Ref. No. 11/C/01

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 179 (2)(B) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

(i) describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof, and shall include an appropriate plan of the development and appropriate map of the relevant area.

The proposal is for the implementation of re-alignment works and safety improvement measures on the National Primary Route N16 at Drummahan Td., Dromore Td. & Mulkaun Td. including sightline improvements, verge improvements, access upgrades, safety barriers and land fencing.

The locations of the proposed works are shown on the attached maps.

(ii) evaluate whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation.

The development is considered to be in accordance with the aims and objectives of the County Development Plan 2009-2015. I refer to the following sections of the County Development Plan 2009-2015:

Section 1.07.04 Transport and Communications
To promote the improvement of the existing road network to aid economic development, enhance safety and minimise negative environmental impacts. To relieve traffic congestion, minimise pollution and enhance safety, particularly in town centres, by means of traffic management and traffic calming schemes.

2.05 Transportation
2.05.01 Sustainable Transportation In accordance with the principles of sustainable development the basis of the Council’s transportation policies will be to:

- minimise the negative impacts of traffic on the environment by developing an efficient and safe road network.

2.05.06 Roads
A modern, efficient and safe road network is vital for the future development of Leitrim.

2.05.06 Roads
A modern, efficient and safe road network is vital for the future development of Leitrim.
Inland Fisheries Ireland has commented on fisheries aspects of the scheme due to the proximity of the project to two small streams which join together at Drummahan townland and flow in a westerly direction into the Diffreen River. The submission makes recommendations to avoid adverse impacts during construction and operation of the scheme.

(v) recommend whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be.

I recommend that the proposed development proceed subject to the following requirements.

1. The development shall be executed in accordance with plans, particulars, details and specifications lodged as part of the Part 8 Consultation, save, as is hereunder otherwise required.

2. Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland, together with implementation of relevant practices established in guidance documentation published by the National Roads Authority and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

3. Consultation with the Archaeological Section of the Development Applications Unit of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government in relation to their requirements in respect of the project, specifically in regard to Recorded Site LE007-0049 "Ringfort".

Geraldine Coen  
Assistant Engineer (Planning)  

Vincent Dwyer  
Senior Executive Officer (Planning)  

Jackie Maguire  
Leitrim County Manager
Ref. No. 11/C/02

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 179 (2)(B) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

(i) describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof, and shall include an appropriate plan of the development and appropriate map of the relevant area,

The proposal is for the implementation of re-alignment works and safety improvement measures on the National Primary Route N16 at Sradrine Td. including sightline improvements, verge improvements, access upgrades, safety barriers and land fencing.

The locations of the proposed works are shown on the attached maps.

(ii) evaluate whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation.

The development is considered to be in accordance with the aims and objectives of the County Development Plan 2009-2015. I refer to the following sections of the County Development Plan 2009-2015:

Section 1.07.04 Transport and Communications
To promote the improvement of the existing road network to aid economic development, enhance safety and minimise negative environmental impacts. To relieve traffic congestion, minimise pollution and enhance safety, particularly in town centres, by means of traffic management and traffic calming schemes.

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2.05.01 Sustainable Transportation In accordance with the principles of sustainable development the basis of the Council’s transportation policies will be to:

-minimise the negative impacts of traffic on the environment by developing an efficient and safe road network.

2.05.06 Roads
A modern, efficient and safe road network is vital for the future development of Leitrim.

2.05.06 Roads
A modern, efficient and safe road network is vital for the future development of Leitrim.
Inland Fisheries Ireland has commented on fisheries aspects of the scheme due to it being within the Glenfarne River catchment. Reference to specific Guidance Documents has been made to avoid adverse impacts during construction and operation of the scheme.

(v) recommend whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be.

I recommend that the proposed development proceed subject to the following requirements.

1. The development shall be executed in accordance with plans, particulars, details and specifications lodged as part of the Part 8 Consultation, save, as is hereinunder otherwise required.

2. Consultation with Inland Fisheries Ireland, together with implementation of relevant practices established in guidance documentation published by the National Roads Authority and Inland Fisheries Ireland.

Geraldine Coen
Assistant Engineer (Planning)

Vincent Dwyer
Senior Executive Officer Planning

Jackie Maguire
Leitrim County Manager
Ref. No. 11/C/03

This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Section 179 (2)(B) of the Planning and Development Act 2000.

(i) describe the nature and extent of the proposed development and the principal features thereof, and shall include an appropriate plan of the development and appropriate map of the relevant area.

The proposal is for the implementation of traffic calming measures on the national primary route (N16) through Glenfarne, including footpath improvements and traffic calming gateways.

The locations of the proposed works are shown on the attached maps.

(ii) evaluate whether or not the proposed development would be consistent with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the development relates, having regard to the provisions of the development plan and giving the reasons and the considerations for the evaluation.

The development is considered to be in accordance with the aims and objectives of the County Development Plan 2009-2015. I refer to the following sections of the County Development Plan 2009-2015:

Section 1.07.04 Transport and Communications

To promote the improvement of the existing road network to aid economic development, enhance safety and minimise negative environmental impacts. To relieve traffic congestion, minimise pollution and enhance safety, particularly in town centres, by means of traffic management and traffic calming schemes.

2.05 Transportation
2.05.01 Sustainable Transportation In accordance with the principles of sustainable development the basis of the Council’s transportation policies will be to:

- minimise the negative impacts of traffic on the environment by developing an efficient and safe road network.

2.05.06 Roads
A modern, efficient and safe road network is vital for the future development of Leitrim.

Policy 5.6a
It is the policy of the Council to upgrade the National Primary Routes serving the County.
(v) recommend whether or not the proposed development should be proceeded with as proposed, or as varied or modified as recommended in the report, or should not be proceeded with, as the case may be.

I recommend that the proposed development proceed subject to the following requirements.

1. The development shall be executed in accordance with plans, particulars, details and specifications lodged as part of the Part 8 Consultation, save, as is hereinunder otherwise required.

2. Consultation with the Accessibility Officer, Building Control Section, regarding principles of universal design and the needs of persons with mobility, sensory or intellectual impairments shall be undertaken prior to commencement.

Geraldine Coen
Assistant Engineer (Planning)

Vincent Dwyer
Senior Executive Officer (Planning)

Jackie Maguire
Leitrim County Manager
STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (SEA)
FINAL SCREENING REPORT

For

Variation to Leitrim County Development Plan 2009 - 2015

In accordance with:

Planning and Development Acts 2000-2010
Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004

Determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for the Variation of Leitrim County Development Plan 2009 – 2011 (incorporating a Core Strategy into the Plan).

Prepared by:
The Forward Planning Unit
Leitrim County Council

May 2011
1. **Introduction**

Arising from the adoption of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 -- 2022 (RPGs) on 29th September there is a requirement under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 to develop a **Core Strategy** demonstrating consistency with the National and Regional objectives. This requirement should be complied with within one year of the adoption of the RPGs which was on the 29th September 2010.

A key element of the core strategy is to formulate a strategy to meet the housing land use requirements within the County for the period of the CDP in accordance with the requirements of the RPGs. The strategy must be evidence based i.e the housing land requirements must match the residential zoning targets set out in the RPGs.

It is proposed to incorporate the core strategy into the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 (CDP) by way of a variation. European and National legislation referred to below require that a determination is made by the Planning Authority as to whether the variation is likely to have a significant effect on the environment. This report outlines the basis on which this determination is made and makes a recommendation on the issue.

This determination is based on criteria set out under the Planning and Development Regulations taking into account the aims and objectives of the RPGs, Government Guidance and in particular certain background work in relation to proposed variation, with particular reference to land use housing requirements.

**Legal Context**

The European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) requires an environmental assessment be carried out for all plans and programmes that are prepared for certain specified sectors, including land use planning. The following Regulations were introduced in order to transpose this Directive into Irish law:

- The European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004) and

- Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004).

**Article 13K** of the aforementioned Regulations states:

*Where a planning authority proposes to make a variation of a development plan under section 13 of the Act, it shall, before giving notice under section 13(2) of the Act, consider whether or not the proposed variation would be likely to have significant effects on the environment, taking into account of relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A.*

The Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010 amends Section 10 of the principle Act as follows;

*(1B) A planning authority shall prepare a core strategy, other than where subsection (1C) applies, as soon as practicable and in any event not later than a period of one year after the making of regional planning guidelines under Chapter III which affect the area of the development plan, and shall accordingly vary the development plan under 45 section 13 to include the core strategy.*
Purpose of the Screening Report

“Screening” is defined as “the process for deciding whether a particular plan, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA” (Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment, 2004, Guidelines for Regional & Planning Authorities, pg 12).

The criteria for determining whether an SEA is required is set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development Strategic Environmental Assessment Regulations 2004.

This report has been prepared in order to determine whether the proposed variation to the County Development Plan will or will not have any likely significant environmental effects in terms of the SEA requirements.

County Development Plan 2009 - 2010

The Development Plan sets out Leitrim County Council’s policies and objectives for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County from 2009 to 2015. The Plan seeks to develop and improve, in a sustainable manner, the social, economic, cultural and environmental assets of the county. The making of the Development Plan has been informed by the Housing Strategy, the Retail Strategy and the Strategic Environmental Report.

The plan came into effect on 23rd February 2009 and has a 6 year lifespan.

The Plan covers the administrative area of County Leitrim which is an area of 1,876km (613 sq. miles).

