2nd Floor, The Courtyard
25 Great Strand Street
Dublin 1



JUNE 2011

Table of Contents

| | | |
|------------------|---|-----------|
| Section 1 | Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 | Terms of Reference | 1 |
| 1.2 | SEA Definition | 1 |
| 1.3 | Legislative Context..... | 1 |
| 1.4 | Content of the SEA Statement | 1 |
| 1.5 | Implications of SEA for the Plan | 1 |
| Section 2 | How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan..... | 2 |
| 2.1 | Consultations | 2 |
| 2.2 | Environmental Sensitivities | 2 |
| 2.3 | Early Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives..... | 3 |
| 2.4 | Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment | 3 |
| 2.5 | Mitigation..... | 8 |
| Section 3 | Environmental Report and Submissions & Observations..... | 13 |
| 3.1 | Introduction | 13 |
| 3.2 | SEA Scoping Submissions | 13 |
| 3.3 | Submissions and Observations..... | 13 |
| 3.4 | Environmental Report | 14 |
| Section 4 | Alternatives and the Plan | 16 |
| 4.1 | Introduction | 16 |
| 4.2 | Description of the Alternative Scenarios..... | 16 |
| 4.3 | Evaluation of the Alternative Scenarios | 19 |
| 4.4 | Reasons for choosing the Plan in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with..... | 22 |
| Section 5 | Monitoring Measures..... | 24 |
| 5.1 | Introduction | 24 |
| 5.2 | Indicators and Targets | 24 |
| 5.3 | Sources | 24 |
| 5.4 | Reporting..... | 24 |
| 5.5 | Responsibility | 24 |
| 5.6 | Thresholds | 25 |

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Terms of Reference

This is the SEA Statement of the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

1.2 SEA Definition

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a plan, or other strategic action, in order to ensure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

1.3 Legislative Context

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning.

The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), and, the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of regulations became operational on 21 July 2004.

The SEA Directive and the instruments transposing it into Irish Law require that after the adoption of a plan or programme, the plan or programme making authority is required to make a Statement available to the public, the competent environmental authorities and, where relevant, neighbouring countries. This Statement is referred to as an SEA Statement (DEHLG, 2004)¹.

¹ Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2004) *Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Guidelines for Regional Authorities and Planning Authorities* Dublin: Government of Ireland.

1.4 Content of the SEA Statement

The SEA Statement is required to include information summarising:

- a) how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan,
- b) how
 - the environmental report,
 - submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the proposed Plan and Environmental Report, and
 - any transboundary consultations [this is not relevant to this SEA]have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan,
- c) the reasons for choosing the Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with, and
- d) the measures decided upon to monitor the significant environmental effects of implementation of the Plan.

1.5 Implications of SEA for the Plan

As a result of the aforementioned legislation, the Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017 was required to undergo SEA.

The findings of the SEA were expressed in an Environmental Report which accompanied the Draft Plan. The Environmental Report was updated by way of Addenda (see Section 3.4) to take account of changes being made to the Draft. On adoption of the Draft Plan, the Addenda were used to update the original Environmental Report into a final Environmental Report which is available alongside the adopted Plan. At each stage of the process the Elected Members took into account the findings of the Environmental Report and/or the Addenda as appropriate.

Section 2 How Environmental Considerations were integrated into the Plan

2.1 Consultations

As environmental authorities identified under the SEA Regulations, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DEHLG) and the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR)² were all sent SEA scoping notices indicating that submissions or observations in relation to the scope and level of detail of the information to be included in the environmental report could be made to Sligo County Council.

A written submission on the scope of the SEA was received from the EPA and this was taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA.

Representatives from the EPA, the Western River Basin District Project Office, Sligo County Council's Water Services, Environment and Forward Planning sections and CAAS attended an SEA Scoping Meeting on 10 February 2010. The information provided at this meeting - including that which relating to Appropriate Assessment (AA)³ - was taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA.

In addition, a number of submissions were made on the Development Plan, Environmental Report, Proposed Amendments and Addenda while they were on public display. Further information on these is provided under Section 3.2.

² The Marine function of the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources has been transferred to the Department of Agriculture Food and Fisheries

³ An AA meeting attended by representatives of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Sligo County Council and CAAS took place on 1 March 2010.

2.2 Environmental Sensitivities

2.2.1 Mapping and Early Communication

Environmental considerations were integrated into the Draft Plan before it was placed on public display for the first time.

Environmental sensitivities were mapped in order to identify which areas of the County would be most sensitive to development and would suffer the most adverse effects if growth was to be accommodated in those areas unmitigated.

The sensitivities were communicated to the Plan-making team on a regular basis from the outset of the Plan preparation process. Identifying areas with the most limited carrying capacity within the Plan area helped future growth to be diverted away from these areas.

The sensitivities considered by the SEA included the following:

- Designated ecological sites;
- Land cover;
- Soil type;
- Sites of Geological Importance;
- Quarries and mineral locations;
- Landslides;
- Water Framework Directive (WFD) status of surface waters;
- WFD status of ground waters;
- WFD status of transitional and coastal waters
- WFD Register of Protected Areas;
- EPA river water quality monitoring;
- Geological Survey Ireland aquifer vulnerability and productivity;
- Office of Public Works (OPW) Flood Events, Commissioned Lands, Drainage Districts and Benefitting Lands;
- Waste water treatment capacity and demand;
- Drinking water supply and quality;
- Archaeological heritage;
- Architectural heritage; and

- Scenic Routes, Visually Vulnerable Areas and Sensitive Landscape Areas.

A number of these sensitivities are mapped on Figure 2.1, Figure 2.2 and Figure 2.3.

Overlay mapping

A Geographical Information System (GIS) was used in order to weight the above sensitivities and map them overlapping each other - this allowed the identification of where most sensitivities occur. Figure 2.4 shows the overlay map of sensitivities that was used by the SEA.

Environmental sensitivities are indicated by colours which range from acute vulnerability (brown) extreme vulnerability (red) to high vulnerability (dark orange) to elevated vulnerability (light orange) to moderate vulnerability (yellow) to low vulnerability (green). Where the mapping shows a concentration of environmental sensitivities there is an increased likelihood that development will conflict with these sensitivities and cause environmental deterioration.

2.3 Early Identification and Evaluation of Alternatives

A range of potential alternative scenarios for the types of planning strategies adopted for the Development Plan were identified at an early stage in the process and evaluated for their likely significant environmental effects (see Section 4).

The environmental sensitivities and overlay mapping shown on Figures 2.1 to 2.4 were used in order to predict and evaluate the environmental effects of implementing the scenarios.

Communication of the findings of this evaluation helped the Plan-making team to make an informed choice as to which alternative was to be put before the Elected Members as the proposed Plan.

Communication of this evaluation to the Elected Members through the Environmental Report helped the Elected Members to make an informed choice with regard to the making of the Development Plan.

Mitigation measures which arose from the evaluation and which were integrated into the

Plan are detailed under Section 2.5 of this report.

2.4 Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment (AA) and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) have both been undertaken alongside the preparation and adoption Plan.

The requirement for AA is provided under the EU Habitats Directive (Directive 1992/43/EEC). The requirement for SFRA is provided under 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (DEHLG, 2009).

The preparation and adoption of the Plan, SEA, AA & SFRA have taken place concurrently and the findings of the AA & SFRA have informed both the Plan and the SEA.

