

**Comhairle Chontae Liatroma  
Leitrim County Council**

**Noise Action Plan 2018 – 2023  
Summary Report**

**September 2018**



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Section</b>	<b>Page</b>
<b>1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2. NOISE LIMIT VALUES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>3. SUMMARY OF NOISE MAPPING RESULTS</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>5. NOISE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS</b>	<b>9</b>

## 1. BACKGROUND/INTRODUCTION

EU Directive 2002/49/EC (known as the Environmental Noise Directive, or “END”) deals with the assessment and management of environmental noise.

The aim of the directive is to:

*Define a common approach intended to avoid, prevent or reduce on a prioritised basis the harmful effects, including annoyance, due to exposure to environmental noise.*

The Directive requires that Member States:

- Undertake strategic noise mapping to determine exposure to environmental noise.
- Ensure information on environmental noise and its effects is made available to the public.
- Adopt action plans, based upon the noise mapping results with a view to preventing and reducing environmental noise where necessary and particularly where exposure levels can induce harmful effects on human health, and to preserving environmental noise quality where it is good.

The Environmental noise regulations designate noise mapping bodies and action planning authorities for the making of strategic noise maps and noise action plans as follows:

### **Noise Mapping Bodies:**

- For major national roads, Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) is the noise mapping authority, on behalf of the action planning authority concerned.
- For major non-national roads, each local road authority is the noise mapping authority concerned.
- For major airports, the relevant airport authority is the noise mapping body, on behalf of the action planning authority concerned.
- For major railways, Iarnród Éireann or the Railway Procurement Authority, as appropriate, is the noise mapping body on behalf of the action planning authority concerned.

### **Action Planning Authorities**

The Action Planning Authorities are the Local Authorities within whose functional areas the major road/railway/airport/agglomerations are located.

Leitrim Local Authority is the Action Planning Authority for Co. Leitrim.

### **Leitrim Noise Action Plan Policy Statement**

*Leitrim Local Authority will seek to address environmental noise from major roads in the county, will endeavour to maintain satisfactory noise environments where they exist and will have regard to acoustical planning in the planning process (within the confines of the 2000 Planning and Development Act) to endeavour to ensure that future developments include provisions to protect the population from the effects of environmental noise in the interests of residential*

*amenity and public health. Leitrim Local Authority will use the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1992 under Sections 107 & 108 to take any necessary legal action to control noise.*

## **2. NOISE LIMIT VALUES IN PLACE**

There are no statutory limits in place in relation to environmental noise exposures at EU or national level. The EPA recommends that the proposed onset levels for assessment of noise mitigation measures for noise due to road traffic should be as follows:

- 70dB, L<sub>den</sub> and
- 57dB, L<sub>night</sub>

The proposed onset levels for assessment of noise level preservation for **quiet areas**, where the existing noise level is considered good are as follows:

- 55dB, L<sub>den</sub> and
- 45dB, L<sub>night</sub>

## **3. SUMMARY OF NOISE MAPPING RESULTS**

TII ran computerised noise modeling programmes for the relevant roads with volumes above 3 million vehicles per year and generated GIS grids of noise levels as an output of the noise modeling process. The resultant noise maps are a visual representation of the estimated noise level bands within each action plan area. *See Maps 2 & 3*

In Co. Leitrim, strategic noise maps and associated action plans were prepared for major roads only. The requirements for major railways, major airports or agglomerations of greater than 100,000 or 250,000 respectively do not apply.

For **Round One** the NRA did not identify any of the National Roads in County Leitrim as having greater than 6 million vehicles per year, nor did Leitrim Local Authority identify any regional road as being above the 6 million vehicle threshold.

For **Round Two** the NRA identified the following routes with more than 3 million vehicle per annum using Average Annual Daily Traffic counts (AADT):