Purpose of the Proposed Variation

The purpose of the variation is to incorporate a Core Strategy as set out under Section 10 (1b) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 – 2010 as outlined above. This legislative requirements means that the Core Strategy must be in place within one year of the adoption of the Border Regional Planning Guidelines; i.e., before the 29th September 2011. The Core Strategy will articulate a medium to longer term quantitatively based strategy for the spatial development of the area of the planning authority and in so doing to demonstrate that the development plan and its objectives are consistent with national and regional development objectives set out in the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) and especially as regards:

(1) the hierarchy and role of Gateways, Hub towns, county towns, other towns and villages and rural areas outlined in the documents above; and

(2) the process of giving effect to the hierarchy above by setting regional and national population targets and associated requirements for housing land.

Whether zoning objectives are outlined in the relevant development plan or in subsidiary local area plans, the Core Strategy of the development plan must be sufficiently specific in setting population targets and housing requirements across the overall area of the planning authority and the elements of the settlement hierarchy outlined above thereby to act as a clear framework for amendments to existing zonings or new zonings in lower-level plans. In turn, the population targets and housing requirements of lower-level plans must agree with the Core Strategy of the city or county development plan and this will be achieved either in subsequent amendments to such plans or in the preparation of new local area plans.

Assessment

An assessment of the proposed variation in terms of the criteria set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 is set out below. The assessment has been carried out in the order in which the criteria has been laid out in the above mentioned Schedule 2 A.
Overview

It is considered that the existing CDP is a robust document which acts in combination with a host of other European, National and Regional Legislation, Plans and Guidance documents in terms of the management of the environment. Section 1 of the CDP sets out, inter-alia, a Mission Statement, Policy Context, County Profile, A Vision Statement, Strategic Goals and a Strategic Development Framework. It is envisaged that the Core Strategy will strengthen this section taking into account National and Regional Plans and Guidelines, and in particular a comprehensive review of the residential land use requirements will form the basis of the Core Strategy. The Strategy will be guided by, and operate within, the framework set out in National Plans and Guidance documents and in particular by the RPGs, and Circular Letter PSSP0/2010 (issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government). The proposed variation will also update the road improvement schemes in respect to preferred routes for the N4 Carrick-on-Shannon By-pass, the N16 Manorhamilton By-pass, and N16 Manorhamilton to County Boundary.

It is important to note that the CDP and the RPGs has been the subject of a full Strategic Environmental and Appropriate Assessment process (under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive). Also the variation will be subject to the Appropriate Assessment process. In this regard a screening report has concluded that an Appropriate Assessment is not required – further screening of the variation may be required in the event of significant amendments.

The land use targets as set out in the RPGs will determine the level of residential zoning. Considering the high level of residential zoning and high vacancy levels it is clear that there will be no additional residential zoning arising from the variation. It is envisaged that measures such as rezoning/reallocation/zoning/chasing of residential lands will feature strongly in terms of complying with residential zoning targets set out in the RPG’s.

It is anticipated that the proposed variation will provide greater clarity and will act to strengthen the proper planning and sustainable development of the County with particular reference to the location and level of residential development, and provision of key services and facilities. It will not alter the core principles of the CDP.

In the event of any adverse impacts arise, mitigation measures will be required to render any such impacts acceptable or benign.

Having regard to the foregoing it is considered that the variation will have an overall positive economic, social and environmental effect and will not be likely to have any significant adverse effects.
1) The character of the plan having regard, in particular, to

i) The degree to which the plan sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to location, nature, size and operating conditions, or by allocating resources;

Assessment:
The CDP sets the framework for the sustainable development of the county over a five year period. It is the primary document for the setting out of the councils aims, policies and objectives in terms of land use planning. In this regard it acts to guide and facilitate development, and assess and determine the appropriateness of development within the county. In doing so it must be consistent with, and ensure the implementation of, National and Regional Plans and Guidelines. The core strategy will ensure this consistence with particular reference to the location and level of zoning for residential development. Considering the significant disparity between the targets set in the RPGs in relation to the residential land use requirements with the level of residential zoning within the CDP and taken in conjunction with high residential vacancy rates; there is a clear need to address this disparity by means of the proposed variation.

These issues will be addressed with particular reference to the document; Guidance Note on Core Strategies November 2010, Circular Letter PSSP6/2010 issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government dated 25 November 2010 refers.

ii) The degree to which the plan influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy;
The variation will influence the residential zoning of the CDP and the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan (LAP). It is also influence the location and provision of infrastructural services and facilities, including transportation, water and sewerage facilities. It will in particular give expression to the residential land use targets as set out in the RPGs by matching the targets with the zoning provisions of towns and villages.

Assessment:

iii) The relevance of the plan for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;

Assessment
The Variation will be carried out in accordance with the provisions set out in Part II, Chapter I, Section 13 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 - 2010 and therefore related to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Plan will be consistent with the objectives of the Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 - 2022 which itself was the subject of a full SEA and Habitats Assessment. The variation will conform with other relevant environmental provisions of the various plans, legislation and guidance documents which will inform the making of the plan. Examples of these documents include, but are not limited to:

The National Development Plan2007-2013
National Spatial Strategy
Border Regional Planning Guidelines
The County Development Plan 2009-2015
Implementation of Regional Planning Guidelines – Best Practice December 2010
Development Management Guidelines -June 2007
Development Plans Guidelines -June 2007
Landscape and Landscape Assessment and Appendices 2000
Retail Planning Guidelines 2005
Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) 2004
Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines 2005
Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2007
iv) Environmental problems relevant to the plan

Assessment
There are numerous areas of environmental sensitivity within, and contiguous with, the County which are detailed in the CDP. These include; Special Areas of Conservation, Special Protection Areas, Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed National Heritage Areas, Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty, Areas of High Visual Amenity, Views and Prospects, Conservation Areas, Protect Structures, Recorded Monuments and Major Public Amenity Areas. Details of these areas together with aims and policies for their protection are set out in the CDP and associated SEA. It is intended that the amendments to the CDP arising from the variation will have the effect of strengthening the management these environmentally sensitive areas and other areas of environmental importance, as appropriate. Particular consideration will be given to ensure the protection of Special Areas of Conservation and Special Areas of Protection, through the Appropriate Assessment process. In essence the variation will seek to ensure that National Policy and Regional Policy in relation to the management of those items and features of acknowledged importance, are implemented at the County and local level, through the strengthening of the CDP and consequently lower level Plans.

In particular it will ensure that the necessary services and facilities will proceed in tandem with development.

The strategy will have particular regard to the document “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management in terms of the zoning of lands. In this regard it is likely that certain lands will be either dezon ed or rezoned to a more appropriate use.

In accordance with normal planning practice, where there is a deficit in the provision of water or sewerage facilities, further new development will not be permitted. Likewise where proposed developments would give rise to a risk to pollution or public health, such development will not be permitted.

Having regard to the foregoing no significant environmental problems have been identified or are envisaged in relation to the proposed variation.

v) The relevance of the plan for the implementation of European legislations on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection);

Assessment
Issues relating to European Union Legislation on the environment are provided for in; National Plans and Guidelines, the Border Regional Guidelines 2010 – 2022 and the current County Development Plan 2009 - 2015. The variation will seek to ensure that the current CDP and lower level plans, secures greater consistent with European legislation on the environment. The making of the proposed variation will therefore be guided and informed by the relevant European legislation on the environment including items such as; flood risk assessment, habitats protection, water quality, waste management, cultural heritage, climate change and landscape assessment.

It should be noted that the variation will comply with the requirements of Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and a screening for Appropriate Assessment will be carried out as a minimum requirement.

2) Characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, having regard, in particular to

i) The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects;
Assessment
It is anticipated that the environmental impacts will be largely positive for reasons referred to above. In terms of central part of the core strategy which will deal with the zoning of lands for residential use, it is anticipated that measures such as; the rezoning, dezonng and phasing of development will be considered in order to comply with the residential land use targets set out in the RPG’s. It is not envisaged that there will be any additional zoning involved.

It is envisaged that amendments to the CDP arising from the variation will remain in effect for the duration of the Plan, ie until February 2015. The Plan is due to be reviewed early in 2013 as part of the making of a new CDP.

ii) The cumulative nature of the effects;

Assessment
It is anticipated that cumulative effects of the variation will have positive impact on the environment. It will act in concert with other plans and programmes in the deliver the sustainable development of the county. In particular it will help secure the orderly development of towns and villages and in doing so strengthen the urban structure of the county and the vitality and viability of both urban and rural areas. It will act in concert with higher level plans in securing balanced regional development which is a central tenet of the National Spatial Strategy and Regional Planning Guidelines.

iii) The transboundary nature of effects;

Assessment
No likely significant transboundary effects have been identified. It is noted that this was also the findings of the SEA on the CDP and also of the more recent SEA on the RPGs.

iv) The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents);

Assessment
There are no SEVESO sites in or near the County and as such, possible risks to human health or the environment due to accidents have not been identified. The environmental effects of the variation are largely positive as mentioned above, accordingly it can be anticipated that there are no risk to human health or the environment arising from the variation, subject to compliance with well established planning criteria.

v) The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected due to:

Assessment
The proposed variation to the CDP covers the administrative area of County Leitrim which is an area of 1,879km (613 sq. miles). The

In broad terms, a brief review CDP and the Carrick on Shannon Local Area Plan 2010 – 2016 (LAP) would indicate that the population projections and general approach in relation to Urban and Rural Settlement Strategy as set out are compatible with the policies and objectives of the RPG’s. Population targets for the County as set out in the RPGs indicate a population of 32,745 by year 2015, whereas the population estimates in the CDP indicate a population of 32,076 for the same period. Considering the evolving economic circumstances the population targets would appear to be optimistic. Nevertheless, it is proposed to use the population targets as set out in the RPG’s for the purposes of the variation.