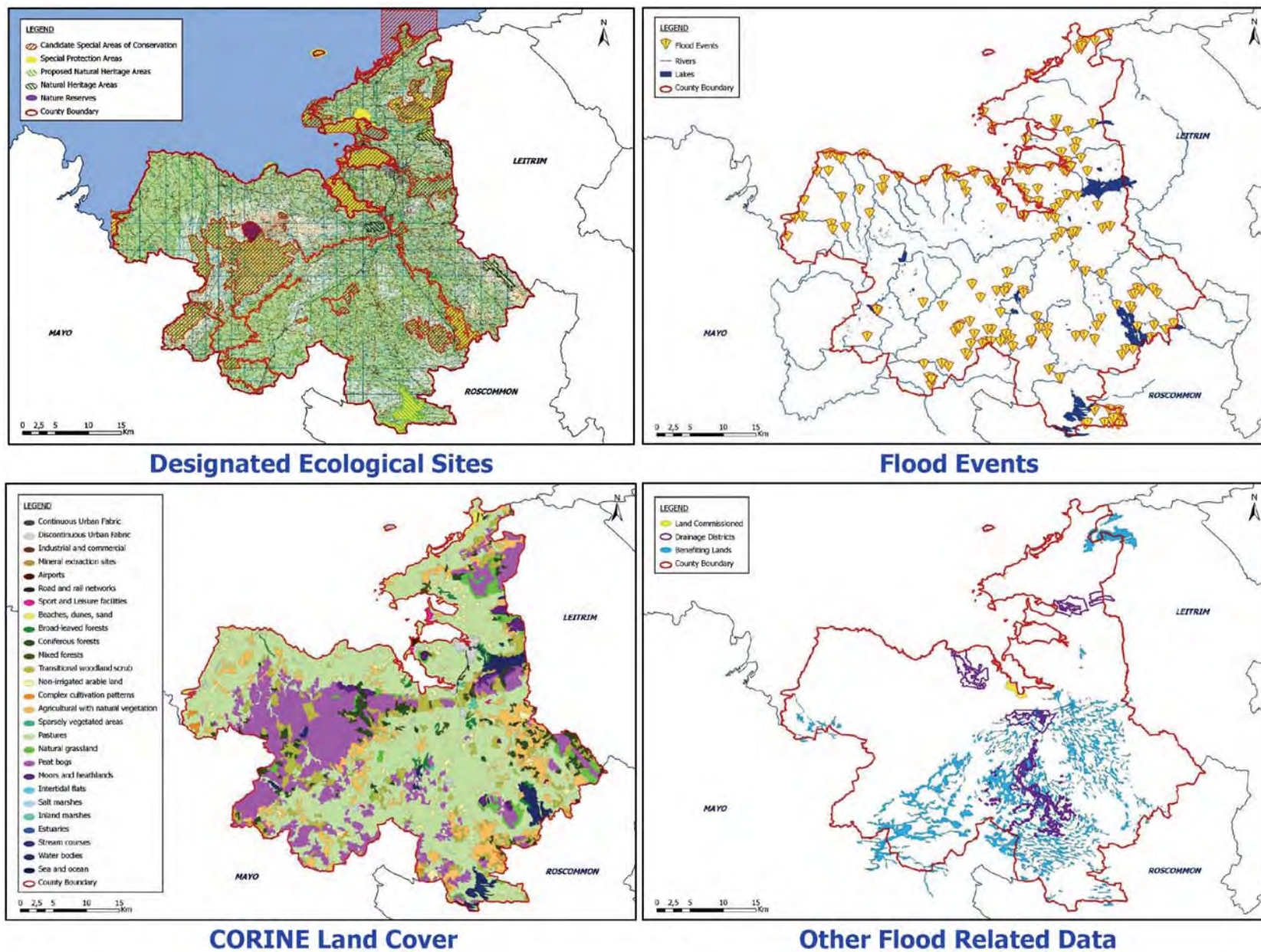


Figure 2.1 Environmental Sensitivities (Set 1 of 3)

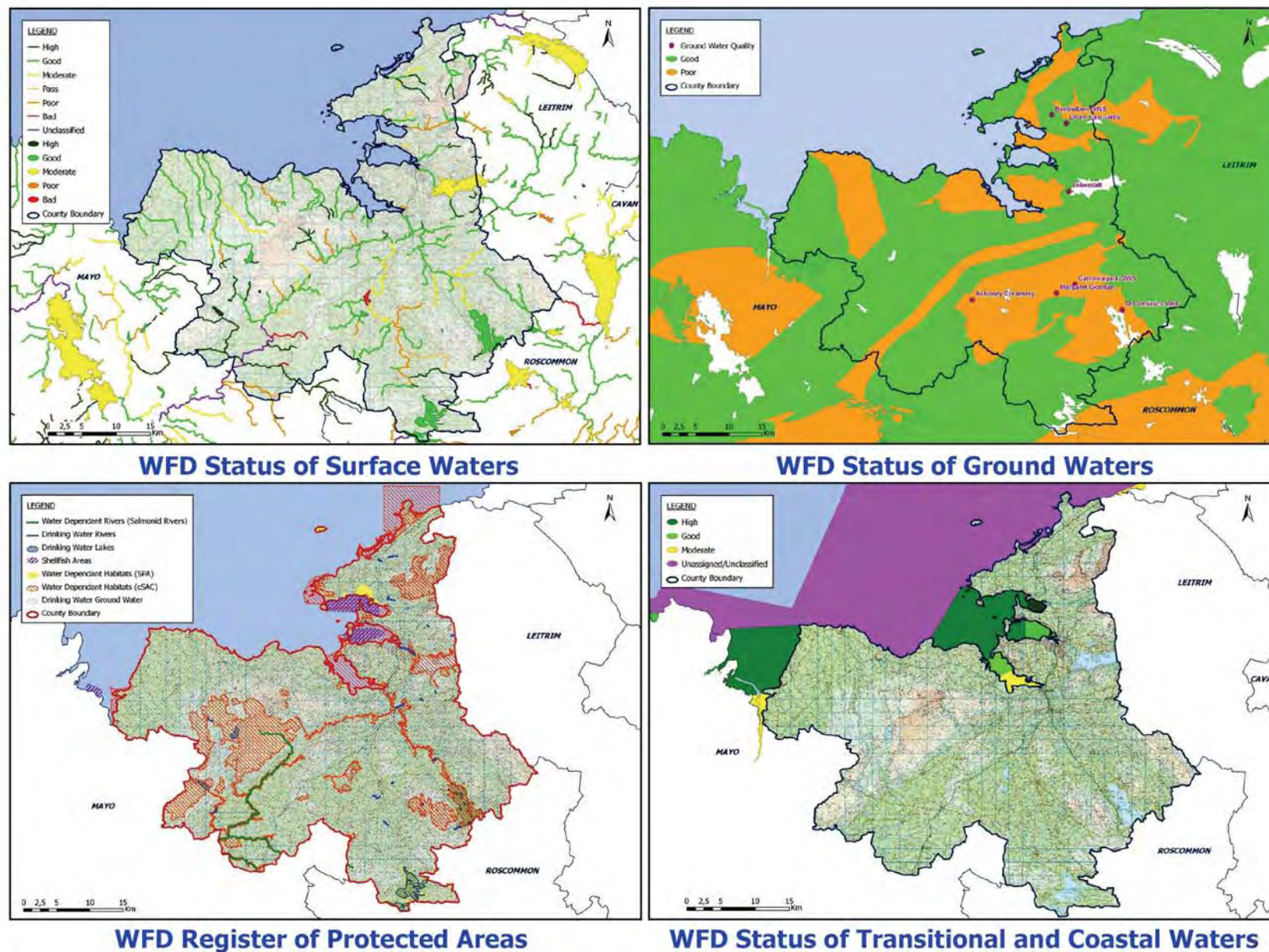


Figure 2.2 Environmental Sensitivities (Set 2 of 3)

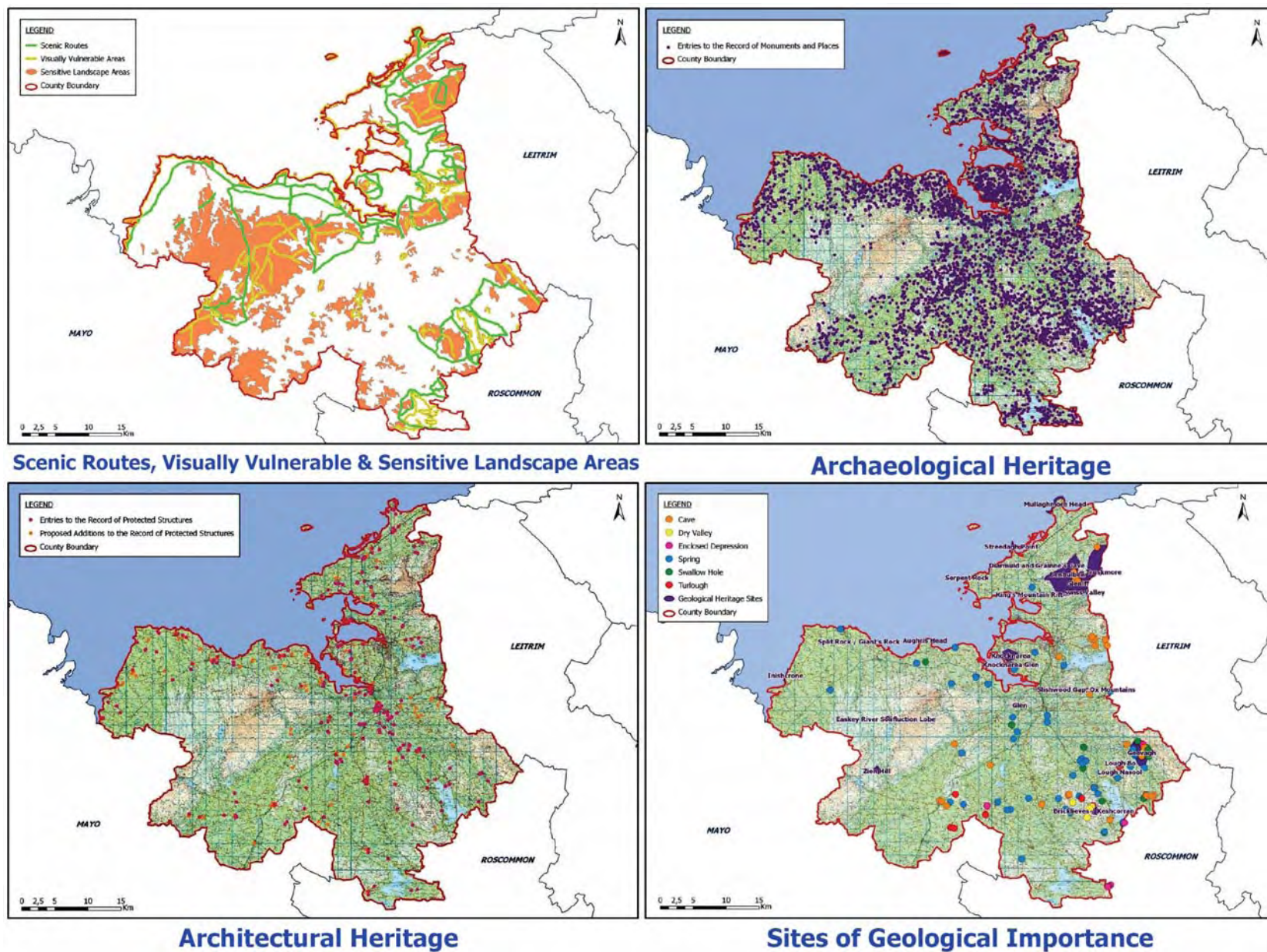


Figure 2.3 Environmental Sensitivities (Set 3 of 3)

Maps of sensitivities were weighted and mapped overlapping each other in order to identify where most sensitivities occur.