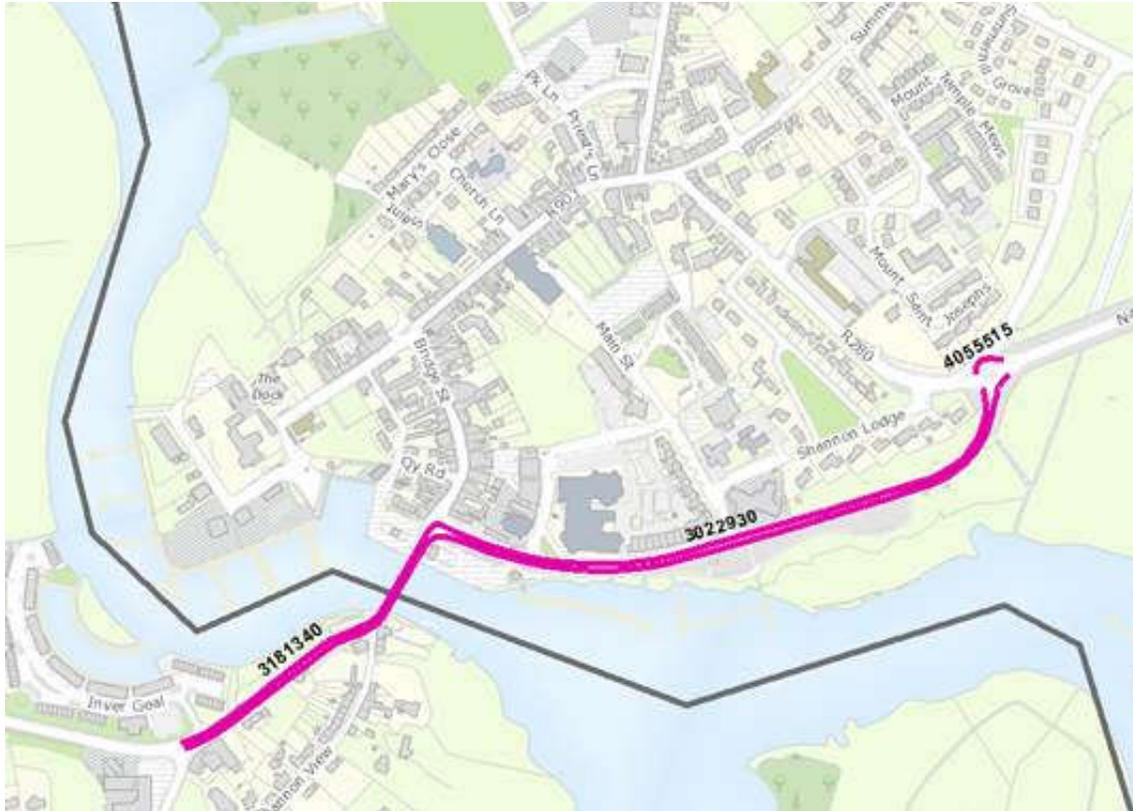
- The N4 from Rooskey to Carrick
- The N15 from the Sligo border to the Donegal border.

Leitrim Local Authority clarified that none of its non-national roads were in excess of 3 million vehicles per year.

For **Round Three** TII vehicle count data reveals that traffic volumes on the N4 and the N15 are below the 3 million vehicle threshold. However TII data suggests that a section of the N4 in Carrick on Shannon has in excess of 3 million vehicles per annum. (See **Map 1**)

Therefore for continuity purposes strategic noise mapping for both the N4 and N15 in Co. Leitrim has been carried out in order to avoid any gaps in the national road network.

**Map 1: N4 Traffic count data for Carrick on Shannon (TII noise mapping)**



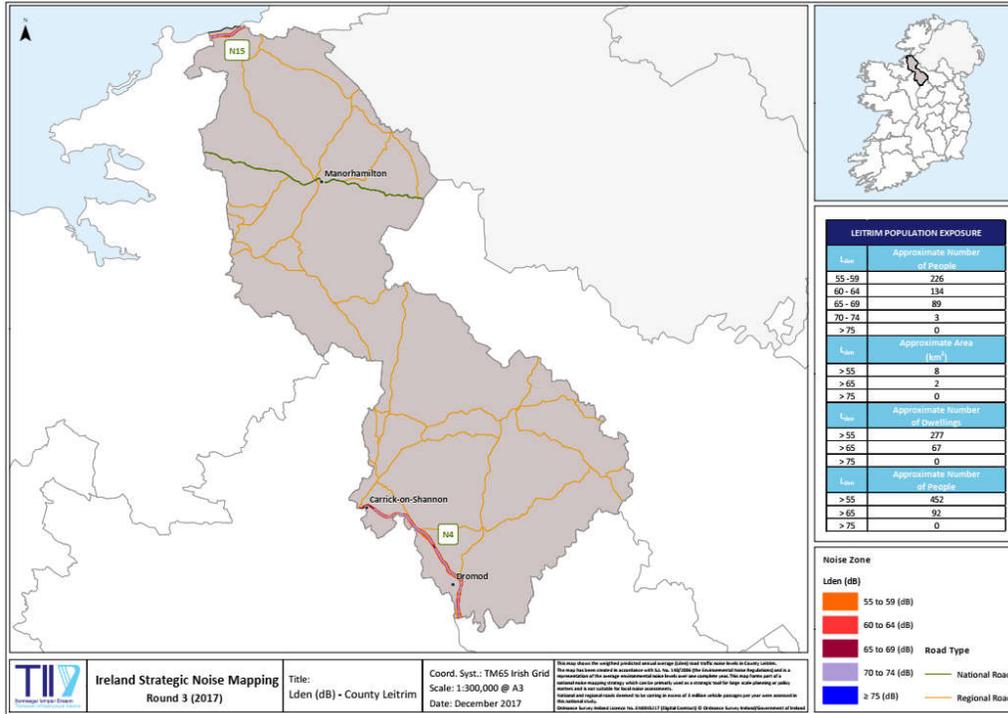
The exact action planning area is a clearly defined stretch of these roads including lands on both sides of the road. The boundary of the lands is not defined by distance from the road noise source but rather it is the land area defined by computer modeling to be affected by noise levels of greater than 45dB(A)  $L_{night}$  and/or 55dB(A)  $L_{den}$ .