As part of the core strategy, the settlement strategy for the County, with particular reference to the residential zoning in towns and villages, will be given particular attention.

vi) The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:

a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;

Assessment
The areas of environmental sensitivity and cultural heritage are set out in the CDP and LAP.
The core strategy will act to strengthen the management of these environmental assets, where necessary. In particular the CDP and the variation will act to ensure that appropriate type development and infrastructural provision is directed away from environmentally sensitive areas and towards environmentally robust areas.

b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values;

Assessment
It is anticipated that environmental quality standards will not be exceeded and that the environmental integrity of the area will not be compromised in any way as a result of the implementation of the variation. In particular the variation will seek to ensure that the residential amenities of towns and villages are enhanced through the orderly development of these areas and the efficient and effective use of services and facilities.

c) intensive land-use

Assessment
The current CDP and LAP contain various strategies including a land use strategy, urban design strategy, conservation strategy and infrastructure and environmental protection strategy. Design guidelines and development standards included in the Plan and the LAP have, and continue to be, guided by the various Guidance Documents issued by the DoEHLG such as the Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for Apartments - Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2007 and the Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2008 & companion document “Urban Design Manual – A Best Practice Guide” 2008. Any change in the population of the County during the period of the CDP or LAP will not arise as a direct consequence of the variation.

It is not envisaged that the existing development boundaries of the current CDP or LAP will be extended and it is not expected that environmentally sensitive areas will be adversely impacted upon. In particular, it is not anticipated that the residential densities contained in the CDP or LAP nor will there be any significant change in the settlement strategy in respect to urban or rural areas.

In general it is anticipated that there will be no change in relation to intensive land use. A central aim of the variation will be to direct urban development towards the core of towns and villages as opposed to peripheral locations.

vii) The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European union or international protection status.

Assessment
The variation is likely to have a positive impact on landscapes of importance as it will act to protect sensitive areas. In particular it will direct development away from sensitive landscapes and towards environmentally robust areas.

Consultation with Environmental Authorities
The initial determination based on the above and indicating that the planning authority considered that a strategic environmental assessment was not required was forwarded to the following Environmental Authorities for their consideration (see Appendix 2 for copy of notification);

1. Environmental Protection Agency
2. The Department of Communications, Energy & Natural Resources
3. The Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government

Submissions
A submission was received from the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Architectural Heritage Section. The submission considered that the proposed variation “...will not in itself have a significant effect in terms of Strategic Environment Assessment on the architectural heritage of the county”. 
Final Determination of Leitrim County Council

On the basis of the above assessment and consideration of the criteria as set out in Schedule 2A of the Regulations, it is opinion of the planning authority that the proposed variation will have an overall positive environmental impact on the environment and will not be likely to have any significant adverse effects. Accordingly it does not require an SEA.
Map of Leitrim and Surrounding Area
Appendix 2  Copy of notification to Environmental Authorities

071 9650450

15th March 2011

Environmental Protection Agency
P.O. Box 3000
Johnstown Castle
Co. Wexford

Re:  Core Strategy & Screening for S.E.A.

A Chara,

Leitrim Local Authority has made an initial determination that a proposed variation to the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 would not have a significant effect on the environment in terms of the requirements of Article 13k of Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004). Accordingly a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. A copy of the draft determination is attached.

You are invited to make a submission in relation to the initial determination which will be taken into consideration prior to making a final determination. A submission should be made in writing within 4 weeks of the date of this notification. Due to time constraints a late submission may not be taken into consideration.

Is mise, le meas,

______________________________
Senior Executive Officer
VD/hd

Encl.
Variation No 1 of Leitrim County Development Plan
2009 -2015

{As required under the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010}

Schedule of Amendments

April 2011

Forward Planning Section
Leitrim County Council
Introduction

The following is a list of proposed Amendments to the County Development Plan 2009-2015 (CDP) which have been prepared in order to incorporate a Core Strategy into the Plan as required by legislative requirements. The amendments seek to update and strengthen the Plan having regard to more recent National and Regional Plans and Guidelines with particular reference to the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 – 2022. In addition it is proposed to update plans in respect to the preferred routes for; the N4 Carrick on Shannon By-pass, the N16 Manorhamilton By-pass and N16 Manorhamilton to County Boundary. It is proposed to incorporate these Amendments into the CDP by way of a Variation.

Making a Submission

You are invited to make a written submission on the proposed Variation to the Council on or before Wednesday 15th June 2011 as outlined on attached Public Notice.

A ‘Determination’ as to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required, and an ‘Appropriate Assessment’ Screening Report, has been carried out and is attached to this schedule of Amendments.

Documents Attached

- Core Strategy
- Amendments to Appendix D book of maps
- Determination as to whether a Strategic Environmental Assessment is required
- Appropriate Assessment Screening Report

Stages in Process

1. Public Display
2. Managers Report on submissions
3. Draft Variation presented to Members
4. Members consider Managers Report
5. Members adopt or amend Variation

If amendments are considered to be significant the amendments will be put on public display and the process repeats itself.

In any event it is envisaged that the Variation will be adopted before …Sept 2011

The Variation is being carried out primarily to ensure that the aforementioned Development Plan is compliance with the Core Strategy provisions introduced by the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the Border Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 - 2022 and also to
Amendment 1

The attached document entitled “County Leitrim Core Strategy – Spatial Development Strategy for the County Development Plan 2009 – 2015”, to be read as part of the Plan

Amendment 2

The current Appendix D book of maps to be updated to reflect the changes in the attached book of maps entitled “Amendments to Appendix D – Zoning Maps”.

Amendment 3

Section 1.03 – Policy Context pg 5. The following statements to be inserted into Section 1.03 of the Plan

Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 - 2020 (Feb 2009)

Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, (2009) is the new transport policy for Ireland for the period 2009-2020. It recognises the vital importance of continued investment in transport to ensure an efficient economy and continued social development, but also promotes more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

National Cycle Policy Framework 2009-2020

The National Cycle Policy Framework (as part of Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009) sets out a national policy for cycling, in order to create a stronger cycling culture, a more friendly environment for cycling and improved quality of life. The vision is that all cities, towns and rural areas will be bicycle friendly. The policy document sets a target of 10% of all trips by bicycle by 2020 and places emphasis on promoting and integrating cycle networks.

Flood Risk Management

The formulation of the policies and objectives in respect to the management of areas at risk of flooding must have regard to the document issued by the Minister entitled; “The Planning System and Flood Risk Management- Guidelines for Planning Authorities” (Nov. 2009).

The guidelines require the planning system at national, regional and local levels to:

1. Avoid development in areas at risk of flooding, particularly floodplains, unless there are proven wider sustainability grounds that justify appropriate development and where the risk can be reduced or managed to an acceptable level without increasing flood risk elsewhere;
2. Adopt a sequential approach to flood risk management when assessing the location for new development based on avoidance, reduction and mitigation of flood risk; and

3. Incorporate flood risk assessment into the process of making decisions on planning applications and planning appeals.

In terms of existing undeveloped zoned areas that are potentially at risk of flooding, the guidelines indicate that zoning policies and objectives should be reconsidered for any such lands where flood risk is assessed to be potentially significant and likely to increase in the future. Emphasis is placed on inter-alia; removing high risk/vulnerable uses, revisions to the land use zoning area/objectives for such areas, preparing a detailed local area plan informed by more detailed flood risk assessment addressing development issues prior to development; specification of pre-requisite flood risk measures.

Flood Risk Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment

At the project level, development either exceeding the specified thresholds for Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or development under the thresholds but with significant environmental effects and in an area at risk of flooding will require EIS. Flood risk will therefore need to be an integral part of the EIA process. Screening for EIA should be an integral element of all planning applications in an area at risk of flooding.

Amendment 4

Section 2.01.01 National and Regional Context pg 27. The paragraph in Section 2.01.01 entitled ‘Regional Planning Guidelines’ to be replaced by the following;

The 2004 Guidelines set out a vision for the Region and nine key strategic goals that are required to achieve that vision. It is considered that the core elements of that vision remain valid, but it has been updated to reflect the changed circumstances of the Region since 2004. The key strategic goals have also been updated to reflect the new circumstances that this Region faces over the period of the Guidelines of 2010 – 2022.

‘By 2022, the Border Region will be a competitive area recognised as, and prospering from, its unique interface between two economies, where economic success will benefit all, through the implementation of the balanced development model, which will provide an outstanding natural environment, innovative people, which in themselves, will be our most valuable asset’

KEY STRATEGIC GOALS

The key Strategic Goals required to achieve this vision for the Region are as follows:

SG.1 To foster the development of the Region’s most important asset, its people by providing an improved quality of life for all people and communities living, working and visiting the Region.
SG.2 To ensure the development of the Gateways, Hubs, Drogheda and Carrick-on-Shannon as the strategic drivers of growth for the Region and to facilitate integrated sustainable development between urban and rural areas;

SG.3 To improve intra and inter regional connectivity and mobility throughout the Region through the development of Strategic Radial Corridors and Strategic Links;

SG.4 To promote innovation, economic growth, competitiveness and the development potential of the Region, and to facilitate emerging sectors in the Region that will provide sustainable jobs for the future;

SG.5 To protect and enhance the quality of the natural environment and built heritage of the Region;

SG.6 To co-ordinate a regional approach to the key environmental challenges facing the Region;

SG.7 To co-ordinate and integrate key issues in National and Regional Spatial Planning Strategies and in particular, the National Spatial Strategy and the National Development Plan, and associated inter-regional development initiatives that support and promote strategic links;

SG.8 To co-ordinate and integrate key aspects of cross border spatial planning strategies, and in particular, the Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland and associated inter-regional development initiatives, that support and promote strategic links between the two economies.