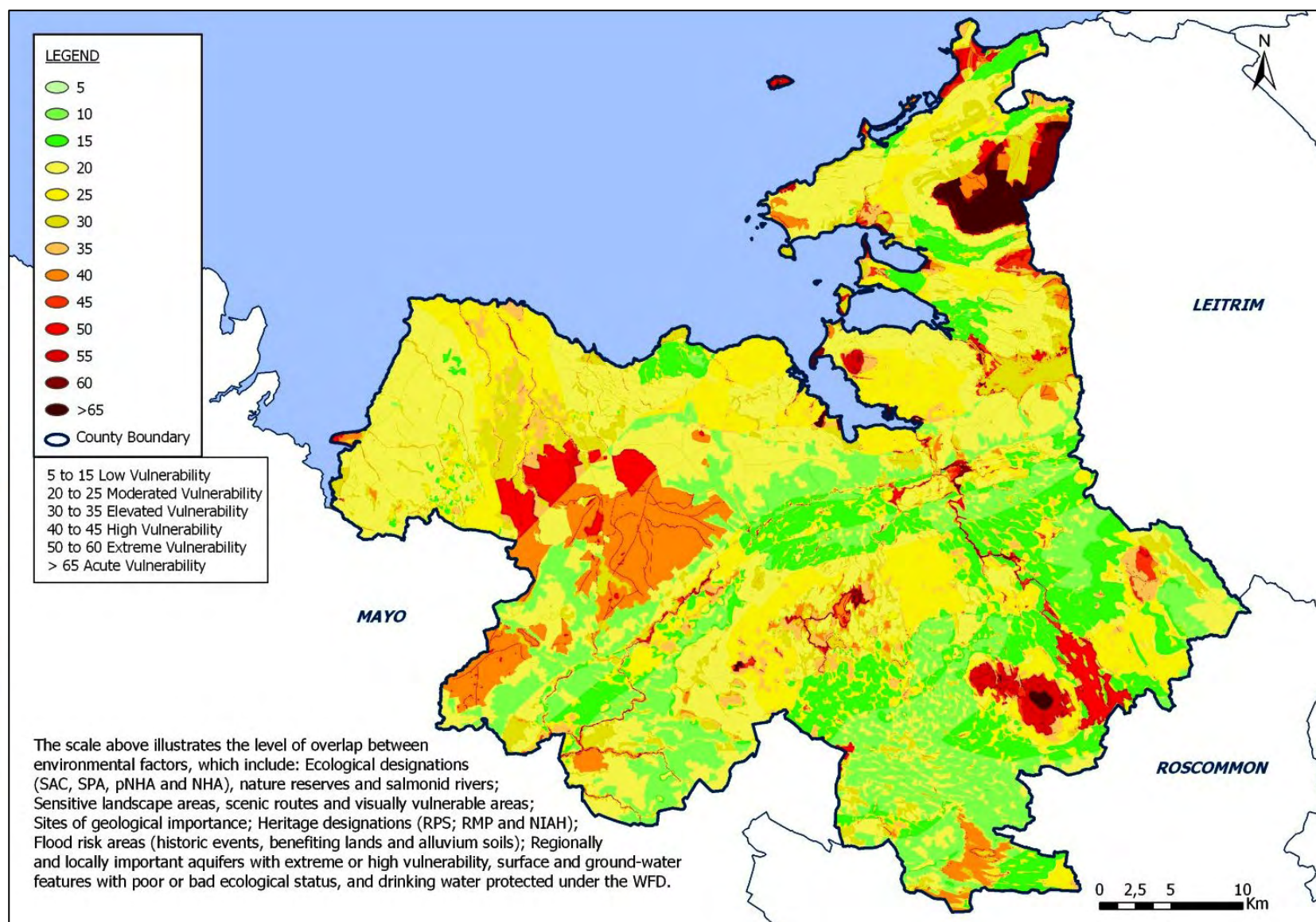


Figure 2.4 Overlay of Environmental Sensitivities

2.5 Mitigation

2.5.1 Introduction

Mitigation measures are measures envisaged to prevent, reduce and, as fully as possible, offset any significant adverse impacts on the environment of implementing the County Development Plan.

Mitigation involves ameliorating significant negative effects. Where there are significant negative effects, consideration is given in the first instance to preventing such effects or, where this is not possible for stated reasons, to lessening or offsetting those effects. Mitigation measures can be roughly divided into those that: *avoid* effects; *reduce* the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effects; *repair* effects after they have occurred, and; *compensate* for effects, balancing out negative impacts with other positive ones.

Mitigation was achieved by taking into account the findings of the SEA (and the AA and SFRA) through the:

- Consideration of alternatives;
- Integration of environmental considerations into the zoning contained in Mini Plans;
- Addition of Policies and Objectives; and
- Re-wording of Policies and Objectives contained in earlier drafts of the Plan.

2.5.2 Mitigation through Consideration of Alternatives

A range of potential alternative development scenarios for the County Development Plan were identified at an early stage in the process and evaluated for their likely significant environmental effects (see Section 4).

The environmental effects of implementing the alternatives were predicted and evaluated. Communication of the findings of this evaluation helped the Planning team make an informed choice as to which alternative was to be put before the Members of the Council. Communication of this evaluation to the Members of the Council through this report will help the Members to make an informed choice with regard to the making of the Plan.

2.5.3 Mitigation Integrated into 'Mini' Plans

The Plan includes a number of settlement or 'Mini' plans. Environmental considerations have been integrated into the land use zoning objectives contained in these Plans through the SEA process from the SEA Scoping stage to the submission of the draft Plan to the Elected Members.

Careful consideration in particular has been paid to the protection of Natura 2000 Sites and to flood risk through the SEA, AA and SFRA processes.

2.5.4 Mitigation by Addition of Policies and Objectives

In order to mitigate environmental effects, comply with various statutory requirements and in order to comply with the requirements of the statutory consultees, measures were recommended to be integrated into the Plan. In addition to these measures the Council proactively integrated a number of measures into the Plan which also provide for the integration of environmental considerations into the Plan and mitigation of potential effects.

Table 2.1 arrays potential environmental effects of implementing the Plan together with the measures which have been integrated into the Plan. The reference codes identified are those which accompany the relevant measures in both the Plan and Section 8 of the Environmental Report.

2.5.5 Re-wording of Plan Provisions

This section shows how certain Plan provisions were reworded as a result of the SEA and AA processes. The **green** text is new text added to the original policy/objective.

Aquaculture, mariculture and fishing policies:

P-AMF-1 Encourage and facilitate sustainable mariculture development associated with job creation, in a manner that is compatible with other uses of the Sligo coast, **and subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive, Water Framework Directive & provisions of the European Communities (Quality of Shellfish Waters)**

Regulations and objectives of Shellfish Pollution Reduction Programmes”.

P-AMF-3 Support and facilitate the development of the existing fishing industry, **where such development is compatible with provisions for the protection of the Natura 2000 network**

P-AMF-4 Encourage the expansion of sport fishing, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

Tourism development policies:

P-TOU-5 Provide signposting and improve roads, existing amenity and viewing areas, and provide for car parking, public facilities and access in scenic areas, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

P-TOU-6 In recognising the special amenity value of mountains, moorlands and forests, valleys and lakes, it is the Council's policy to encourage use of these areas for activities such as touring, sightseeing, mountaineering, and hillwalking, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**. This will be done in co-operation with state agencies and other interested bodies and local community groups. In this regard, the Council will, within financial resources, improve access and create public rights of way.

P-TOU-9 Support and promote, with the co-operation of private landowners, public access to heritage sites and features of natural heritage, geological and archaeological interest, coastal areas, islands, mountains, rivers, lakes and other natural amenities, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

P-TOU-10 Promote the development of eco-tourism and other leisure activities, in an effort to diversify the range of tourist experiences available in the County and extend the tourist season, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

Tourism development objectives:

O-TOU-1 Secure the establishment of a flagship visitor attraction in the County, subject to normal development control standards **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

O-TOU-2 **Examine the feasibility of** providing a walkway through Union Wood, subject to availability of resources **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

Coastal zone tourism policies:

P-CZT-1 Ensure that future caravan, camping and parking facilities in coastal areas will not be visually intrusive or impact on sensitive coastal environments (e.g. sand dune systems), by requiring, inter alia, appropriate siting, layout, design and natural screening, **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

P-CZT-2 **Ensure** continued compliance with EU Directives on water quality for all bathing beaches.

P-CZT-4 Maintain and develop small piers and harbours along the Sligo Coast, subject to funding **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**.

