

2016

STRATEGIC  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
ASSESSMENT SCREENING  
REPORT OF THE COUNTY  
CLARE LOCAL ECONOMIC  
AND COMMUNITY PLAN

Prepared for Clare County Council March 2016

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# 1 COUNTY CLARE LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN- HIGH LEVEL GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND ACTIONS.

## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

The European Union Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Directive (2001/42/EC) requires an environmental assessment be carried out for all plans that are prepared for certain specified sectors, including land use planning of which the proposed Clare Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) relates. The LECP, a new plan required under the Local Government Reform Act 2014 is to be made by local authorities over a six year period and consists of two elements – economic and community. The purpose of the LECP is to set out the objectives and actions needed to promote and support the economic development and local and community development of the local authority area, both by itself directly and in partnership with other economic and community development stakeholders. The LECP is not intended to be a detailed operational programme.

There are four phases to the preparation of the Plan, of which this SEA Screening Report relates to the stage 4, the finalisation of the Plan. These are presented below in Table 1 and show how the SEA relates to the plan preparation.

**TABLE 1 STAGES IN LECP AND SEA**

Local Economic Community Development Plan Process	SEA / Environmental Inputs
<b>Stage 1: Preparation</b>	
a) Establish & analyse the socio-economic evidence base b) Review of relevant high level strategies and plans. c) Develop a socio-economic statement for Co Clare and develop high level goals for the integrated LECP d) Advisory steering group to prepare, and to adopt the statement for public consultation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening of the SEA Goals and Objectives (undertaken in June 2015)</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 2: Public Consultation</b>	
a) Undertake a public consultation on the socio-economic statement & high-level goals b) Revise the statement and refer to the Municipal Districts (MD) & Regional Assembly (RA).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review consultation feedback from specified environmental authorities.</li> <li>• SEA consideration of consultation feedback</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 3: Develop the Objectives &amp; Actions (Current Stage)</b>	
a) Develop detailed objectives for the plan underpinned by clear, measurable actions b) Advisory steering group to prepare, agree to the objectives & actions c) Advisory steering Group to submit a final draft incorporating the statement & goals, objectives & actions for consideration by MDs and RAs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Screening of the Detailed Objectives for the Plan taking into consideration any amendments as a result of consultation feedback.</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 4: Finalise Plan (Current Stage)</b>	
a) Consider & adopt final draft (revised as necessary following consideration by the MDs and RAs). b) Local Authority to adopt the final draft of the LECP c) Final Plan submitted to the Minister & published by LA.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalise determination to establish if SEA or AA required.</li> <li>• SEA Determination</li> </ul>
<b>Stage 5: Monitoring &amp; Review</b>	
a) Advisory Steering Group to monitor progress on actions & against measureable targets for the objectives.	

## 1.2 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations, 2004 (as amended) state that SEA is mandatory for certain plans while screening for SEA is required for other plans that fall below the specified thresholds. Each previous stage of the plan preparation has been subject to screening under the SEA Directive and the Habitats Directive.

The Socio-economic statement was screened in June 2015 and the screening of High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions was undertaken in November 2015.

In that period, minor changes have been made to the LECP, as follows:

- Changes to some the text of the existing High Level Goals, Actions and Objectives.
- Section 9 Consistency of LECP and Proofing, and
- Section 10 Monitoring Review and Evaluation.

Therefore, the purpose of this screening report is to determine whether the above changes will or will not, lead to significant environmental effects for the Plan area and if it will require a full Strategic Environment Assessment. Local Government Guidance on LECP (2015) states *“it is the responsibility of the local authority preparing the LECP to take account of the SEA directive and Article 6 of the Habitats Directives and ensure compliance as appropriate.”*