SG.9 To exploit the Regions unique location at the interface between two economies, by putting in place the drivers for economic growth, through the development of the Eastern Corridor, Atlantic Arc and the Central Border Area.

The Core Strategy for the County sets out the framework for the implementation of the aims and objectives of the RPGs. The aims and objectives set out herein are considered to interpret and support the RPGs in terms of National, Regional and in particular Local development

Amendment 5

Section 2.01.03 Land Use Strategy for Tier 2, 3 and 4 Towns and Villages. pg 29. The following statements and policies to be inserted into Section 2.01.03

Residential Reserve/Support

These lands are identified primarily to serve the long term housing requirements of the Centre in which they are located. These lands will also be considered as suitable for the accommodation of development that would be compatible with residential use. Whereas residential development (other than that set out below) will not be permitted on these
lands during the lifetime of the Plan they may be considered for residential development in future Plans.

The following residential type development may be considered acceptable on lands zoned Residential Reserve/Support;

1) Where there is a live permission for residential development that has not been activated. The life of these permissions may be extended in accordance with the Provisions of Section 42A of the Planning & Development Act 2010, as amended. New permission will not be considered.

2) A proposal for a dwelling house where;
   a) the unit to be provided will serve as the permanent place of residence of the landowner or a member of his/her immediate family
   b) and where it can be clearly demonstrated that the provision of such a unit would not compromise the development of the adjoining lands (lands from which the site is being annexed),
   c) and the unit to be provided would easily integrate with the future development of the lands and those in the vicinity.

3) In exceptional circumstances where it can be clearly demonstrated by the developer that there is a significant difficulty in the release or identification of lands for a specific residential type development, consideration will be given to the release of lands zoned Residential Reserve/Support, subject to established planning criteria and including in particular;

   a) The requirement to remain within the overall residential land use targets as set out in the ‘Core Strategy’.
   b) Compliance with the ‘Justification Test’ (refer to details below)
   c) Compliance with the ‘Sequential Approach’ (refer to Section 2.01.03e of CDP)

Policy  It is the policy of the Council to manage the development of settlements in accordance with the Core Strategy and as detailed in Section 2.01.03 – Land Use Strategy for Tier 2, 3 and 4 ‘Towns and Villages’.

Existing Housing Stock

It is clear from a comprehensive housing survey completed by the Council in the last quarter of 2010 that the level of vacant and under construction housing units will meet a significant level of the housing requirements during the Plan period, and is some instance beyond.

Considering the foregoing and in particular the need to ensure the utilization of the existing stock of residential units and the proper release of zoned lands for residential type development the following ‘Justification Test’ shall apply.

Justification Test
A justification test in terms of the market demand for new residential development will generally be required in the case of all new applications for residential schemes (two or more dwellings), pending a narrowing of the supply and demand of residential units in those centres where there remains a wide divergence. Certain developments that can demonstrate a strategic element (e.g. a significant commercial or social element), may be deemed acceptable. Developments that satisfy a ‘Niche’ housing market may also be deemed acceptable. Normally the requirements of a justification test will be in the form a ‘Property Development Surveyors Report’.

Unfinished/Unoccupied Estates and Commercial Property

Unfinished/unoccupied estates and commercial property are a manifestation of a systemic failure to properly manage the property sector. This has led to unprecedented social and economic difficulties, particularly within the housing sector. The Council fully recognises and acknowledges this legacy and has to date done much work, from a planning perspective, to help address these difficulties.

Notwithstanding this legacy, unfinished/unoccupied buildings represent a significant resource that needs to be resolved in a pragmatic and sustainable way. In the interest of clarity, and not to deflect from the responsibilities of the Council, it must be stated from the outset, that the primary responsibility in relation to the completion of unfinished estates and commercial property lies with the developers and property owners.

Nevertheless, given the scale, extent and complexity of the social, economic and environmental issues involved, public intervention may be required. Resolution of the issues involved will require a joint, sustained and measured response with some innovative solutions needed and indeed a considerable commitment in terms of resources. It is therefore a key Planning issue that will continue to be addressed by the Council and kept under review.

At a National level the Department of the Environment is working on measures to resolve the issues with a particular focus on unfinished estates. The Council will be guided in its approach by the forthcoming final version of the document to be issued by the Department of Environment entitled; “Managing and Resolving Unfinished Housing Developments - Guidance Manual” and any subsequent Guidance in this regard. With this in mind the Council is anxious to fully support any such measures falling within its remit and as resources permit.

The Council has established a dedicated team within the Planning Department to deal with planning issues relating to unfinished estates in particular. This team will continue to identify record and monitor the status of unfinished estates within the County and will actively engage with the relevant stakeholders in an effort to resolve the Planning issues involved. The Council is currently working with Developers, Financial and Legal institutions, the Department of Environment, and other relevant parties in order to secure the satisfactory resolution of any unfinished estates.

A range of measures will continue to be developed and deployed by the Council in relation to resolving planning matters associated with Unfinished/Unoccupied estates and commercial property, including;
• Appropriate and timely action where deemed necessary on significant issues of Public Health and Safety.

• Prioritising site resolution of occupied/unfinished estates.

• Providing direction to, and securing the co-operation of, developers and other relevant stakeholders in an effort to secure compliance with planning permission.

• Taking enforcement action and the ‘calling-in’ of bonds and cash deposits in order to complete the developments, where appropriate.

• Accommodating (under the development management process) appropriate revisions to the design, layout and/or use of the permitted development in order to secure their completion/occupation.

• Restricting (under the planning process) certain additional development types in areas where there is a surplus.

• Implementing key infrastructural and community based works including Town and Village Improvement Schemes, thereby making Towns and Villages more attractive places in which to live, work and visit.

• Increased efforts towards facilitating and promoting opportunities for enterprise and employment.

Policy It is the policy of the Council to operate a pro-active approach, and to work with other relevant parties, towards achieving a sustainable resolution to the difficulties associated with unfinished/unoccupied estates and commercial property within the County.

Amendment 6
Section 2.01.03e Sequential Release of Lands pg 34. The following statement to be replaced:

In the interest of orderly development priority will be given to the release of lands close to the core of the settlement. In this regard and as a general rule priority will be given to the development of lands that can be served by means of a gravity sewer as opposed to proposals that rely on pumping. Additional pumping stations will not be permitted while land capable of being serviced by an existing gravity sewer, or by an existing pumping station, remain undeveloped.

By;

Cognisance will be had of the need to consolidate settlements by keeping them as physically compact as possible and applying the sequential approach to the release of lands for housing developments. (as set out in Chapter 5 of NSS and Section 28 Guidelines, such as the Development Plan Guidelines and Sustainable Urban Residential Development Guidelines). In the interest of orderly development priority will be given to the release of lands close to the core.
of the settlement, as identified in the zoning maps, for this purpose. The lands surplus to the identified housing needs, which have been identified as 'residential reserve/support', will be regarded as a strategic reserve and that proposals for the development of such lands for housing will not be considered for development purposes during the plan period, other than by testing through the sequential approach and where justification in terms of housing demand can be demonstrated. Lands which are located at the periphery of the settlement may only be developed for residential development where it is demonstrated that both lands, zoned for residential development, and lands, identified as residential reserve, have been exhausted, or where it can be demonstrated that these lands cannot be developed for reasons related to their ownership status or tenure.

In this regard and within the context set out above, as a general rule, priority will be given to the development of lands that can be served by means of a gravity sewer as opposed to proposals that rely on pumping. Additional pumping stations will not be permitted while lands capable of being serviced by an existing gravity sewer, or by an existing pumping station, remain undeveloped.

**Amendment 7**

Section 2.01.03 Land Use Strategy for Tier 2, 3 and 4 Towns and Villages, pg 36

The following Table 2.3: 'Land Use Zoning Matrix' to be replaced;
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land Use</th>
<th>Mixed Use</th>
<th>Primarily Residential</th>
<th>Enterprise &amp; Employment</th>
<th>General Development</th>
<th>Amenity</th>
<th>Social &amp; Community</th>
<th>Tourism Related Development</th>
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# Land Use

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<th>Residential Reserve</th>
<th>Enterprise &amp; Employment</th>
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<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repository store depot</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry (light)</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Playing fields</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Places of worship</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Park/Playing Ground</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist camping site</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tourist caravan park</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heliport</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>y</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cattle shed/slatted unit</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Broiler house</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stable yard</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amusement Arcade</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>o</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
<td>n</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

1 For exceptions refer to Section 2.01.03 'Residential Reserve/Support'
Table 2.3: Land Use Zoning Matrix
'y' Acceptable in principle, 'o' Open for consideration, 'n' not acceptable.

With regard to determining the suitability of retail developments, applications will be assessed having due regard to the current County Retail Strategy and the Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities.

In the case of lands at risk of flooding, the types of uses mentioned above may be further constrained having regard to the policies, objectives and guidelines of this Plan and in particular the guidelines outlined in the document: "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities" Nov. 2009

The title of lands zoned 'Amenity' to be changed to read 'Open Space & Amenity' the heading in Section 2.01.03c to be changed accordingly.