Coastal zone tourism objectives:

O-CZT-1 Manage and control car parking and vehicular and pedestrian movements on beaches and within dunes and other vulnerable areas. **The management and control of car parking shall be carried out in compliance with the Habitats Directive where relevant.**

O-CZT-2 Develop green parking areas in appropriate coastal locations, i.e. soft areas that can be left in their natural state during out-of-season months and used to provide overflow facilities during peak periods. **The development of such car parking areas shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-CZT-5 Liaise with the National Trails Advisory Committee to investigate the possibility of providing a coastal path along the coastline of County Sligo with a right-of-way status and liaise with counties Mayo, Leitrim and Donegal to set-up a study group to advance this matter. The study group should be established within one year from the adoption of this Plan. **Development of a coastal path shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Sports, recreation and open space policies:

P-SRO-9 Preserve and improve access for the public to lakes, coastal, riverside, upland and other areas that have traditionally been used for outdoor recreation, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

European and national designated natural heritage sites – objectives:

O-NH-3 When considering any plan or project **prepared or assessed on the basis of this development plan**, the planning authority must comply fully with Article 6 of the EU Habitats Directive (as transposed into Irish Law by the EU Habitats Regulations 1997 and subsequent amendments) and assess whether the plan or project is likely to have a significant impact upon the integrity, conservation objectives and qualifying interests of any Natura 2000 site.

O-NH-5 Establish and maintain an up-to-date planning register of all previously **adopted and proposed plans/programmes and all** granted and proposed developments which are likely to have a significant effect (directly or through indirect cumulative/in-combination effects impact) on European Sites within or adjoining the County, to allow for the appropriate assessment of potential 'ex situ' and cumulative/in combination effects **of proposed plans, programmes and projects** on such sites.

Landscape character assessment and protection policies:

P-LCAP-8 Promote the development of tourism in a sustainable manner and encourage the provision of a comprehensive range of tourist facilities, subject to location, siting, design **criteria and compliance with the Habitats Directive**

Landscape character assessment and protection objectives:

O-LCAP-3 Seek to preserve the landscape character of County Sligo by assessing all development proposals against the provisions of the Development Control Policy Map. **Planning applications that have the potential to impact significantly and adversely upon landscape character or scenic views may be required to be accompanied by a visual impact assessment using agreed and**

appropriate viewing points and methods for the assessment.

Mobility - strategic policies:

SP-MOB-6 Promote the reopening of the Western Rail Corridor from Athenry to Sligo, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

SP-MOB-9 Promote improved access to and sustainable development and operation of Sligo Regional Airport and Sligo Port. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Public transport policies:

P-PT-4 Promote the development of the Western Rail Corridor, as a strategic transport corridor linking Sligo and the North-West with Mayo, Galway and Limerick. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Public transport objectives:

O-PT-2 Examine the feasibility of a rail link between Sligo and Derry via Manorbhamilton and Enniskillen, and the integration of such a rail link with new national road alignments and designs, i.e. N16 (Enniskillen Road). **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive**

National roads objectives:

O-NR-1 Facilitate programmed improvements to the National Road network, including the programme of realignments and upgrades, as set out in Table 8.B, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Water supply objectives:

O-WS-1 Complete the construction of the new water treatment plant at Kilsellagh, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-2 Complete the planning and construction of the new water treatment plant at Lough Talt **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-3 Extend the existing water treatment plant at Foxes Den (depending on future growth in the Sligo and Environs area), **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-4 Carry out a strategic review of both North Sligo and Lough Easky Regional Water Supply Schemes. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-9 Continue to implement the annual Rural Water Programme.. **Any development that occurs through the implementation of this policy shall be subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WS-10 Advance all the schemes listed on the Water Services Investment Programmes, **subject to compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Wastewater objectives:

O-WW-2 Complete the planning and construction of the new wastewater treatment plant at Ballintogher, Bunnanadden, Cliffony, Ballinacarrow, Mullaghmore and Ballygawley, subject to necessary approvals **and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

O-WW-4 Complete the planning stage for upgrade works to Collooney and Ballymote WWTPs, **subject to necessary approvals and compliance with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.**

Objectives for coastal protection:

O-CP-3 Monitor existing dune management schemes on an ongoing basis and effect appropriate repairs, improvements and extensions, subject to the availability of resources **and compliance with the Habitats Directive.**

| Likely Significant Effect, if unmitigated | Mitigation Measure Reference(s) from the Plan (including) |
|--|--|
| Loss of biodiversity with regard to Natura 2000 Sites and habitats and species listed under Annexes I and II of the Directive | Objectives: O-NH-1, O-NH-2, O-NH-3, O-NH-4, O-NH-5, O-NH-5a and O-NH-6 |
| Loss of biodiversity with regard to ecological connectivity and stepping stones | Policies: P-NH-6, P-NH-7 and P-NH-10 |
| Loss of rural management practices | Various provisions of the Core Strategy, Economic Development Strategy, Housing and other sectoral Chapters |
| Failure to maximise the sustainable reuse of brownfield lands | Various provisions of Plan including those in Core Strategy and Housing Chapters |
| Spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from exposure to incompatible land uses | See measures related to soils, water protection, water services and air and noise. |
| Pollution and/or contamination of soils. | See measures related to water protection and water services. |
| Adverse impacts upon the quality of water bodies (rivers, lakes, transitional waters, coastal, ground waters) | Policies: P-WQ-1, P-WQ-2, P-WQ-3, P-WQ-4, P-WQ-9 and P-MEQ-6 Objectives O-WQ-1, O-WQ-2 and O-WQ-8 |
| Adverse impacts upon the quality of bathing waters | Policy: P-WQ-5 |
| Flooding | Policies: P-FRM-1, P-FRM-2, P-FRM-3, P-FRM-4, P-FRM-5, -FRM-6, P-FRM-7, P-FRM-8, P-FRM-9, P-FRM-10, P-FRM-11 and P-FRM-12 Objectives: O-FRM-1, O-FRM-2, O-FRM-3 and O-FRM-4 |
| Inadequate waste water treatment for new populations | Strategic Objectives: SO-W-2 and SO-W-5 Policies: P-WW-1, P-WW-3, P-WW-9, P-WW-14, P-WW-17, P-WW-18 and P-WW-21 Objectives: O-WW-6 and O-WW-8 |
| Inadequate drinking water supply for new populations & Reduction in water quality which would present a potential danger to human health | Strategic Objectives: SO-W-2 and SO-W-5 Policies: P-WS-1 and P-WS-6 Objectives: O-WS-7 |
| Increases in travel related greenhouse gas emissions and increases in car dependency | Policies: SP-MOB-1, SP-MOB-2, SP-MOB-4, SP-MOB-5, SP-MOB-6 and O-CW-5 Objectives: SO-MOB-1, SO-MOB-2, P-CW-2 and P-CW-3 |
| Effects on archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places | Policies: P-AH-1, P-AH-2, P-AH-3, P-AH-4 and P-AH-5 Objectives: O-AH-1, O-AH-6, O-CIP-2, O-CIP-3, O-CIP-4, O-CIP-6 and O-CIP-8 |
| Effects on architectural heritage including entries to the Records of Protected Structures and Architectural Conservation Areas | Policies: P-BH-2, P-BH-6 and P-BH-16 Objectives: O-BH-1, O-BH-2 and O-BH-8 |
| Visual impacts to sensitive landscapes and designated scenic views | Policy: P-LCAP-3 Objectives: O-LCAP-1, O-LCAP-3, O-LCAP-4, O-LCAP-5, O-LCAP-6 and O-LCAP-7 |

Table 2.1 Mitigation Measures

Section 3 Environmental Report and Submissions & Observations

3.1 Introduction

This section details how both the Environmental Report and submissions and observations made to the planning authority on the Environmental Report and SEA process have been taken into account during the preparation of the Plan.

3.2 SEA Scoping Submissions

As noted under Section 2.1:

- A written submission on the scope of the SEA was received from the EPA and this was taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA; and
- Representatives from the EPA, the Western River Basin District Project Office, Sligo County Council's Water Services, Environment and Forward Planning sections and CAAS attended an SEA Scoping Meeting on 10 February 2010.

The EPA submission and the information provided at the meetings - including that which relating to AA - was taken into account during the formulation of the scope of the SEA.

The EPA's scoping submission covered a number of topics including:

- Drinking Water;
- Urban Waste Water Discharges;
- Wetlands Conservation and Protection;
- Appropriate Assessment;
- Scoping Meetings/Workshops;
- Possible Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan;
- Production of an SEA Statement; and,
- Giving Notice to the Environmental Authorities.

3.3 Submissions and Observations

The EPA and DEHLG made submissions on the Development Plan and Environmental Report while they were on public display. The information contained in these submissions was

taken into account by the SEA as well as the Appropriate Assessment which was undertaken for the Plan.

The submissions resulted in the following updates being made to the Environmental Report which were identified as follows:

[new text in green; deleted text in ~~strikethrough~~]

A) To update Section 3.2.4.8 of the SEA ER as follows:

There are no areas within the County or near the County boundary which have a specified Freshwater Pearl Mussel population and hence a Draft Sub-Basin Management Plan, ~~however; the Easky River is known to contain a healthy population of Freshwater Pearl Mussel⁴. Even though this river is not designated for the species, Freshwater Pearl Mussel is afforded protection under Section 23 of the Wildlife Act, 1976 (amended Section 31, 2000).~~

B) To add the following text to Section 3.5.3 of the SEA ER:

Pollution Reduction Programmes are carried out to improve water quality in designated Shellfish Areas and also to ensure compliance with the Quality of Shellfish Waters Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 268 of 2006) (as amended) for the designated shellfish growing waters at designated Shellfish Areas and with Article 5 of Directive 2006/113/EC of the European parliament and of the Council on the quality required for shellfish waters.