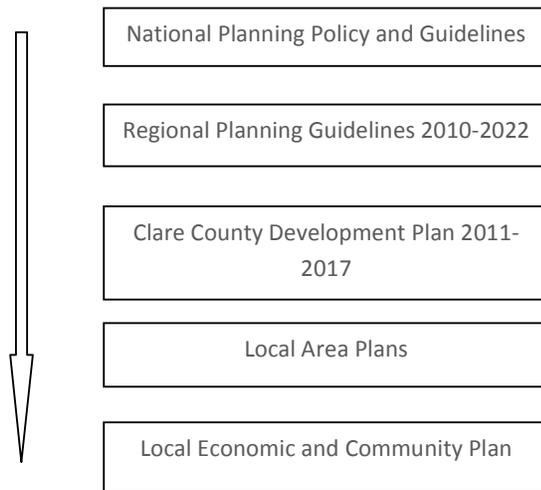
The following Regulations transpose this Directive into Irish law:

- The European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004),
- The Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004) and further amended by
- S.I. No. 200 of 2011 (European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011) and S.I. No. 201 of 2011 (Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) (Amendment) Regulations 2011).

In deciding whether a particular plan is likely to have significant environmental effects, regard must be had to the criteria set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive. The approach to this screening assessment is to identify and state where the High level goals, objectives and actions correspond to existing Clare County Development Plan Policies and/or Objectives and thereafter to assess the remaining high level goals, objectives and actions for potential environmental effects. Section Three of this report assesses these against the criteria contained in Schedule 2a of the Regulations; Annex A presents a more detailed commentary on each high level goal, objective and action. New/altered text is shown in bold purple font.

Figure A below illustrates where the high level goals, objectives and actions which form part of this LECP preparation sits within the planning hierarchy. Each of these land use strategies have been subject to the SEA process. Please note, the existing Clare County Development Plan is under review with a draft plan being prepared for the period 2017 -2023. Upon adoption of this plan, the relevant policies, objectives and landuse zonings will apply.

FIGURE A: PLANNING HIERARCHY



### 1.3 BACKGROUND TO LECP

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 makes legal provision for the reforms set out in the *Government’s Action Programme for Effective Local Government, Putting People First*, (October 2012). The Act provides the framework for a more joined-up approach to local and community development programming, which will seek to draw together key local partners to oversee the provision of more effective, efficient and sustainable services for citizens and communities.

Delivery of the strategy and actions “on the ground” will be the role of the relevant public bodies and agencies including the local authority itself, the Local Enterprise Office (LEO), and other relevant national and local bodies including the Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, TUSLA the Child and Family Agency, the HSE, the Intreo Offices of the Department of Social Protection, as well as non-public agencies including the local development companies, voluntary organisations and community-based organisations across the county.

A key principle underpinning the LECP is sustainability and as stated above, the LECP is required to be consistent with the existing Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies (RSEs), to be prepared by the Regional Assemblies, and a new National Planning Framework, to replace the current National Spatial Strategy. With regards to land-use planning the LECP must be consistent with the existing statutory Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 as varied and “*not present alternate or competing proposals that would lead to inconsistency*”.

### 1.4 SUMMARY OF FINAL LECP.

The LECP now includes the Socio-Economic Evidence Base, as well as the finalised High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions.

The five thematic areas prepared and subject to SEA Screening in November 2015 remain the same, as follows:

- Economic Development, employment and enterprise;

- Quality of life, health and well being;
- Education and training;
- Research and development, and
- Climate Change and energy.

The additional chapters relate to Section 9: Consistency of LECP and Equality and Diversity Proofing, and Section 10: Monitoring.

Section 9 clearly demonstrates the consistency of the LECP with the Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines (MWRPGs), the Core strategy of the County Development Plan and that both the community and economic elements of the plan are aligned. As referenced earlier, the draft County Development Plan 2017-2023 is being prepared and a list of relevant policies and objectives are shown beside each element of the High level goals, strategic objectives and actions that demonstrate this consistency. The LECP is also equality and diversity proofed, and Section 9.2 presents this assessment, examining impacts of LECP actions in terms of the nine grounds of discrimination.

Section 10 provides information on the monitoring regime for the LECP.