**Amendment 8**

Section 2.01.03 Land Use Strategy for Tier 2, 3 and 4 Towns and Villages, pg 37 The following statement to be inserted as Section 2.01.03h;

**Flood Risk Management**
It is the aim of the Council to ensure, where appropriate, that proposed developments in areas at risk of flooding shall conform with the "The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities", Nov. 2009 or any subsequent version of this document issued by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, during the lifetime of the Plan. It should be noted that Carrick-on-Shannon has been identified in the Border Regional Guidelines as a Regionally Strategically Important Town and as such has been identified as a growth centre. Accordingly, its status as such will be taken into consideration when assessing certain type developments within areas at risk of flooding.

**Policy 1.3d**
It is the policy of the Council to require, where appropriate, *that developments of a type that may be considered sensitive to flooding are subject to a 'justification test'. Where a justification test is required it shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Council that;*

   a) Such proposals apply the 'sequential approach' as outlined in Section 3 of the Planning System and Flood Risk Management – Guidelines for Planning Authorities, Nov. 09. In particular, the proposal shall demonstrate that there are no alternative sites available at a more suitable location within the town that would meet the requirements of the development:
b) The area comprises significant previously developed and/or underutilised lands within the urban envelope;

c) The development of the area is essential to facilitate regeneration or town centre expansion;

d) Environmental/hydrological assessment has been undertaken to identify the impact of flood risk as a result of development and that the development would not result in increased or new flood risk elsewhere and if possible will reduce the overall flood risk;

e) The proposal includes measures to minimise flood risk to people, property, the economy and the environment as far as is reasonably possible;

f) The development proposed includes measures to ensure that residual risks to the area and/or development can be managed to an acceptable level as regards the adequacy of existing flood protection measures or the design, implementation and funding of any future risk management measures and provisions for emergency services access;

g) The proposal complies with other relevant policies and development standards as set out in the County Development Plan and this Local Area Plan.

* In general, but not exclusively, the justification test will only apply to lands that are affected by the flooding as set out in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines (2009).

**Policy 1.3e.**

It is the policy of the Council to seek to ensure that proposals within flood risk areas exclude high vulnerability uses such as residential care homes, hospitals, emergency services, residential use at ground floor level and certain strategic infrastructural services and facilities.

**Policy 1.3f.**

It is the policy of the Council to protect the floodplain of the Shannon. Planning permission for development on the floodplain will only be granted in exceptional circumstances and where the Council is satisfied that downstream (and upstream) consequences are insignificant. The Council must be satisfied that all floor levels in such developments are sufficiently high above the maximum recorded flood levels.

Refer to Section 2.07.09 and Appendix E – Guidelines on Flood Risk and Development.

**Amendment 9**

The following policy to be inserted into Section 2.01.03 of the Plan

**Policy.**

It is the policy of the Council to ensure that development would not overload or otherwise compromise the proper operation of the Public Wastewater Treatment Plants. Such development will not be permitted, notwithstanding the zoning of lands.
Amendment 10

Section 2.05.01 Sustainable Transportation, pg 60. The following statement to be inserted at the beginning of Section 2.05.01 Sustainable Transportation;

The council policies and objectives in relation to Sustainable Transportation are guided by National Policy document “Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, (2009)”. This document recognises the vital importance of continued investment in transport to ensure an efficient economy and continued social development, but also promotes more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport. The promotion of initiatives that can reduce congestion, improve local environments and encourage healthier and safer lifestyles are key features of sustainable transportation.

The Council seeks to influence people’s travel behaviour towards more sustainable options and seeks to do so by working closely with relevant organisations in improving public transport facilities and promoting opportunities for alternative transportation such as walking and cycling.

The Council recognises the importance of walking to the well being and quality of life of residents. It will support and encourage the continued development of walking as a sustainable form of transportation and will work with organisations and groups in the promotion of safe walking throughout the county, including heritage walks and the protection of public rights of way, which are an important amenity and tourism resource.

Policy It is the policy of the Council to support the National Policy document “Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, (2009)” or any updated version of the document issued within the lifetime of the Plan.

Amendment 11

Section 2.05.06 Roads, pg 61. The following map of the N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Road Scheme to be inserted into Section 2.05.06, replacing maps 2.4 and 2.5
Map 2.4 N4 Carrick on Shannon to Dromod Preferred Route

Amendment 12

Section 2.05.06 Roads, pg 64. Remove Map 2.6 indicating those parts of the constraint areas associated with the N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Road Improvement Scheme that are located within County Leitrim. Also remove the reference to the map in the paragraph preceding the said map.

Amendment 13

Section 2.05.06 Roads, pg 65. The following map of the N16 Manorhamilton – Sligo Boundary Preferred Route to be inserted into Section 2.05.06, replacing map 2.7. Objective 5.6a accordingly.
Map 2.7 N16 Manorhamilton to Sligo Boundary Preferred Route

Amendment 14

Section 2.05.06 Roads, pg 65. The following map of the N16 Manorhamilton By-Pass Preferred Route to be inserted into Section 2.05.06, replacing map 2.8
Amendment 15

Section 2.07 Protection of the Natural Environment/Natural Heritage. The following statement and policy to be inserted into Section 2.07 pg 92.

Climate Change
The National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012 builds on measures established under the first National Climate Change Strategy (2000), and provides a framework for achieving emissions reductions. Its purpose is:

• to show clearly the measures by which Ireland will meet its 2008 - 2012 Kyoto Protocol commitment;

• to show how these measures position us after 2012, and to identify the areas in which further measures are being researched and developed;

• to take a long term view, having regard to likely future commitments and the economic imperative for action; and,

• the promotion of sustainable development including the integration of climate change considerations into all policy areas.

Policy: It is the policy of the Council to support the Implementation of National Climate Strategy 2007-2012 (or any similar updated version issued within the lifetime of the Plan).

Amendment 16

Section 2.07.02a ‘Natura Sites’, pg 92. The following policy shall be inserted into immediately before Policy 2.7a;

Policy: It is the Policy of the Council to ensure that all Plans and Projects that have the potential to negatively impact on the integrity of the Natura 2000 network, will be subject to a Habitats Directive Assessment (HDA), in accordance with Article 6 of the Habitats Directive and in accordance with best practice and guidance.

Amendment 17

Section 2.07.04 Nature Conservation outside Designated Sites. The following statement and policy to be inserted into Section 2.07.04.

Important ecological corridors within the County include the following water bodies (including their tributaries and lakes where relevant) - the list is not exhaustive and their
inclusion is not an indication that they fall within the remit of Article 10 of the Habitats Directive:

- River Shannon System
- Shannon-Erne Waterway (Ballyconnell-Ballinamore Canal)
- Bonet River System
- Duff River
- The Drumcliff River (including Diffreen River)
- Drowes River/Lough Melvin System
- Bradoge River
- River Erne

Policy It is the policy of the Council to protect ecological networks linking protected and designated important sites within the County, in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive.

Amendment 18

Section 2.07.09 Protection of Water Courses, pg 105. The following statement and policy amendment to be inserted into Section 2.07.09

The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) sets out a framework for comprehensive management of water resources in the European Community. It addresses inland surface waters, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. The fundamental objective of the WFD aims at maintaining “high status” of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters and achieving at least “good status” in relation to all waters by 2015. Member States will have to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted for the achievement of the objectives of the WFD and for the implementation of programmes of measures for this purpose. Irrespective of political boundaries, the river basin is the natural unit for water management; Ireland is divided into 8 River Basin Districts, 3 of which effect County Leitrim. River Basin Management Plans have been adopted for each of the Districts.

River Basin Management Plans

These Plans set out a program of measures aimed at protection and improvement of the aquatic environment (both groundwater and surface waters). The principal objectives of these plans include:

- To prevent further deterioration in water quality;
• To protect/enhance all waters including surface, ground and coastal waters;
• To manage water bodies based on river basins or catchments;

County Leitrim falls into 3 of these River Basin Districts as follows:

• The Shannon RBD covering all of the River Shannon and its tributaries;
• The North Western International RBD covering the River Erne (part of the Shannon/Erne Waterway, Cullies River, Lough McNean) and its tributaries and Lough Melvin catchment area;
• The Western RBD covering the Bonet River and Lough Gill catchment.

Policy 7.9d (pg 106) to be amended as indicated below;

Policy 7.9d It is the policy of Leitrim County Council to complete the Shannon International River, Western River and North-Western International River Basin District Plans and to implement the recommendations of the Shannon, North Western International and Western River Basin District Plans, as appropriate, in co-operation with the other relevant local authorities and statutory bodies, subject to funding being available.

Amendment 19

Section 2.10 - Utility Services, pg 133. The following statement and policies and objectives to be inserted into Section 2.10 - Utility Services.

Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007
Circular PD/709 issued by the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government to local authorities and dated 16th July 2009 sets out certain obligations on planning authorities under the Waste Water Discharge (Authorisation) Regulations 2007 (SI 684 of 2007) as well as the interrelationship between these requirements and investment plans under the Department's Water Services Investment Programme.

In accordance with the aforementioned Regulations, Planning authorities must assure themselves that in approving development that it would not compromise the operation of municipal wastewater treatment plants, and furthermore that they operate in accordance with the requirements of the EPA licence governing the plant.

Policy: It is the policy of the Council to ensure that in approving development that would give rise to additional discharges to a waste water works or from storm water overflows governed by EPA licences, such discharges, taken in conjunction with discharges from other existing and/or already approved development, are capable of being treated in a manner that is compliant with the stricter of the requirements of:

1. The Urban Waste Water Regulations;
2. The requirements of an EPA licence
Objective: It is an objective of the Council to prioritise, and aim to comply with, the recommendations set out in the EPA Report 2009, Urban Waste Water Discharges in Ireland for Population Equivalents Greater than 500 Persons – A Report for the Years 2006 and 2007 (or any similar updated version issued by the EPA).