The PRPs stem from the work undertaken in the characterisation reports carried out under the Water Framework Directive (WFD). The WFD characterisation reports provide prioritised lists of pressures/impacts/effects on water quality. The PRPs take these prioritised lists and address each issue with specific measures

⁴ Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (2010) Submission on the Draft Sligo County Development Plan 2011-2017, dated 8 September 2010

from the National Toolkit to help ensure that compliance with the relevant water quality standards is achieved. The National Toolkit has been derived from earlier work carried out on the River Basin Management Plans under the WFD, reflecting the common objective to improve water quality in the two Directives. An example of such a measure for waste water treatment plants would be to “impose development controls where there is, or is likely to be in the future, insufficient capacity at treatment plants”.

C) To insert the following sentence into Section 3.6.5 of the SEA ER:

Measures have been integrated into the draft Plan which contribute towards solving the problems above relating to waste water treatment and water supply - these measures are identified in Sections 9.4.7 and 9.4.8.

D) To replace the version of the Overlay Map that appears in the SEA ER as Figure 3.45 with a version that includes coastal designated sites and the Water Framework Directive Coastal Risk Assessment.

E) To include a sub-section in Section 3 of the SEA ER specifically summarising inter-relationships between the relevant environmental components detailed elsewhere in the report.

F) To update Section 4.2.1.5 of the SEA ER as follows:

Prior to statutory designation, pNHAs are subject to limited protection, in the form of:

- ~~o Rural Environment Protection Scheme (REPS) plans which require conservation of pNHAs and operate for a period of 5 years;~~
- o Forest Service requirement for NPWS approval before they will pay afforestation grants on pNHA lands; and/or,
- o Recognition of the ecological value of pNHAs by Planning and Licensing Authorities.

G) To update SEO L1 as follows:

SEO L1: To avoid significant adverse impacts on the landscape, especially with regard to landscapes which are most valuable and most

sensitive to change - including seascapes and coastscapes - and protected views and routes.

H) To add the following sentence to Section 7.2 of the SEA ER:

Each of the schematic diagrams of the 3 alternative scenarios were considered alongside the Overlay Mapping of environmental sensitivities in order to show locations where conflicts would be likely to occur in the future. It is noted that this mapping does not take account of all factors such as waste water treatment capacity or the assimilative capacity of individual sections of rivers. The Overlay Mapping and the mapping of individual environmental components were considered by the Council during the preparation of the draft Plan.

I) To include the following sentence at the end of Section 10.5 of the SEA ER:

Indicators and targets will be reviewed during the preparation of the preliminary monitoring evaluation report.

J) Updating the AA - Assessment of the cumulative impact of the mini-plans will be clarified by inclusion of a table in the screening statement that indicates where more than one plan will impact on a particular Natura 2000 site. An additional policy will be included to emphasise the requirement to examine cumulative impacts of the implementation of the mini-plans identified in this table.

3.4 Environmental Report

The Environmental Report and the Draft Plan were placed on public display in June 2010.

Addendum I to the Environmental Report (which details responses to the submissions on the Environmental Report which were made during the period of public display of the Draft Plan and the Environmental Report) accompanied the Manager's Report circulated to Elected Members. Addendum I proposed updates to the Environmental Report as a result of submissions, as appropriate.

Proposed Amendments to the Draft Plan were evaluated for their environmental consequences and these were placed on public display alongside the Proposed Amendments in

February 2011 the form of Addendum II to the Environmental Report.

On adoption of the Draft Plan, the Addenda were used to update the original Environmental Report into a final Environmental Report which is available alongside the adopted Plan.

At each stage of the process the Elected Members took into account the findings of the Environmental Report and/or the Addenda as appropriate.

Section 4 Alternatives and the Plan

4.1 Introduction

This section summarises the alternative scenarios for the Development Plan, the evaluation of these scenarios and the reasons for choosing the Plan, as adopted, in the light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with.

4.2 Description of the Alternative Scenarios

The environmental consequences of 3 scenarios for the Plan were examined.

4.2.1 Alternative Scenario 1: *Recent Trends - demand led growth*

Overzoning, developer-led growth and an increase in the number of one-off rural housing have been the main features of recent years in County Sligo.

According to 2006 Census data, just one year after the adoption of the CDP 2005-2011 growth in the satellite villages had already attained levels beyond what was envisaged in the Settlement Strategy and sustainable in terms of Gateway promotion. Furthermore, the zoning of much more land than what was realistically needed in certain settlements has now resulted in a large number of vacant dwellings. Some of the Key Satellites of Sligo, but also other villages located in majority in the Sligo Sub-region, have been affected by these trends.

At the same time, there has been a small but steady growth in rural one-off houses, not just in the rural areas in need of regeneration, but also in the rural areas under strong urban influence. This growth did not appear to be hindered by the rural housing policies, which were nonetheless drawn up in accordance with the Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines.

It should be emphasised that the type of development outlined in this scenario has occurred not in the absence of a Plan, but during the life and within the framework provided by the Sligo County Development Plan 2005-2011. This was possible partly because the bulk of planning permissions which led to excess housing provision in the “wrong” locations were

granted before the adoption of the Plan, and partly because of overzoning in the mini-plans, without regard to the settlement strategy and recommended population levels. It is noted that overzoning has also occurred as part of preparing the LAPs, which were all adopted before the County Development Plan 2005-2011.

Alternative Scenario 1 (see Figure 4.1) provides for the continuation of the above parallel trends into the period 2011-2017, which would result in the undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns with subsequent loss of economies of scale and synergies capable of fostering sustainable urban growth. More descriptively, the Scenario would result in:

- The occurrence of population growth predominantly in a few settlements where overzoning and consequent substantial housing development have taken place;
- The Gateway would continue to stagnate and even to lose population to the satellites and smaller villages in the Sub-region where there is an excess of housing and further zoned land; and,
- Growth in Key Support Towns and consolidation of smaller villages would be hindered by the lack of new residents, as newly-formed households are drawn into overgrown satellites of Sligo or choose to settle in rural locations outside of towns and villages, particularly in Rural Areas in Need of Regeneration.

4.2.2 Alternative Scenario 2: *Spreading out development - small village catch up*

There are many settlements in County Sligo where very little or no development has taken place during the construction boom, primarily because no tax incentives were available for house construction at those locations.

It could be argued that these and other similar settlements also “deserve” their “fair” share of future growth, alongside the towns and villages that have already seen a substantial amount of development in recent years.

Alternative Scenario 2 (see Figure 4.2) provides for sufficient land to be zoned and serviced in those Sligo villages that were “*left behind*” and advocates adequate infrastructure to be put in place in order to cater for population and employment growth in these locations.

This scenario would result in:

- A degree of population growth in the more attractive and better serviced villages as a result of residential zoning and additional infrastructural commitments;
- Continued stagnation or loss of the Gateway’s population to the satellites and smaller villages in the Sub-region where there is an excess of housing; and,
- The hindrance of growth in Key Support Towns, as newly-formed households occupy vacant houses in Gateway satellites or prefer to settle in smaller villages or outside settlements, in rural areas, particularly in “rural areas in need of regeneration”.

4.2.3 Alternative Scenario 3: *Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*

The development of the Gateway as envisaged in the National Spatial Strategy and the consolidation of a number of key towns that provide services to rural areas are the main elements of Alternative Scenario 3 (see Figure 4.3).

In order to channel growth into these selected locations, development in other, non-strategic

locations would be confined to levels that would not undermine the potential of the Gateway and Key Support Towns.

No additional residential development would take place in the majority of the satellites, where housing is already in excess supply. This would be achieved through the introduction of a moratorium on the construction of multiple-housing schemes, which would be reviewed in 2013, two years after the next Census.

The Key Support Towns would see a limited amount of growth, in a reasonable proportion to their existing population, and only small-scale residential development would be facilitated in small villages that need new residents in order to retain and support local services.

Under this scenario:

- The loss of Gateway population could be halted and possibly reversed;
- Key Support Towns would develop in proportion to their strategic role and size;
- There would be small-scale population growth in smaller villages; and,
- The further growth of satellites would be curtailed.

It is acknowledged that some of the satellites and other villages have new wastewater treatment plants with a capacity much higher than their existing and envisaged population. However, wastewater treatment capacity is only one in an array of planning issues that must be taken into consideration when determining the optimal population level in a particular settlement for the period of a development plan.