## 1.5 ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS

The SEA Environmental Report of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 as varied, provides the following descriptions of the environmental resources around the County:

County Clare is a coastal County on the western seaboard in the province of Munster, covering an area of some 318,784 hectares (787,715 acres). It is bounded by counties Galway to the north, Tipperary to the east and Limerick to the south. Its natural boundaries comprise Galway Bay to the north, the Atlantic to the West, the River Shannon and Lough Derg to the east and the Shannon Estuary to the south. Together with North Tipperary and the City and County of Limerick, it constitutes the Mid West Region of Ireland (*note: now part of the Southern and Easter Regional Assembly*). The County has a diverse topography, varying from bare limestone pavement to estuarial mudflats and from high Atlantic cliffs to inland lakes and waterways. The County's coastline is 360km in length. Much of the County is underlain with limestone which is highly permeable. County Clare is noted for its agriculture, tourism and outstanding landscapes. It is home to the Burren National Park and is renowned for its natural, cultural and aesthetic heritage.

County Clare has a diversity of habitats and associated flora and fauna, evidenced through the high number of natural heritage designations of International, European, National or County importance. In total, Clare has 37 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 10 Special Protection Areas (SPAs), 14 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and 34 proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). There are a number of other sites across the County that have been designated for environmental and/or ecological protection. These sites include the Burren National Park, two Ramsar sites (Galway Bay and Ballyallia lake), 5 Wildlife Sanctuaries (Mutton Island, Islandavanna, Tullagher Lough, Ballyallia Lough and part of the Inagh river) and 4 Nature Reserves (Ballyteigue, Caher (Murphy), Keelhilla (Slieve Carron) and Dromore). Outside the designated sites, habitats associated with agricultural activity and other land uses represent a further biodiversity resource. Habitats such as hedgerows have been an important feature of the landscape in most parts of Ireland for centuries. They provide

a habitat for many species and also function as wildlife corridors for animals to move through. Riparian zones and field margins can provide food, shelter, breeding areas and corridors for insects such as beetles and ground nesting birds

The Socio-Economic Statement prepared as part of stage one of the LECP preparation presented more up to date research in terms of population ; however fundamentally basic challenges include retaining the young working population of Clare to prevent high levels of emigration by encouraging them to live and work in the area. Additionally, the increasing trend of elderly age cohorts and their needs must also be catered for. Human health data for the County is not easily available. However, population health and quality of life are very much influenced by the presence and state of the other environmental parameters.

The predominant rock types in the Clare area are sedimentary rocks, limestone and sandstone and shales in particular. There are 89 areas of geological importance within the County that are considered to be of National importance as best representative examples of particular geological formations or features, for example, cave systems, limestone pavements and mushroom stones.

County Clare has a significant number of rivers, lakes and turloughs. The main rivers within and surrounding the County are the River Shannon and River Fergus. The Shannon and Fergus estuaries together form the country's largest estuarine complex. Both rivers have a significant number of tributaries. Lough Derg in the east of the County is the largest lake on the River Shannon.

Groundwater is defined as the water stored underground in formations of saturated rock, sand, gravel, and soil. Groundwater reserves are a valuable source of water supply at present but particularly for future domestic use, industry and agriculture uses and it also performs an important role in sustaining the base flows in the County especially the River Shannon, River Fergus and their tributaries.

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) was carried out for the CCDP 2011-2017 providing a broad, County-wide SFRA reflecting the broad and strategic nature of the Development Plan. County Clare is vulnerable to flooding from a number of flood hazard sources including:

- Fluvial flooding from rivers
- Pluvial flooding resulting from rainfall that is unable to be absorbed by the ground or drainage system
- Coastal flooding from tidal surge
- Groundwater, particularly in Karst areas such as the Burren
- Urban and suburban flooding caused by surcharge of sewers and drainage systems
- Canal, reservoir or embankment breach.