Objective: It is an objective of the Council to prioritise, and aim to comply with, the recommendations set in the EPA Report 2009, The Provision and Quality of Drinking Water in Ireland – A Report for the Years 2007 and 2008 (or any similar updated version issued by the EPA) (or any similar updated version issued by the EPA).
Appendix 1

March 2011

Comprehensive List of Prescribed Authorities

In accordance with the requirements of Article 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2006 which substituted Article 13 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001

(a) Spatial Policy Section
Dept. of Environment, Heritage & Local Government,
Custom House,
Dublin 1
(in lieu of the Minister as per circular letter SP/08)

(b) An Bord Pleanala,
64 Marlborough Street,
Dublin 1.

(c) The Minister,
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food,
Agriculture House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2.

(d) The Minister,
Dept of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs,
Dún Aithrighin,
43-49 Mespil Road,
Dublin 4

(e) The Minister,
Department of Defence,
Infirmary Road
Park Gate,
Dublin 7.

(f) The Minister,
Department of Education & Science,
Malborough Street,
Dublin 1.
(g) The Minister,
Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources,
29-31 Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2.

(h) The Minister,
The Department of Transport,
Transport House,
Kildare St.,
Dublin 2.

(i) Dublin Airport Authority,
Head Office,
Dublin Airport,
Dublin.

(j) Fáilte Ireland
Baggot Street Bridge,
Dublin 2.

(k) Central Fisheries Board,
c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland,
Swords Business Campus,
Swords,
Co. Dublin.

(l) An Chomhairle Éalaíon,
70 Merrion Square,
Dublin 2.

(m) The Office of Public Works,
51 St. Stephen's Green,
Dublin 2.

(n) Not Applicable

(o) Property Services
ESB Head Office,
27 Lr. Fitzwilliam Street,
Dublin 2.

(p) Forfás,
Wilton Park House
Wilton Place
Dublin 2
(q) HSE (North West),
Manorhamilton,
Co. Leitrim.

(r) The Heritage Council,
Aras na hOidreachtta
Church Lane
Kilkenny.

(s) Health and Safety Authority,
The Metropolitan Building,
James Joyce Street,
Dublin 1.

(t) National Roads Authority,
St. Martin's House,
Waterloo Road,
Dublin 4.

(u) Northern Regional Fisheries Board,
c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland,
Station Road,
Ballyshannon,
Donegal,
Co. Donegal.

North Western Regional Fisheries Board,
c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland,
Ardnaree House,
Abbey St.,
Ballina,
Co. Mayo

Western Regional Fisheries Board,
c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland,
Wier Lodge,
Earls Island,
Galway

Shannon Regional Fisheries Board,
c/o Inland Fisheries Ireland,
Ashbourne Business Park,
Dock Rd.,
Limerick

(v) Not Applicable
(w) An Taisce,  
Tailor's Hall,  
Dublin 8.

(x) Longford County Council,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Great Water St.,  
Longford  

Sligo County Council,  
County Hall  
Riverside,  
Sligo  

Roscommon County Council,  
The Courthouse,  
Roscommon,  
Co. Roscommon.  

Cavan County Council,  
The Courthouse,  
Farnham Street,  
Cavan,  
Co. Cavan.  

Donegal County Council,  
County House,  
The Diamond,  
Lifford,  
Co. Donegal.  

Fermanagh District Council,  
Town Hall,  
Enniskillen,  
Co. Fermanagh  
N. Ireland BT74 7BA  

(y) Leitrim County Enterprise Board,  
Dublin Rd.,  
Carrick on Shannon,  
Co. Leitrim  

Leitrim County Development Board,  
Leitrim County Council,  
Áras an Chontae,  
Carrick-on-Shannon,  
Co. Leitrim
Bundoran Town Council,
Main Street,
Bundoran,
Co. Donegal

(z) Border Regional Authority,
Corlurgan Business Park,
Ballinagh Road,
Cavan,
Co. Cavan.

Midland Regional Authority,
Bridge Centre,
Bridge St.,
Tullamore,
Co. Offaly

West Regional Authority,
First Floor,
Woodquay Court,
Woodquay,
Galway

************

Additional Bodies not specifically referenced under Article 5 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2006 but which are considered relevant:

Development Applications Unit,
Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government, Newtown Road,
Wexford.

Environmental Protection Agency,
EPA Headquarters,
PO Box 3000,
Johnstown Castle Estate,
Co. Wexford

Western Development Commission,
Dillon house,
Ballaghaderreen,
Co. Roscommon.

The Minister,
Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment,
Davitt House,
Adelaide Road,
Dublin 2.
National Parks & Wildlife Service
7 Ely Place
Dublin 2
IRELAND

Waterways Ireland
Somerview House
Old Dublin Road
Carrick-on-Shannon
Co Leitrim
RE: Item No. 4 on Agenda for Council Meeting 9th May 2011 – Service Indicators 2010

Dear Member,

Leitrim County Council reports each year in its Annual Report on performance as measured by nationally-set service indicators – the range of national indicators was expanded in 2004 from 21 to 42, and following review was further expanded to 46 in 2008, to reflect activity and performance across a wider range of service areas.

The attached out-turn report for 2010 presents a snapshot of organisational performance in so far as this can be captured by the indicators which have been chosen nationally. The report also includes our 2008 and 2009 figures for comparison purposes.

The indicators in themselves are blunt instruments in the absence of comparative data from other local authorities or relevant contextual information.

Service indicators are not one-dimensional, as the report reflects in many instances, and they must be viewed in the context of finance, resource and environmental considerations. While the refusal rate in relation to Planning Decisions may have increased slightly in some categories this must be considered in the context of a lower level of application and decision activity.

We are continuing to achieve increases in relation to recycling activity in the county. It should be noted however that the percentage of household waste sent for recycling as reported only reflects household waste collected on collection routes. When combined with the level of household waste recycled at our Civic Amenity Sites and Bring Centres the percentage of household waste recycled in the county increases from 28% to a very impressive 40.6%.

In the context of a sound financial performance and a stable financial position going forward, the areas of revenue collection present particular challenges. Commercial Rates and water charges collection however remain areas of concern. A number of customers have put in place payment plans with Leitrim County Council, however, due to economic circumstances, payment is over a much longer period than in previous years. A third party debt collector has been engaged with a certain degree of success. Our Water Charges collection continues to be negatively impacted by problems associated with the Water Pricing Policy and problems with collection. Particular problems arise in relation to Group Water Schemes in terms of getting them engaged, inactive committees etc. While these issues are being actively addressed it must be recognised that collection of income is becoming increasingly challenging in the current economic circumstances. The 2010 figures must also be viewed in the context of an overall revenue collection performance of 74.52%.
Appendix 5 - Council Meeting 9th May 2011

Report to Elected Members – May 2011

Notwithstanding the potential pitfalls outlined, the emergence of a performance measurement environment must be welcomed and taken in context service indicators are a useful yardstick by which the public can ascertain the performance of its Local Authority.

In presenting the 2010 results I am pleased to report another positive set of indicators. Leitrim compared very well in the published national Service Indicator results since 2004 and I am confident that our performance for 2010 will reflect equally favourably on this Authority in terms of the comparative data which will become available. The results have been forwarded to the National Monitoring Committee for analysis and review and to feed into the publication of the 2010 National Service Indicators Report.

I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and compliment the staff of the Council in contributing to this positive set of indicators.

Yours sincerely,

Jackie Maguire
Leitrim County Manager

Encl./
# Service Indicators 2010

## F: Fire Service

### F.1 Fire Service Mobilisation

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>5.25 mins</th>
<th>5.06 mins</th>
<th>5.23 mins</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Part time stations - Fire</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Part time stations - All other emergency incidents</td>
<td>5.15</td>
<td>5.12 mins</td>
<td>5.05 mins</td>
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</table>

*Note:* Measured from time of call-out (activation of alerters) to time when vehicle leaves the station – CAMP West system implemented since February 2006

### F.2 Attendance at Scene

<table>
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<th></th>
<th>43.2%</th>
<th>40.80%</th>
<th>33.5%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Fire - First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fire - First attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
<td>49.60%</td>
<td>41.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Fire - First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes</td>
<td>15.4%</td>
<td>9.60%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other Emergency Incidents - First attendance is at scene within 10 minutes</td>
<td>42.5%</td>
<td>47.29%</td>
<td>41.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other Emergency Incidents - First attendance is at scene after 10 minutes but within 20 minutes</td>
<td>40.7%</td>
<td>44.19%</td>
<td>47.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Other Emergency Incidents - First attendance is at scene after 20 minutes</td>
<td>16.8%</td>
<td>8.53%</td>
<td>11.6%</td>
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</table>

*Note:* Fire incidents increased by 52.8% on 2009 and the entire increase is attributable to forest/gorse fires, the majority of which are difficult to access and are on the extremities of station fire ground areas

### F.3 Fire Prevention – Total number of fire certification applications

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>48</th>
<th>32</th>
<th>31</th>
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<tr>
<td>- Received</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Processed</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>34</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Invalid</td>
<td>1</td>
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## CP: Community Participation

### CP.1 Community Participation and co-operation

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Total number of local schools and youth groups</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- % of local schools involved in local Youth Council / Comhairle na nOg Scheme</td>
<td>87.5%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
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### CP.2 Groups Registered with Community & Voluntary Forum

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<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Number of groups registered with the Forum at the end of each year</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>188*</td>
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</table>