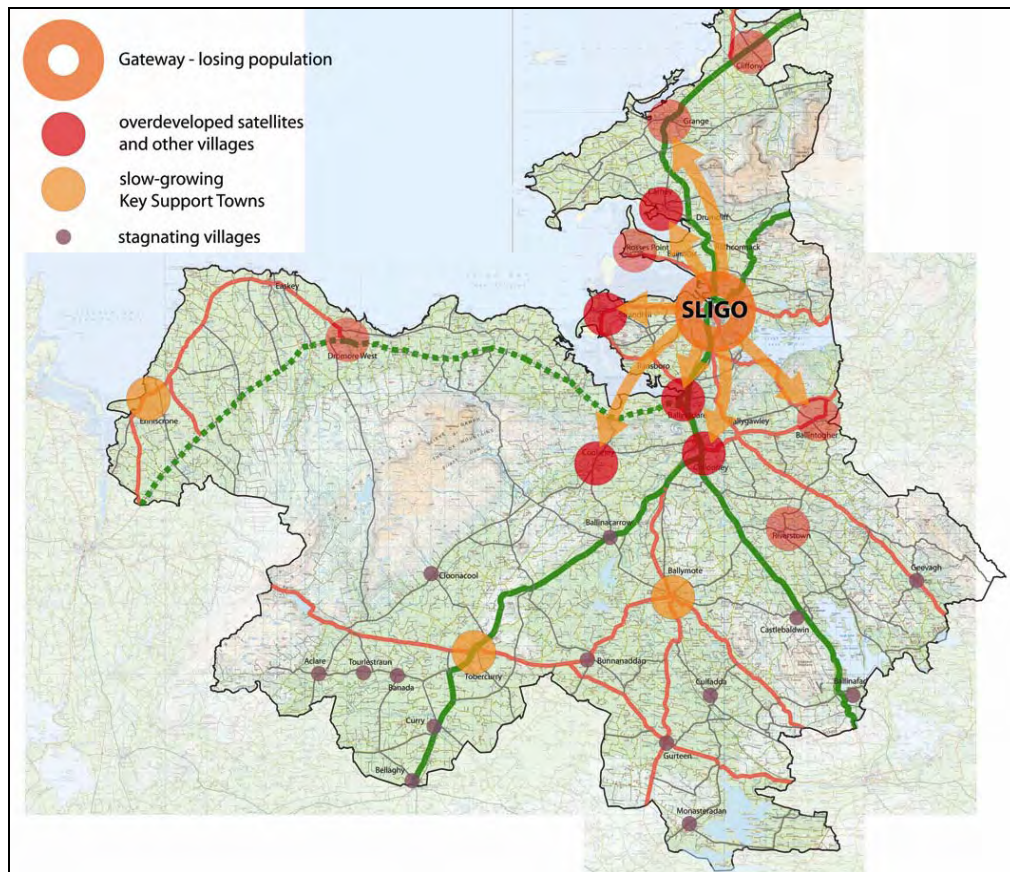


Figure 4.1 Scenario 1: *Recent Trends - demand led growth*

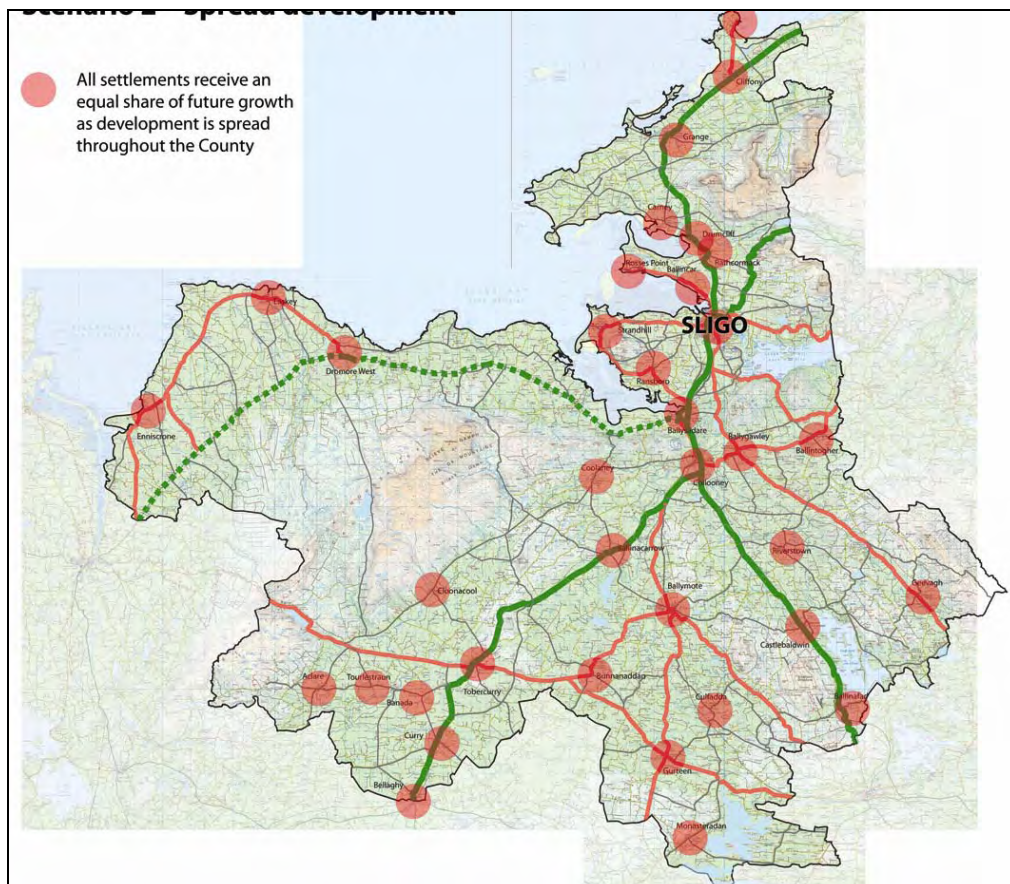


Figure 4.2 Scenario 2: *Spreading out development - small village catch up*

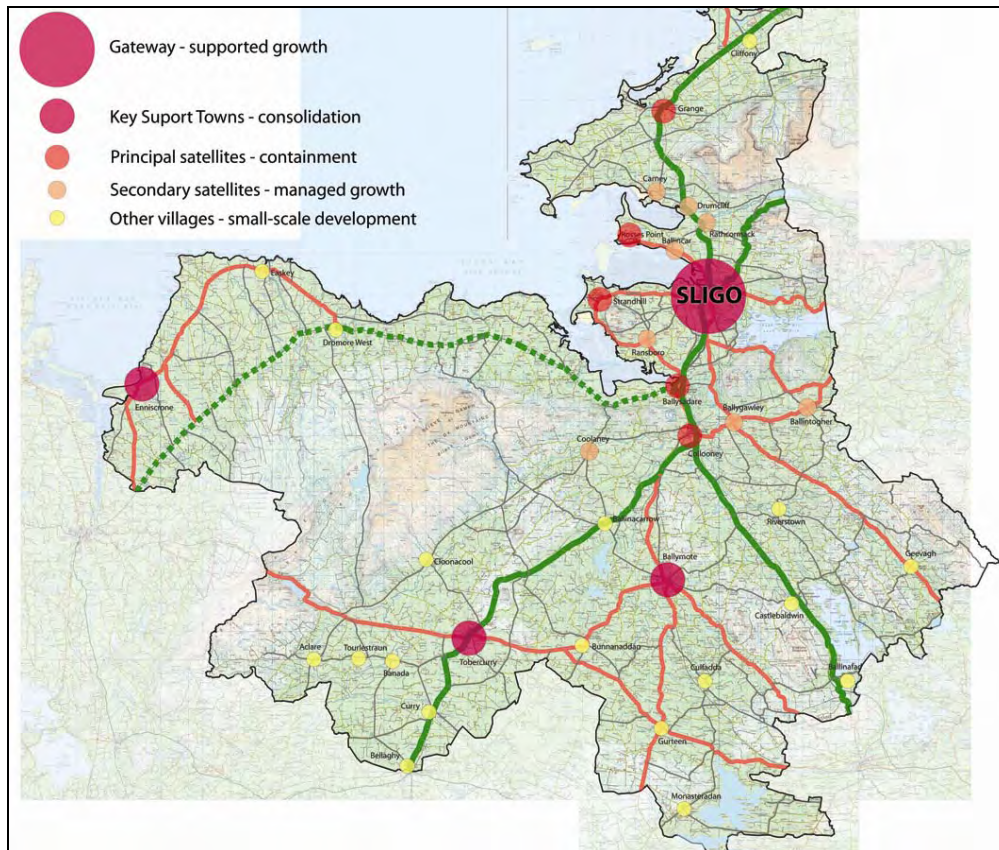


Figure 4.3 Scenario 3: *Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*

4.3 Evaluation of the Alternative Scenarios

4.3.1 Methodology

This section summarises the evaluation of the Alternative Scenarios which is found in Section 7 of the Environmental Report. Scenarios are evaluated in a succinct and focused way for both planning and environmental impacts against both the existing environment - using, inter alia, the maps shown on Figure 2.1 to Figure 2.4 - and Strategic Environmental Objectives (methodological measures which are developed from international, national and regional policies which generally govern environmental protection objectives and against which the environmental effects of the Plan and the alternatives can be tested).

4.3.2 Alternative Scenario 1: *Recent Trends - demand led growth*

4.3.2.1 Environmental Effects

Adverse

Continued growth in the 11 overdeveloped satellites and other villages (Cliffony, Grange, Carney, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Ballisodare, Collooney, Dromore West, Coolaney, Riverstown and Ballintogher), 6 of which (Cliffony, Grange, Rosses Point, Strandhill, Collooney and Ballintogher) have current loadings that exceed current waste water treatment capacity, would have a negative effect by increasing in pressure on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality – particularly in the north-east of the county.

Dispersed development on the outskirts of overdeveloped satellites and other villages would give rise to continued cumulative pressure – particularly in the north-east of the County – on:

- Groundwater and surface water quality;

- Archaeological and architectural heritage;
- The landscape and visual amenity; and
- The continuity and integrity of extensive habitats – such as hedges and streams.

The dispersed pattern of general settlement would lead to increased levels of those environmental effects associated with additional commuting which include:

- Increased energy consumption;
- Increased emissions to air; and
- Increased emissions of noise.