Air quality monitoring in Ireland is undertaken largely to implement EC Directives on smoke and sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), lead, ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) and to assess compliance with National air quality standards. Ireland is divided into four zones for the purpose of monitoring. Ennis is in Zone C, with the remainder of the County in Zone D. The index rating is for overall air quality in

Zone C, derived from results from the Ennis station which includes all of the plan area, is good. Air quality is also tested at nearby Shannon Estuary, at 16 Integrated Pollution Prevention and Control (IPPC) licensed activities in the County. The most notable one is the ESB power station at Moneypoint and the remainder of these licensed activities located mainly in Shannon.

The greatest energy consumers and producers of CO<sub>2</sub> in County Clare are the energy production and transport sectors. Whilst Ireland generally does not have a significant outdoor air quality problem the biggest threat is emissions from road traffic. The majority of the plan area is rural in nature where travel is an essential part of daily life. Agriculture is changing, and so too are the consequences for the National herd, directly related to methane production. Land use changes will have far-reaching implications for climate change that could include sweeping changes to commuter patterns with the building of more one-off houses in rural areas and the resultant increase in GHGs, SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, VOC and other pollutant emissions.

Due to the position of County Clare on the western seaboard with an International Airport, deep water estuary, railway and high quality motorway, National, Regional and local road networks, the County has a significant strategic transportation infrastructure within the Mid-West Region (*now the Southern and Eastern Regional Assembly*). Limerick/Shannon is designated as a Gateway under the National Spatial Strategy. Shannon International Airport is a critical element in the National transport infrastructure. The designation of Ennis as a Hub town has brought forward improvements in transport infrastructure, e.g. the Ennis bypass. The road network in the County provides ready access to all regions of the County linking the County with the adjoining region and their Gateways, provide direct access to Shannon International Airport, and to the regional rail network and to ports. Bus services in the County are mainly limited to long distance routes between Cork, Limerick and Galway from Ennis, with a local bus service between Ennis and Shannon Airport. There is a sparse bus service run by Bus Éireann within rural areas of the Plan. There is also a limited community transport service in rural County Clare. The transport of goods and passengers is well established between Clare and the Aran Islands and Clare and Kerry. The County also has harbour resources, most notably the deep sea port associated with Moneypoint.

County Clare has a rich and varied archaeological record covering eight millennia. There are c.7500 monuments in Clare. By far the most common monuments in County Clare are the ringfort enclosures. The list of recorded monuments in Clare also includes field systems, log boats, souterrains, watermills, fulachta fiadh (ancient cooking places), holy wells, medieval roads, bridges, promontory forts, round towers and earthworks. This is a rich and varied record of past human activity, in the County.

Architectural heritage refers to structures and buildings together with their settings and attendant grounds, fixtures and fittings, groups of structures and buildings, and sites, which are of architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest. There are over 870 Protected Structures in County Clare, including the Ennis and Kilrush Records. There are 22 Architectural Conservation Areas (ACAs) identified within the County which refers to a place, area, group of structures or townscape, that is of special architectural, historical, archaeological, artistic, cultural, scientific, social or technical interest or that contributes to the appreciation of a

protected structure, and whose character it is an objective of a development plan to preserve, e.g. Killaloe, Ennistymon, Corofin and Tulla.

The CCDP 2011-2017 proposes a vision of Clare as a series of 'Living Landscapes' where different parts of the County are regarded as having different potential for how communities can function. It follows from this that what may be suitable in one area may not be suitable elsewhere. For example, some areas have strong potential for tourism on account of their heritage and scenery, while others have potential on account of proximity to major roads or power lines.

The three Living Landscape types are:

Settled landscapes – where people live and work;

Working Landscapes – intensively settled and developed areas within Settled landscapes or areas with a unique natural resource – Western Corridor Working Landscape - The Shannon Estuary Working Landscape and,

Heritage Landscapes – where natural and cultural heritage are given priority but where development is not precluded rather things must happen more slowly and carefully.