*Note:* Re-registration process by Community Forum ongoing

## C: Corporate Issues

### C.1 Percentage of working days lost to sickness absence through:

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<tr>
<td>- certified leave</td>
<td>3.99%</td>
<td>4.23%</td>
<td>4.64%</td>
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<tr>
<td>- uncertified leave</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>0.62%</td>
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</table>

### C.2 Training and Development

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Expenditure as % of total payroll costs</td>
<td>5.2%</td>
<td>4.01%</td>
<td>3.23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* National target is 3%

## E: Environmental Services

### E.1 Unaccounted for Water

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Unaccounted for Water</td>
<td>36.5%</td>
<td>35.69%</td>
<td>*36.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* Increase due to severe weather in January & February 2010

### E.2 % of drinking water analysis results in compliance with statutory requirements with regard to

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Public Schemes</td>
<td>98.48%</td>
<td>99.57%</td>
<td>99.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>- Private Schemes</td>
<td>93.50%</td>
<td>96.12%</td>
<td>97.55%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* 2010 figures will be based on EPA published report for 2009
### E.3 Waste Segregation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage of households who receive a waste collection service and are provided with segregated waste collection for</th>
<th>a. 100%</th>
<th>b. Nil</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a) dry recyclables</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b) organics</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** New Service Indicator 2008

### E.4 Household Waste Sent for Recycling

- (i) % of household waste collected from kerbside which is sent for recycling: 25.22% 26.48%* 28%
- (ii) Tonnage of household waste collected at kerbside which is sent for recycling: 1334.84 1429 1383
- Tonnage of household waste recycled which arises from waste collected from recycling facilities (i.e. bring banks, civic amenity sites, and other recycling facilities): 1243.57 1267.65 1018

**Note:** Amended Service Indicator 2008; *% only reflects kerbside collection. When combined with collection from recycling facilities the % household waste recycled increases to 40.6% (4890 tonnes collected in total and 1383 tonnes recycled)

### E.5 Household Waste Sent for Landfill (from door-to-door collection only)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% of household waste collected going to landfill</th>
<th>74.78%</th>
<th>73.52%</th>
<th>72%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tonnage of household waste collected going to landfill</td>
<td>3958.13</td>
<td>3965.59</td>
<td>3507</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### E.6 Recycling Facilities

#### Glass
- Number of Bring Sites: 37 37 39
- Number of Civic Amenity Sites: 0 0 0
- Total Number of Facilities: 37 37 39
- Number of locations per 5000 of population: 6.39 6.39 6.74

#### Cans
- Number of Bring Sites: 36 36 38
- Number of Civic Amenity Sites: 1 1 1
- Total Number of Facilities: 37 37 39
- Number of locations per 5000 of population: 6.39 6.39 6.74

#### Textiles
- Number of Bring Sites: 16 16 16
- Number of Civic Amenity Sites: 2 2 2
- Total Number of Facilities: 18 18 18
- Number of locations per 5000 of population: 3.11 3.11 3.11

#### Batteries
- Number of Bring Sites: 0 6 6
- Number of Civic Amenity Sites: 2 2 2
- Total Number of Facilities: *8 8 8
- Number of locations per 5000 of population: 1.38 1.38 1.38

**Note:** *Includes 6 Primary Schools which have Battery Recycling Units

#### Oils
- Number of Bring Sites: 0 0 0
- Number of Civic Amenity Sites: 2 2 2
- Total Number of Facilities: 2 2 2
- Number of locations per 5000 of population: 0.35 0.35 0.35

**Note:** Oil recycling facilities removed from our Bring Sites in 2007 due to contamination. Facilities available in our Civic Amenity Sites providing a controlled and better quality disposal facility

#### Others
- Number of Bring Sites: 0 0 0
- Number of Civic Amenity Sites: 2 2 2
- Total Number of Facilities: 2 2 2
- Number of locations per 5000 of population: 0.35 0.35 0.35
### Appendix 5 - Council Meeting 9th May 2011

#### E.7(a) Litter Prevention and Enforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>3</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of Litter Wardens (part-time)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Number of litter wardens per 5000 population</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.52</td>
<td>0.52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Number of on-the-spot fines</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>317</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(c) Number of on-the-spot fines paid</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(d) Number of prosecutions taken due to non-payment of on-the-spot fines</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(e) Number of prosecutions secured</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(f) Number of Notices issued (under sections 9, 15, 16, 17 and 20 of the Litter Pollution Act 1997)</td>
<td>3 (Section 9)</td>
<td>1 (Section 9)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(g) Total number of prosecutions taken (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 – 2003)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(h) Total Number of prosecutions secured (all prosecutions under the Litter Acts 1997 – 2003)</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Increased activity due to targeted anti-litter enforcement campaign

#### E.7(b) Litter Pollution

- **Percentage of areas within the local authority that are**
  - Unpolluted (i.e. litter free) 0% 1.43% 27 ATM Surveys carried out
  - Slightly polluted with litter 88% 54.29%
  - Moderately polluted with litter 12% 38.57%
  - Significantly polluted with litter 0% 5.00%
  - Grossly polluted with litter 0% 0.71%

#### E.8 Environmental Complaints and Enforcement

- **Total number of cases subject to complaints concerning environmental pollution (relating to waste, litter, water pollution, noise pollution, air pollution)** 787 675 687
- **Number of complaints investigated** 787 675 687
- **Number of complaints resolved where no further action was necessary** 283* 365 284
- **Number of enforcement procedures taken** 882** 329 230**

**Note:** *2008 figure related to Qtr 4 only as data had not been measured prior to this.
**2008 enforcement procedures taken - figure included in excess of 400 Notices issued under the Packaging Regulations
***2010 – Excludes Fines issued as a result of CTV footage (286)

#### E.9 Percentage of schools participating in environmental campaigns

<p>| | | | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Primary schools</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>92.86%</td>
<td>95.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary schools</td>
<td>88%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** 40 of 42 primary schools and 7 of 7 secondary schools

### H. Housing 2008 2009 2010

#### H.1 Housing Vacancies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>962</th>
<th>981</th>
<th>1001</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total number of dwellings in local authority stock</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total dwellings excluding those subject to major refurbishment</td>
<td>962</td>
<td>981</td>
<td>1001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall % of dwellings that are empty</td>
<td>3.12%</td>
<td>2.91%*</td>
<td>2.77%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of empty dwellings unavailable for letting (excluding those subject to major refurbishment)</td>
<td>93.33%</td>
<td>92.98%</td>
<td>95.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of empty dwellings available for letting (excluding those subject to major refurbishment)</td>
<td>6.67%</td>
<td>7.02%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** All figures relate to an average of 4 separate points in time (i.e. taken at end March, June, Sept and Dec)

#### H.2 Average Time Taken to Re-Let Available Dwellings

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>15.67 weeks</th>
<th>15.12</th>
<th>19.5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(a) Time taken from date of vacation of dwelling to date when repairs carried out</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Time taken from works at (a) being completed to date of first rent debit</td>
<td>1.99 weeks</td>
<td>2.11</td>
<td>2.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** This indicator was negatively impacted upon by other building works programme and activities relating to the severe weather conditions
### Appendix 5 - Council Meeting 9th May 2011

#### H.3 Repairs

| Number of repairs completed as % of valid repair requests received | 92.95% | 90.36 | **87.77** |

*Note:* More than one-third of the overall repair requests received for the year were received in the last quarter and are primarily attributable to issues arising from the severe weather conditions.

#### H.4 Traveller Accommodation

| Total number of traveller families accommodated as a % of the targets set in the local traveller accommodation programme | 100% | 100% | **38.46%** |

#### H.5 Enforcement of Standards in Private Rented Sector

| (a) total of No. of Registered Tenancies (per PRTB database) | 1019 | 1166* | **1336** |
| (b) No of dwelling units inspected | 200 | 200 | **135** |
| (c) No of inspections carried out | N/A | 200* | **135** |
| (d) % of dwellings inspected | 19.63% | 17.15% | **10.10%** |

*Note:* New Service Indicator 2008

*1336 relates to properties registered with the PRTB per their database. Properties previously inspected would not, other than in specific circumstances, need to be inspected on an annual basis.

#### H.6 Grants to adapt housing for the needs of people with a disability

| - (a) Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Mobility Aids Grant Scheme, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application | 6 weeks | 5.7 weeks | **11 weeks** |
| - (b) Average time taken (in weeks) to process applications under the Housing Adaptation Grant for People with a Disability, including any necessary inspection(s), from the date of receipt of a valid application to the date of decision on the application | 12 weeks | 10.75 weeks | **15 weeks** |


#### H.7 Pre-Tenancy Familiarisation Courses

| - (a) total of No. of new local authority tenants | 112 | 65 | **27** |
| - (b) Percentage of new local authority tenants who have been offered pre-tenancy familiarisation courses | 100% | 100% | **100% (27)** |

*Note:* New Service Indicator 2008. All new tenants are required to attend pre-tenancy training prior to signing of Letting Agreement.

### L. Library Services

#### L.1 Library Public Opening Hours

| Average number of opening hours per week for full time libraries | 38.43 hrs | 38.52 hrs | 38.43 hrs |
| Average number of opening hours per week for part-time libraries | 11.44 hrs | 11.35 hrs | 11.3 hrs |
| % of full time libraries that have lunchtime openings | 20%* | 20% | 20% |
| % of full time libraries that have evening openings | 100%* | 100% | 100% |
| % of full time libraries that have Saturday openings | 100%* | 100% | 100% |

*Note:* Based on actual opening hours i.e. excluding Bank & Public Holidays etc.; * New Service Indicator 2008.