Data obtained from computer modeling is somewhat limited in that it provides a single annual average noise level and does not identify changing noise profiles over time.

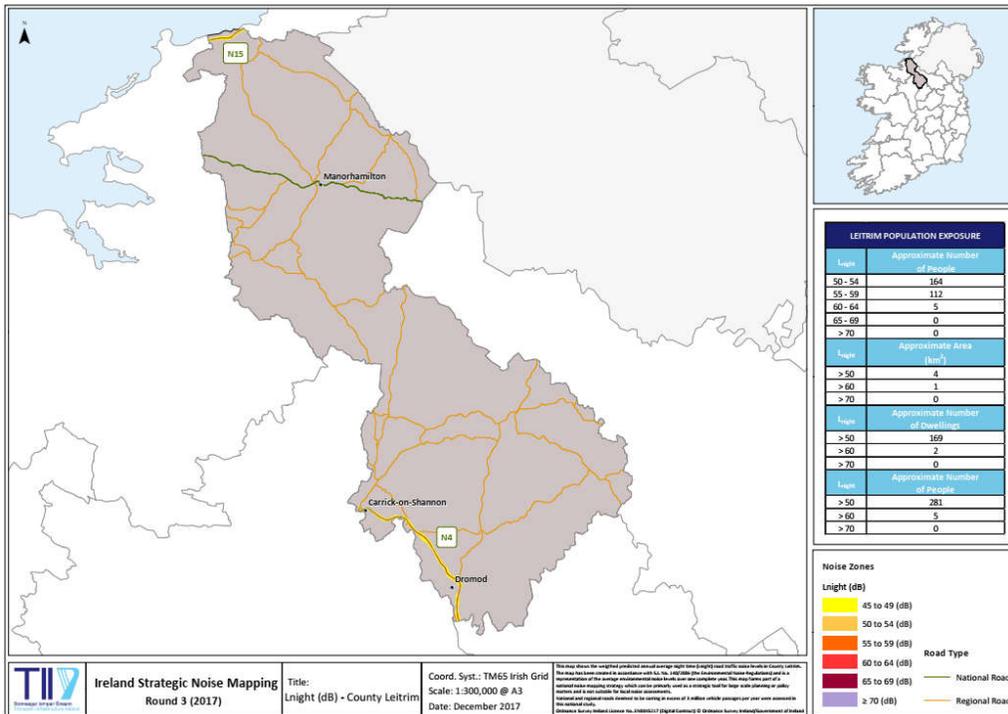
**Noise Contour Maps**

The strategic noise maps for Leitrim are shown in Map 2 and Map 3. Each map shows contours of different noise bands, identifying areas that are relatively louder or quieter. The noise indicator contours shown on the noise maps are  $L_{den}$  and  $L_{night}$ .

## Map 2: Lden County Leitrim



## Map 3: Lnigt County Leitrim



#### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

The purpose of the Public Consultation is to allow for public participation in preparation and review of the Leitrim Local Authority Noise Action Plan.

A newspaper notice was placed in the Leitrim Observer newspaper on 27 June 2018 inviting submissions from the general public. The Draft Noise Action Plan and associated maps were available for viewing by the public in Aras an Chontae, Carrick on Shannon and Manorhamilton Area Office from 27 June – 17 August 2018.

The Draft Noise Action Plan was available to view on Leitrim County Council's website:

[http://leitrimcoco.ie/eng/Services\\_A-Z/Environment/Noise-Control/Noise-Action-Plan-2018-2023/](http://leitrimcoco.ie/eng/Services_A-Z/Environment/Noise-Control/Noise-Action-Plan-2018-2023/)

A letter was sent to the following stakeholders inviting their comments and submissions:

- Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport
- Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment
- Transport Infrastructure Ireland
- Environmental Protection Agency
- Roscommon County Council
- Sligo County Council
- Donegal County Council
- Longford County Council
- Iarnród Éireann

#### **Results from Public Consultation**

No comments or submissions were received by members of the public during the public consultation period.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) sent in a submission – the comments and corrections were inserted into the final Noise Action Plan.