## 2 SCHEDULE 2A SCREENING ASSESSMENT

### 2.1 INTRODUCTION

The following section and table below presents the SEA screening assessment of the **altered/amended** High level goals, objectives and actions against the criteria provided in Schedule 2a of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2001-2011 which details the criteria for determining whether a plan or programme is likely to have significant effects on the environment. More detailed commentary is provided in Annex A to this report that again highlights changes to the High level goals, objectives and actions in purple bold font.

The Screening assessment should be read in conjunction with the updated High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions as well as the Habitats Directive Screening report.

TABLE 2A SEA SCREENING

<b>Criteria for determining whether the proposed High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions (HLGOA) are likely to have significant effects on the environment</b>
<b>1. The characteristics of the HLGOA having regard, in particular, to:</b>
<b><i>the degree to which the HLGOA sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources,</i></b>
<p>This Final LECP represents stage 4 in the plan preparation process; the previous stages were all subject to SEA Screening.</p> <p>Forming part of the LECP, the HLGOA are not intended to be a detailed operational programme but aim to complement existing frameworks and statutory plans and policies of which the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 as varied is of most relevance. The policies/objectives and landuse zonings contained in the draft CDP 2017-2023 will also apply and Section 9 of this LECP shows the consistency between the HLGOA and the Mid West Regional Guidelines and the newer draft CDP 2017-2023.</p> <p>The LECP does not set a framework for projects rather it supports the strategic aims and objectives of the CDP 2011-2017 and provides for greater engagement through community participation and social inclusion measures. Additional actions contained in the Final LECP mostly related to the <i>High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People’s Health, Participation and Solidarity</i>. As Annex A demonstrates, many of these do not give rise to any environmental effects, primarily as they relate to social inclusion and community support measures, rather than any landuse related activities.</p> <p>In addition, through the application of both the SEA and HDA process to the Clare CDP 2011-2017 a significant number of protective and precautionary objectives have been included to ensure no significant effects on the environment. As the HLGOA will support the Clare CDP it too will be subject to these objectives and mitigation measures. These include CDP 17.18 Mitigation from Habitats Directive and Strategic Environmental Assessment and CDP 17.19 Natural Heritage and Infrastructure Schemes and</p> <p>The LECP will not set a framework for projects and other activities with regard to location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources. The Clare CDP 2011-2017 and other Local</p>

Development Plans set out clearly the spatial framework for development locations and landuse in the County and will be referenced as required and appropriate.

***the degree to which the HLGOA influences other plans, including those in a hierarchy,***

The HLGOA forms part of the LECP plan preparation; the LECP is a statutory requirement and will be the primary mechanism at local level to bring forward relevant action arising from measures under the Action Plan for Jobs and other statements of Government policy including the report of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA). The LECP is a bottom up participatory local level plan which must be consistent in the first instance with the Mid-West Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 and subsequently the Regional Spatial Strategies (RSEs) to be prepared by the Regional Assemblies. It must also be consistent with a new National Planning Framework which – (it is envisaged once developed) ,will replace the National Spatial Strategy.

An important part of the rationale for enhanced local government role in economic development is to forge a stronger link between spatial planning and economic development. Therefore, the HLGOA and subsequent LECP is a central component of the local authority implementation role in economic development and local/ community development of existing plans. It is influenced by existing and future national, regional and statutory local hierarchy of plans across the economic, social and planning and land use areas/ sectors but does not in itself influence other plans. Therefore, the LECPs role is complementary and it is not anticipated that the LECP will have significant environmental effect on other Plans.

***the relevance of the High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions in the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development,***

The Local Government Reform Act (66B) states that every LECP shall be consistent with the core strategy, the objectives of the development plan, any regional spatial and economic strategies that apply to the area of the Plan, and shall consist of a written statement which may include objectives for the sustainable development of the area of the Plan. The LECP has been developed in accordance with this legislation and higher level plans which have been subject to full SEA and seek to promote sustainable development. As stated Section 9 of the LECP demonstrates this consistency with the above plans and strategies.