Increased levels of cumulative effects due to the provision and maintenance of extensive and more heavily trafficked roads – including effects on water quality, bio-diversity, landscape and cultural heritage – would be likely to occur.

There would be lower levels of efficiency and higher levels of operating costs with regard to the supply of environmental services to a dispersed population.

Beneficial

Growth would be concentrated away from Sligo and its immediate environs which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental [water and ecology] sensitivities within the County.

4.3.2.2 Planning Effects

- Oversized dormitory settlements would not be properly served in terms of commercial, social, community and recreational facilities, which were not developed in tandem with new housing and most of the residents of these settlements would have to commute to Sligo to work or school;
- Undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would result in losses to economies of scale - the cost of maintaining roads and providing environmental infrastructure (essentially water and wastewater treatment facilities) to more locations in the County would increase - and synergies capable of fostering sustainable urban growth;
- Undermining of population growth in the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would be at odds with higher level land use policy; and,

- There would be a potential reduction in vacancy in settlements such as Ballysadare or Collooney, combined with a parallel decrease in the demand for one-off houses.

4.3.3 Alternative Scenario 2: *Spreading out development - small village catch up*

4.3.3.1 Environmental Effects

Adverse

Continued growth in the vicinity of all settlements – many of which appear to have current loadings that exceed current waste water treatment capacity - will have a negative effect by increasing in pressure on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality – over a wide area – throughout the County.

Dispersed development on the outskirts of all settlements would give rise to continued cumulative pressure on:

- Groundwater and surface water quality;
- Archaeological and architectural heritage;
- The landscape and visual amenity; and
- The continuity and integrity of extensive habitats – such as hedges and streams.

The dispersed pattern of general settlement would lead to increased levels of those environmental effects associated with additional commuting which include:

- Increased energy consumption;
- Increased emissions to air; and
- Increased emissions of noise.

Increased levels of cumulative effects due to the provision and maintenance of extensive and more heavily trafficked roads – including effects on water quality, bio-diversity, landscape and cultural heritage – would be likely to occur.

There would be lower levels of efficiency and higher levels of operating costs with regard to the supply of environmental services to a dispersed population.

Beneficial

Growth would be concentrated away from Sligo and its immediate environs which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental

(water and ecology) sensitivities within the County.

4.3.3.2 Planning Effects

- Commuting would increase, with negative environmental effects and infrastructural cost impacts;
- Although this scenario might be seen as “fair” or “equitable” to all settlements, the spreading out of limited resources for transport and environmental infrastructure would result in significant losses to economies of scale and inevitably lead to insufficient or deficient provision of such services, effectively hindering growth in settlements and/or negatively impacting on the environment;
- Weakening the Gateway City and in the Key Support Towns would be at odds with higher level land use policy; and,
- Vacancy rates in settlements with excess housing supply - especially the overgrown satellites - would continue to remain high.

4.3.4 Alternative Scenario 3: *Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*

4.3.4.1 Environmental Effects

Adverse

Growth would concentrate on Sligo and its immediate environs which is the area with the highest concentration of environmental (water and ecology) sensitivities within the County. Appropriate water services infrastructure with sufficient capacity would need to be provided to development within the Gateway in order to mitigate effects on the estuarine water quality, water dependent habitats and human health.

Although limiting growth in other settlements across the County, this scenario does allow for a certain amount of growth these settlements. Such growth would potentially conflict with various aspects of the environment (protecting biodiversity and flora and fauna, human health, water resources, landscape and visual amenity and cultural heritage - architectural and archaeological -; reducing flood risk; providing appropriate water services infrastructure and capacity to new populations; minimising increases in travel related greenhouse emissions

to air and reducing car dependency; and, minimising greenfield development) however, such conflicts would be mitigated by adherence to environmental management and protection measures integrated into the scenario.

Beneficial

The curtailment of growth in four Principal Satellite Towns (Rosses Point, Collooney, Strandhill and Ballysadare) - three of which appear to have current loadings that exceed current waste water treatment capacity - and the limiting of growth in various other settlements across the County would reduce increases in pressures on surface, groundwater and estuarine water quality, ecology, landscape and cultural heritage – over the wider County area, outside of the Gateway.

Because of the concentrated nature of development provided for by this scenario, there would be a lower extent of environmental effects associated with less commuting - energy consumption and air and noise emissions - and there would be a more efficient use of installed and planned environmental infrastructure.

4.3.4.2 Planning Effects

- There would be benefits for retail, business and general economic competitiveness arising from the halting and possible reversing of Gateway population loss;
- Local retail and employment consolidation would be facilitated by the development of Key Support Towns in proportion to their strategic role and size;
- Services in smaller villages would be retained and supported as an effect of small-scale population growth in these villages;
- The further growth of satellites to the detriment of the Gateway would be curtailed, while vacancy rates would fall faster;
- Commuting would decrease as more people would live closer to their places of work or study;
- Environmental infrastructure could be provided in a more efficient, cost-effective manner;
- Well-served towns and villages could become more attractive to some of those who would otherwise settle in rural areas further decreasing commuting and

improving economies of scale in the provision of environmental infrastructure; and,

- Overall, it is considered that the Focused Growth Scenario is in accordance with the NSS principle of promoting growth in the Gateways while supporting the role of smaller towns and villages at local level.

4.3.5 Notes on Waste Water and Drinking Water

Waste Water

The avoidance of significant impacts upon the County's water resources and upon aquatic biodiversity and flora and fauna and human health is dependent on compliance of new developments with Plan provisions which require development in designated settlements to be accompanied by waste water treatment infrastructure with adequate capacity that would enable compliance with the Urban Waste Water Treatment Directive, Water Framework Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive.

Drinking Water

With regard to the treatment and disposal of waste water, limitations in the assimilative capacity of water bodies can be dealt with by engineering solutions. However, the capacity of water bodies to allow abstractions of water for human use without compromising the ability of the water bodies to meet legislative requirements - such as the Water Framework Directive - is limited and cannot be overcome by engineering solutions. Measures which recognise this limitation have been integrated into the Draft Plan.

4.4 Reasons for choosing the Plan in light of the other reasonable alternatives dealt with

The Alternatives that were examined were produced and evaluated at an earlier - more embryonic - stage to facilitate the evaluation and selection of a plan - having regard, *inter alia* to environmental consequences.

The Development Plan which emerged from the Plan preparation process and was adopted is Scenario 3 (*Focused growth - Gateway focus + key town consolidation*) - this Scenario achieves a good balance between potential environmental impact and conformance with relevant National and Regional planning objectives.

With the integration of appropriate mitigation measures (including those which are identified in Section 2.4 of this report) potential adverse environmental effects which could arise as a result of implementing this scenario would be likely to be avoided, reduced or offset.

Alternative Scenario 3 was chosen to be developed for the Development Plan by the plan-making team and adopted by the Elected Members having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects which were identified by the Strategic Environmental Assessment; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects.