#### L.2 Library Visits

| Number of visits to full time libraries per 1000 population - i.e. The figure for the week commencing the first Monday in October x 50 to get yearly estimate | 6294* | 5690.85 | **6817** |

* New Service Indicator 2008.

#### L.3 Library Stock

| Annual expenditure on stock per head of population | €3.90* | €2.20 | €1.93 |
| Number of items issued per head of population for Books | 3.7 | 3.92 | 3.90 |
| Number of items issued per head of population for other items | 0.11 | 0.11 | 0.07 |

*Note:* *New Service Indicator 2008

#### L.4 Internet Access Through Libraries

| Number of internet sessions provided per 1,000 population | 805.51 | 635.63 | **983.37** |

*Note:* *2010 – Previously based on one hour sessions – calculated on actual sessions for 2010
### M. Motor Taxation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Percentage of Motor Tax Transactions (excluding Driver Licences)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Are dealt with over the counter (%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>60.64% (22,843)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>60.30% (22,737)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>56.76% (21,254)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### M.2 Number & % of overall postal applications which are dealt with from receipt of the application (excluding Driver Licences)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Data 2008</th>
<th>Data 2009</th>
<th>Data 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the same day</td>
<td>7,190 (96.9%)</td>
<td>6,869 (98.38%)</td>
<td>6,883 (98.16%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the third day or less</td>
<td>171 (2.3%)</td>
<td>52 (0.74%)</td>
<td>80 (1.14%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the fifth day or less</td>
<td>3 (0.04%)</td>
<td>6 (0.09%)</td>
<td>7 (0.10%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 5 days</td>
<td>56 (0.76%)</td>
<td>55 (0.79%)</td>
<td>42 (0.60%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### M.3 Driver Licence Applications

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Data 2008</th>
<th>Data 2009</th>
<th>Data 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>On the same day</td>
<td>1626 (37.64%)</td>
<td>2,250 (64.92%)</td>
<td>645 (13.69%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the third day or less</td>
<td>2,251 (56.73%)</td>
<td>1,132 (32.66%)</td>
<td>2,886 (61.23%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the fifth day or less</td>
<td>171 (3.96%)</td>
<td>30 (0.87%)</td>
<td>695 (14.75%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 5 days</td>
<td>72 (1.67%)</td>
<td>54 (1.56%)</td>
<td>487 (10.33%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Number of Licences issued in 2010 increased by 35.92%

### M.4 Public opening hours

- Average number of public opening hours per week: 27.96, 27.46, 28.19

**Note:** Based on actual opening hours i.e. excluding Bank & Public Holidays etc

### P. Planning

#### P.1 Planning Applications – Decision Making

**Individual Houses**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications determined</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>233</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks</td>
<td>117</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which required the submission of further information</td>
<td>164</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)</td>
<td>70.79 days</td>
<td>69.99 days</td>
<td>72.54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of grants</td>
<td>78.80%</td>
<td>84.12%</td>
<td>79.07%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of refusals</td>
<td>21.20%</td>
<td>15.88%</td>
<td>20.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>77.78%</td>
<td>64.20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 of 9 decisions</td>
<td>9 of 14 decisions</td>
<td>3 of 6 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>22.22%</td>
<td>35.71%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 of 9 decisions</td>
<td>5 of 14 decisions</td>
<td>3 of 6 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Housing Development**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Application Type</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications determined</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which required the submission of further information</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)</td>
<td>74.57 days</td>
<td>68.75 days</td>
<td>91.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of grants</td>
<td>57.14%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>41.66%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 of 21 decisions</td>
<td>5 of 10 decisions</td>
<td>5 of 12 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of refusals</td>
<td>42.86%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>58.33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 of 21 decisions</td>
<td>5 of 10 decisions</td>
<td>7 of 12 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 of 5 decisions</td>
<td>1 of 1 decisions</td>
<td>2 of 2 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 of 5 decisions</td>
<td>0 of 2 decisions</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Appendix 5 - Council Meeting 9th May 2011

#### Other: not requiring EIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>372</th>
<th>183</th>
<th>114</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications determined</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks</td>
<td>209</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which required the submission of further information</td>
<td>163</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)</td>
<td>70.84 days</td>
<td>71.22 days</td>
<td>73.72 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of grants</td>
<td>91.94%</td>
<td>86.89%</td>
<td>88.60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of refusals</td>
<td>8.06%</td>
<td>13.11%</td>
<td>11.40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>45.45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 of 10 decisions</td>
<td>7 of 14 decisions</td>
<td>5 of 11 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>54.55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 of 10 decisions</td>
<td>7 of 14 decisions</td>
<td>6 of 11 decisions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Other: requiring EIA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>1</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of applications determined</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which were decided within 8 weeks</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions which required the submission of further information</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of decisions where an extension of time was agreed to by the applicant</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average length of time taken to determine an application where further information is sought (in days)</td>
<td>81 days</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of grants</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of refusals</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was confirmed, with or without variations, by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>33.33%</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 of 3 decisions</td>
<td>1 of 1 decision</td>
<td>0 of 1 decision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of appeal decisions where the decision was reversed by An Bord Pleanala</td>
<td>66.67%</td>
<td>Nil</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 of 3 decisions</td>
<td>1 of 1 decision</td>
<td>1 of 1 decision</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### P.2 Planning Enforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>150</th>
<th>137</th>
<th>86</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>total number of cases subject to complaints that are investigated</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total number of cases subject to complaints that are dismissed</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>total number of cases subject to complaint that were resolved through negotiations</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of enforcement procedures taken through warning letters</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>133</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of enforcement procedures taken through enforcement notices</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>number of prosecutions</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** All cases subject to complaints investigated.

#### P.3 Public opening hours

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>33.33</th>
<th>33.16</th>
<th>33.38</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>average number of opening hours per week</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** Based on actual opening hours i.e. Excluding Bank & Public Holidays etc

#### P.4 Pre-Planning Consultation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10.58 working days</th>
<th>14.56 working days</th>
<th>15.75 days</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>average length of time from request for consultation with local authority planner to actual formal meeting for pre-planning consultation (in days)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of pre-planning consultation meetings held</td>
<td>174*</td>
<td>147</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** *Amended in 2008 to include face to face consultations, individual consultations at Planning Clinics, e-mail and telephone consultations.

#### P.5 Building Control

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>21.9%</th>
<th>18.9%</th>
<th>20%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>buildings inspected as % of new buildings notified to the local authority</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** National target of 12-15%.
Appendix 5 - Council Meeting 9th May 2011

P.6 Taking Estates in Charge

- (a) The number of residential estates for which the planning permission has expired, in respect of which formal written requests for taking in charge (from residents or developers), were on hands at the beginning of the year. 0 0 2
- (b) Number of estates that were taken in charge in the year in question. 0 4 1
- (c) Number of dwellings in respect of column (b). 0 93 22
- (d) % of estates in column A not completed to the satisfaction of the planning authority in line with the planning permission. 0 0 50% (1 of 2)
- (e) Number of estates in column D in respect of which enforcement action was taken in the year in question and/or the bond was called in. 0 0 0
- (f) Number of estates in Column D in respect of which works were undertaken by the authority to bring the estate to taking in charge standard. 0 0 0

Note: At year-end there were approximately 33 applications for taking in charge which were at various stages of the taking in charge process

Rec. Recreational Services 2008 2009 2010

Rec.1 Number of children’s playgrounds per 1000 population:
- Directly provided by the local authority 0.242 0.28 0.276
- Facilitated by the local authority 0.242 0.24 0.242

Note: Relates to playgrounds with play equipment only i.e. not basketball/tennis courts etc.

Rec.2 Local Authority-Facilitated Leisure Facilities
- Visitors to local authority facilitated leisure facilities per 1,000 population 4,471 4547.29 *6463.45

*Note 2010 – All Leisure facility usage in Aura Leisure Centre included in 2010 – previously only swim users included

Rev. Revenue Collection 2008 2009 2010

Rev.1 House Rent
- Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due 95% 92.7% 94%
  - Percentage of arrears
    0 – 4 weeks old 9.49% 10.43% 12.4%
    4 – 6 weeks old 14.01% 13.07% 11.3%
    6 – 12 weeks old 60.13% 61.63% 12.4%
    More than 12 weeks old

Note: *Categories revised in 2010. Figures match Appendix 7 in AFS and the arrears figures are net of pre-payments

Rev.2 Housing Loans
- Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due 80.36% 79.32% 74%
  - Percentage of arrears
    0 – 4 weeks old 1.37% 1.47% 2.2%
    1 – 2 months old 7.55% 11.07% 3.7%
    2 – 3 months old 91.08% 87.46% 3.8%
    Greater than 3 months old

Note: *Categories revised in 2010. Figures match Appendix 7 in AFS and the arrears figures are net of pre-payments

Rev.3 Commercial Rates
- Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due 90.89% 83.43% 78%

Note: Taking into account the amount received in 2011 which related to 2010, the collection rate would be an additional 3%
### Rev.4. Refuse Charges

| Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due | N/A | N/A | N/A |

### Rev.5. Non Domestic Water Charges

| Amount collected at year end as a % of amount due | 37.66% | 34.93% | 41.22% |

### Roads

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
<th>2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R.1 Surface Dressing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(a) Number of km of local and regional roads improved and maintained under the Restoration Programme per annum</td>
<td>141.78 Km</td>
<td>154.712 Km</td>
<td>120.8 Km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(b) Number of km of local and regional roads constructed under the Specific Improvement Grants Scheme per annum</td>
<td>5.6 Km</td>
<td>4.519 Km</td>
<td>4 Km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Note:** *Changes reflect impact of reductions in road grant allocation 2010*