The preparation of the LECP has been underpinned by a number of guiding principles; of particular relevance are the target set out in EU 2020, which ' *will be the basis for the development of objectives and targets in the LECP<sup>1</sup>*' These targets are employment, research and development, climate change and energy sustainability, education and poverty and social inclusion. These targets have formed the themes for the LECP HLGOA; climate change and energy sustainability is the target with most direct and obvious sustainable development aspect. In the final LECP, the 6 year targets are included and most of these refer either to EU 2020 targets, or the Regional Action Plan for Jobs. Examples include 'Increase in energy use efficiency by 20%' (6 year target for High Level Goal 12) and ' <8% of 18-24 year

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<sup>1</sup> Draft Socio Economic Statement page 4.

olds will have Lower Secondary or Less' (High Level Goal 9). Both are EU 2020 derived targets.

***Environmental problems relevant to the High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions***

The SEA ER of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 as varied, provides considerable detail on environmental problems relevant to the County. The LECP includes support for quality of life for all, responses to climate change and enhanced biodiversity and are particularly relevant to environmental problems in the county, i.e.: climate change and energy efficiency challenges, and providing a good quality environment for all to live and work within. Updated examples from the final LECP include: *SCO 7: Strengthen the County's Culture and its Communities' Cultures and related Infrastructure and the County's and its Communities' Built Heritage*, and *SEDO 3: Create a county that is responsive to climate change and acts as a custodian of our natural heritage and biodiversity*

There are numerous areas of environmental sensitivity within the County, many of which are designated under the legislative framework. These include: Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Natural Heritage Areas, Proposed National Heritage Areas (pNHA), views and prospects, Architectural and Archeological Conservation Areas, protected structures, recorded monuments and structures, and recreational and amenity areas. Details of these areas together with aims and policies for their protection are set out in the Clare CDP 2011-2017, as varied and the accompanying SEA and AA. These areas continue to be protected through a range of draft policies and objectives in the CDP 2017-2023 such as CDP 14.1 to 14.9.

The environmental report conducted as part of the SEA process on the entire content of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 discussed various issues of concern in the plan area (County Clare) and provided various mitigating measure to decrease impacts considered to be severe or significant.

As Annex A to this screening report shows, the updated HLGOAs do not conflict with the objectives of the Development Plan with regard to environmental problems. In using the Development Plan as the framework from which to develop the LECP, the policies and objectives seeking to protect and conserve environmental sensitive areas within the County Clare will not be in any way altered or affected the LECP.

***the relevance of the High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions in the implementation of European Union legislation on the environment (e.g. plans linked to waste-management or water protection).***

The LECP is to be consistent with existing national and regional policy documents which includes policies relating to environmental protection, water supply, water quality, ground water, waste management, landscape and cultural heritage in compliance with EU legislation. These include the *Water Framework Directive, Groundwater Directive, Habitats Directive and Birds Directive*. The Theme Climate Change and Energy in the HLGOA is of particular relevance in assisting the implementation of the EU 2020 Package (EU 2009/28).

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

***the probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects,***

The LECP will operate for a six year period, and as stated above must be compliant and consistent with the statutory planning framework. The HLGOA does not provide or identify additional or different landuse activities or directions through the goals or themes and as Annex A demonstrates, these goals are consistent with many objectives in the Clare CDP 2011-2017 and draft CDP 2017-2023.

Therefore it is considered that any potential environmental effects arising from projects associated with the LECP would be addressed and assessed under the existing statutory planning framework. As the LECP is consistent with the CDP a more sustainable approach to development is embedded within the HLGOA and negative environmental effects are avoided, and promotion of positive environmental effects may be achieved through consistency with the Clare CDP 2011-2017 and forthcoming CDP 2017-2023.

In addition the final LECP includes a monitoring section that will allow for monitoring of the LECP over the lifetime of the plan.

***the cumulative nature of the effects,***

Given that the HLGOA does not direct activities to areas or identify landuse activities *per se*, cumulative effects are not identified to arise. Once the environmental protection measures within the existing and forthcoming County Development Plan are followed, adhered to and implemented, it is predicted that the HLGOA would not give rise to cumulative effects.