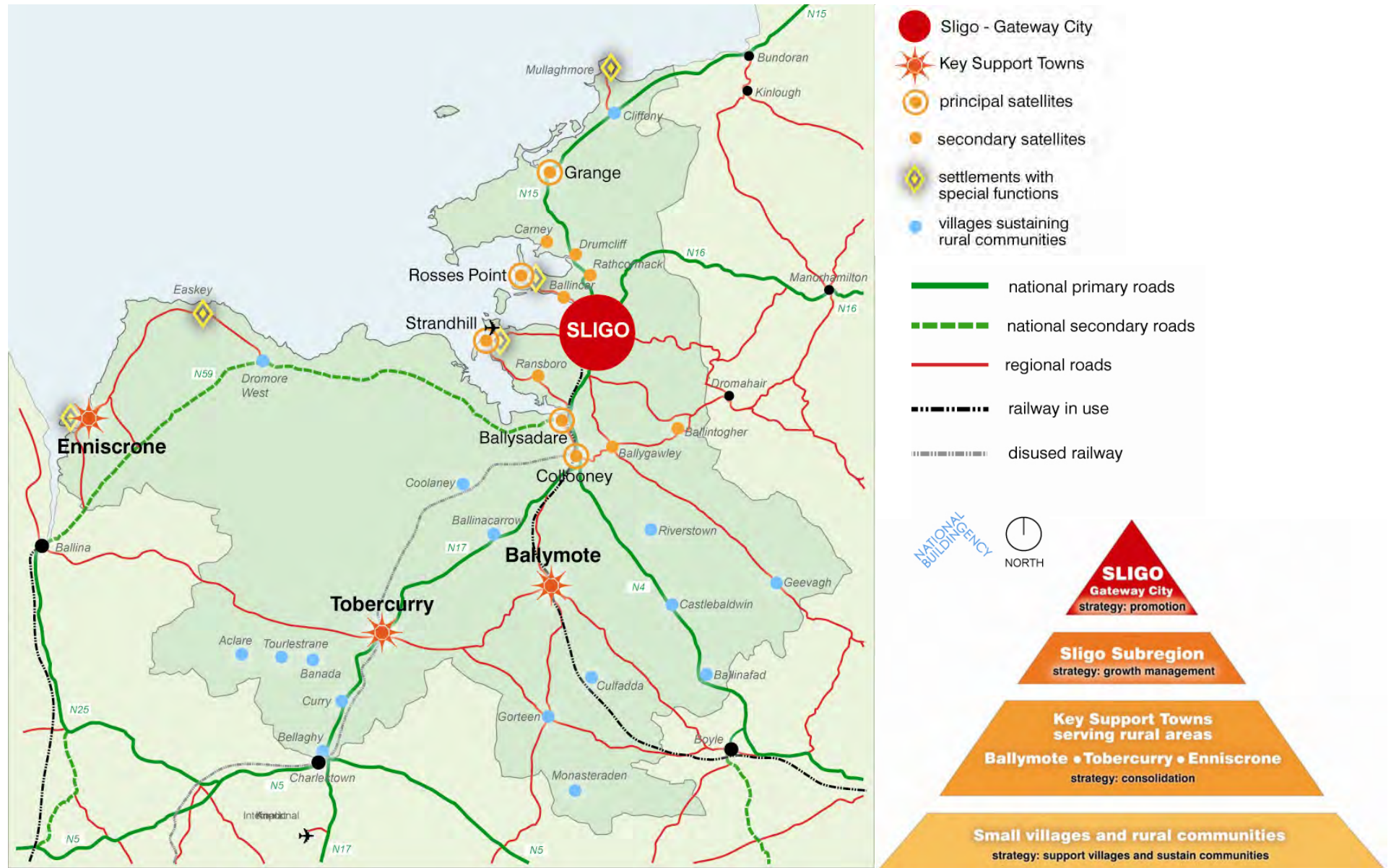


Figure 4.4 Plan Settlement Structure and Hierarchy Map & Settlement Strategy Principles

Section 5 Monitoring Measures

5.1 Introduction

The SEA Directive requires that the significant environmental effects of the implementation of plans and programmes are monitored. This section and Section 10 of the Environmental Report contain proposals for monitoring the likely significant effects of implementing the County Development Plan.

Monitoring enables, at an early stage, the identification of unforeseen adverse effects and the undertaking of appropriate remedial action. In addition to this, monitoring can also play an important role in assessing whether the Plan is achieving its environmental objectives and targets - measures which the Plan can help work towards - whether these need to be reexamined and whether the proposed mitigation measures are being implemented.

5.2 Indicators and Targets

Monitoring is based around the indicators which were chosen earlier in the process. These indicators allow quantitative measures of trends and progress over time relating to the Strategic Environmental Objectives used in the evaluation. Focus will be given to indicators which are relevant to the likely significant environmental effects of implementing the County Development Plan and existing monitoring arrangements will be used in order to monitor the selected indicators. Each indicator to be monitored will be accompanied by the relevant target(s) which were identified with regard to the relevant legislation.

Table 5.1 shows the indicators and targets which have been selected with regard to the monitoring of the Plan.

It is noted that with regard to Indicator B2, important macro-corridors, stepping stones and contiguous areas of habitat include the County's rivers, lakes, uplands and peatlands. It is recommended that important macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat are identified as part of the monitoring programme and that time resources are spent in the monitoring of these rather than in the monitoring of corridors or

areas of habitat which are not important at County level.

5.3 Sources

Measurements for indicators should come from existing monitoring sources and no new monitoring should be required to take place. Existing monitoring sources exist for each of the indicators and include those maintained by the Sligo County Council and other relevant authorities e.g. the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Parks and Wildlife Service and the Central Statistics Office.

Where significant adverse environmental effects - including positive, negative, cumulative and indirect - are likely to occur as a result of implementing relevant lower-tier plans and programmes such instances should be identified and recorded and should feed into the monitoring evaluation.

5.4 Reporting

A preliminary monitoring evaluation report on the effects of implementing the County Development Plan will be prepared to coincide with the Manager's report to the Elected Members on the progress achieved in securing Plan objectives within two years of the making of the Plan (this Manager's report is required under Section 15 of the 2000 Planning Act). Indicators and targets will be reviewed during the preparation of the preliminary monitoring evaluation report.

5.5 Responsibility

Sligo County Council is responsible for collating existing relevant monitored data, the preparation of preliminary and final monitoring evaluation reports, the publication of these reports and, if necessary, the carrying out of corrective action.

It is recommended that a Steering Committee be established within the Council to oversee the monitoring process.

5.6 Thresholds

Thresholds at which corrective action will be considered are as follows:

- boil notices on drinking water;
- fish kills;
- failure to achieve a classification of Sufficient under Directive 2006/7/EC by bathing waters;
- court cases taken by the DEHLG regarding impacts upon archaeological heritage including entries to the Record of Monuments and Places; and
- complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable environmental impacts resulting from development which is granted permission under the County Development Plan.

| Environmental Component | Selected Indicator(s) | Selected Target(s) | Source |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna | <p>B1: Conservation status of habitats and species as assessed under Article 17 of the Habitats Directive</p> <p>B2: Percentage loss of functional connectivity to macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat which are important on a County level without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan</p> <p>B3: Population of the County involved in land management</p> | <p>B1: Maintenance of favourable conservation status for all habitats and species protected under national and international legislation</p> <p>B2: No significant macro-corridors and contiguous areas of habitat or parts thereof which are important on a County level and which provide functional connectivity to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the Plan</p> <p>B3: Sustain the population of the County involved in land management</p> | <p>DEHLG report of the implementation of the measures contained in the Habitats Directive - as required by Article 17 of the Directive</p> <p>CORINE mapping resurvey, Consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service & Development Management Processes in the Council</p> <p>Central Statistics Office</p> |
| Population and Human Health | <p>P1: Area of brownfield lands developed over the Development Plan's lifespan</p> <p>HH1: Occurrence (any) of a spatially concentrated deterioration in human health arising from environmental factors as identified by the Health Service Executive and Environmental Protection Agency</p> | <p>P1: Reduced availability of brownfield land (subject to availability on the open market, the demand for such land and the ability for such lands to be sustainably re-used) at the end of the Development Plan lifespan</p> <p>HH1: No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors as a result of implementing the Plan</p> | <p>Development Management Process in the Council</p> <p>EPA and Health Service Executive</p> |
| Soil | S1: Number of instances of pollution and/or contamination of soil | S1: No significant instances pollution and/or contamination of soil | EPA |

| Environmental Component | Selected Indicator(s) | Selected Target(s) | Sources |
|-------------------------|--|---|---|
| Water | W1i: Classification of Overall Status (comprised of ecological and chemical status) under the European Communities Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 (SI No. 272 of 2009) | W1i: To achieve 'good status' in all bodies of surface waters by 2015 and to not knowingly allow deterioration in the status of any surface water | EPA |
| | W1ii: Poor, Sufficient, Good and Excellent classifications of bathing water as set by Directive 2006/7/EC | W1ii: To achieve - as a minimum - the 'Sufficient' classification as set by Directive 2006/7/EC, and where possible to achieve the 'Good' or 'Excellent' classifications | EPA |
| | W2: Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC | W2: Compliance with Groundwater Quality Standards and Threshold Values under Directive 2006/118/EC | EPA |
| | W3: Number of developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk | W3: Minimise developments granted permission on lands which pose - or are likely to pose in the future - a significant flood risk in compliance with <i>The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities</i> | Development Management Process in the Council |
| Material Assets | M1i: Number of new developments granted permission which can be adequately served with waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan | M1i: All new developments granted permission to be connected to and adequately served by waste water treatment over the lifetime of the Plan | Development Management Process in the Council |
| | M1ii: Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council | M1ii: For the Council to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan in compliance with the Water Services Act | Sligo County Council |

| Environmental Component | Selected Indicator(s) | Selected Target(s) | Sources |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Material Assets cont. | M2i: Number of non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health | M2i: No non-compliances with the 48 parameters identified in the European Communities (Drinking Water) Regulations (No. 2) 2007 which present a potential danger to human health as a result of implementing the Plan | EPA, EPA Remedial Action List and Sligo County Council |
| | M2ii ⁵ : Preparation of a Water Services Strategic Plan - in compliance with the Water Services Act - for the functional area of the Council | M2ii: For the Council to prepare a Water Services Strategic Plan in compliance with the Water Services Act | Sligo County Council |
| Air and Climatic Factors | C1i: Percentage of population within the County travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means | C1i: An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means | Central Statistics Office |
| | C1ii: Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County | C1ii: A decrease in the average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the County | Central Statistics Office |
| Cultural Heritage | CH1: Percentage of entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected | CH1: Protect entries to the Record of Monuments and Places - including Zones of Archaeological Potential - (and their context of the above within the surrounding landscape where relevant) | Development Management/ Enforcement Process in the Council; Complaints from statutory consultees |
| | CH2i: Percentage of entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant) protected | CH2i: Protect entries to the Record of Protected Structures (and/or their context within the surrounding landscape where relevant) | Development Management/ Enforcement Process in the Council; Complaints from statutory consultees |
| | CH2ii: Number of additions to the Record of Protected Structures and the number of additional ACAs | CH2ii: Make Additions to the Record of Protected Structures and make additional ACAs, where appropriate | Sligo County Council |

⁵ Indicator and Target M2i are the same as Indicator and Target M1

| Environmental Component | Selected Indicator(s) | Selected Target(s) | Sources |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Landscape | L1: Number of complaints received from statutory consultees regarding avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan | L1: No developments permitted which result in avoidable impacts on the landscape resulting from development which is granted permission under the Plan | Development Management/ Enforcement Process in the Council; Complaints from statutory consultees |

Table 5.1 Selected Indicators, Targets and Monitoring Sources