No submissions were received from other stakeholders who were sent invitations to comment on the Draft Noise Action Plan.

The Draft Noise Action Plan was brought to the attention of the elected members at the County Council Meeting on 3 September 2018. No objections or observations were raised by the elected members.

The Draft Noise Action Plan was submitted to the EPA for review and the plan was reviewed by the EPA on 13 September 2018. All comments from the EPA's review were taken into consideration in order to finalise Leitrim Local Authority's Noise Action Plan 2018 – 2023.

## 5. NOISE MANAGEMENT ACTIONS

### Programme of Works

#### Year One to Two (2018 to 2019):

- Apply the decision matrix tool described in section 6.1 to assess priority areas for which further monitoring may be warranted
- Identify noise sensitive locations along the N4 and N15 using the strategic noise maps
- Identify potential quiet areas along the N4 and N15
- Purchase a sound level meter to measure noise at priority areas, noise sensitive locations and quiet areas
- Notify the road design department in Leitrim County Council of the roads under consideration in the Noise Action Plan
- Liaise with the planning department in identifying priority properties using geodirectory and CSO data

#### Year Two (2019 to 2020):

- Initiate noise monitoring in identified priority areas to determine existing noise levels
- Identify appropriate mitigation measures for specific locations
- Consult with road design department to discuss noise mitigation measures that may need to be considered
- Develop local planning guidance on noise in collaboration with the Planning Department
- Undertake consultative measures outlined in 7.3.4

#### Year Three to Four (2021 to 2022):

- Commence implementation of the relevant actions as outlined in section 7, where necessary.
- Collect adequate traffic flow data for all roads in the county
- Ensure that the Noise Action Plan is considered as part of Leitrim's County Development Plan
- Communicate with Iarnrod Eireann to receive updates on rail transport figures.
- Leitrim Local Authority staff will continue to consult and work with EPA and TII on any future Noise Action Plans and strategic noise mapping

### Budgetary Provisions.

Financial provisions have not been made available at national level to fund any noise assessment measures, mitigation measures or additional noise mapping requirements resulting from implementation of this action plan. Staff resources have not been increased to assist in implementation of the plan. Because of the lack of these resources, any mitigation measures must be strictly prioritised.

## 6. EVALUATION AND REVIEW

Progress will be reviewed against the programme of works on an annual basis. An interim summary report will be prepared. This report will highlight progress in implementation of action plan measures and will also identify areas where corrective action is required or where the proposed measures must be modified for presently unforeseen reasons.

An end of programme review of the action plan will be prepared at the end of Round Three. This review will summarise progress in implementing measures, identify the extended noise mapping/action planning area, highlight aspects of the original action plan which were modified, giving reasons for the modification and recommend measures for future improvement.

## 7. SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Leitrim Local Authorities Action Plan addresses road noise from:

- N4 – Longford border at Rooskey to Roscommon border at the River Shannon bridge in the town of Carrick-on-Shannon
- N15- Sligo border at the Duff River to the Donegal border at the River Drowes.

Lands adjacent to these roads are considered to be located within the action planning area where noise mapping has indicated that the environmental noise levels may be 55dB<sub>Lden</sub> or greater.

The aim of the action plan is to manage existing road noise within the plan area and to protect the future environmental noise environment within the plan area.

While no limits exist for environmental noise in Ireland, the EPA recommends that proposed onset levels for assessment of noise mitigation measures for noise due to road traffic are as follows:

- **70dB, L<sub>den</sub> and**
- **57dB, L<sub>night</sub>**

Noise maps were prepared for major roads in County Leitrim based on a road noise computation model run by TII. These maps present calculated environmental noise levels from major roads in coloured noise contour bands from 55dB <sub>Lden</sub> and 45dB <sub>Lnight</sub>, to greater than 75dB <sub>Lden</sub> and greater than 70dB <sub>Lnight</sub>, in 5 dB bands.

The noise maps for Leitrim were prepared based on the roads network in place in the county in 2016. TII has estimated that a total of 2,200 individuals are resident within the noise mapping/action planning area.

In terms of management of *existing* road noise, the first action proposed under the current plan is to use a decision matrix to identify areas for possible further assessment. Where further assessment indicates that noise mitigation may be required, this will be carried out on a

prioritized basis, applying cost benefit analysis to any proposed measures. The monetary benefit of noise mitigation will be calculated from the figure of €25 per dB ( $L_{den}$ ), per household per year.

Leitrim Local Authority's final Noise Action Plan can be viewed on Leitrim County Council's website:

[http://leitrimcoco.ie/eng/Services\\_A-Z/Environment/Noise-Control/Noise-Action-Plan-2018-2023/](http://leitrimcoco.ie/eng/Services_A-Z/Environment/Noise-Control/Noise-Action-Plan-2018-2023/)