***the transboundary nature of the effects***

In terms of negative transboundary environmental effects/impacts it is considered that with proper regard and consistency with the environmental protection policies and objectives contained in the adopted 2011-2017 Development Plan and forthcoming CDP 2017-2023 and the completion of appropriate environmental assessments and planning process for any proposed development arising from the LECP, no negative transboundary environmental effects are predicted.

***the risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents),***

As above, the HLGOA is not identified as giving rise to effects that would present as risks to human health or the environment given its consistency with the objectives contained in the Clare CDP 2011-2017 as varied and CDP 2017-2023.

***the magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected).***

As stated above, effects should they arise are identified as positive where consistency with the development plan is achieved and/or effects are addressed through the statutory planning framework. The HLGOA does not zone additional lands and the quantity of lands zoned in the Clare CDP 2011-2017 as varied is predicated by the projected population figures (particularly housing and the core strategy). As no activities have been identified within the statement there is no identified effect on a geographical area or spatial extent.

***the value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:***

***(a) special natural characteristics or cultural heritage***

<p>The County has numerous areas designated under natural and cultural heritage including 37 Special Areas of Conservation (SACs), 10 Special Protection Areas (SPAs), 14 Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and 61 proposed Natural Heritage Areas (pNHAs). There are also a number of other sites across the County that have been designated for environmental and/or ecological protection. These sites include the Burren National Park, two Ramsar sites (Galway Bay and Ballyallia lake), 5 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 4 Nature Reserves.</p> <p>Over 7,500 archaeological sites are recorded within the county with certain clusters present in areas such as the Burren; 870 protected structures are listed in the County and a number of landscapes and scenic routes are also designated.</p> <p>The LECP will not set the context for landuse or development activities outside of that already facilitated within existing landuse plans and therefore no areas likely to be affected are identified.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(b) exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values,</b></p> <p>It is anticipated that environmental quality standards will not be exceeded by the LECP. It is consistent and compliant with the Clare CDP 2011-2017 and CDP 2017-2023 as shown in Section 9 of the plan.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(c) intensive land-use,</b></p> <p>The LECP does not provide for additional landuse or intensification of same; landuse zonings will remain as provided in the relevant CDP 2011-2017 and forthcoming CDP 2017-2023 once adopted. Therefore such effects are not identified.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>(d) the effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, European Union or international protection status.</b></p> <p>The Clare CDP 2011-2017 recognises the importance of sites with National and European designations and sets out policies and objectives for their protection. These include sites designated under the EU Birds, and Habitats Directive, the Geopark designation and the National Park amongst others.</p> <p>Given the consistency of the themes and goals of the HLG OA with the Clare CDP 2011-2017 as varied and the demonstrated consistency with the forthcoming CDP 2017-2023 in Section 9 of the LECP, it is not considered that the implementation of the LCEP will have significant negative effects on areas or landscapes which have recognised national, European Union or international protection status.</p> <p>A Habitats Directive Screening Statement has been prepared in tandem with this SEA Screening to assess if likely significant effects arise in relation to conservation management objectives of European Sites and the LECP. This has found that no such effects are identified. .</p>

## 2.2 CONCLUSION TO SEA SCREENING ASSESSMENT

Section 9 (1) of the (2004) Regulations (S.I. No. 435) states *“subject to sub-article (2), an environmental assessment shall be carried out for all plans and programmes*

*(a) which are prepared for agriculture, forestry, fisheries, energy, industry, transport, waste management, water management, telecommunications and tourism, and which set the*

*framework for future development consent of projects listed in Annexes I and II to the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive, or*

*(b) which are not directly connected with or necessary to the management of a European site but, either individually or in combination with other plans, are likely to have a significant effect on any such site.”*

The LECP combines the socio-economic evidence base with minor updated changes to the HLG OA and new sections showing consistency with relevant planning strategies as well as diversity proofing. The monitoring section also provides greater information on the tracking the effectiveness of the LECP over its lifetime.

The LECP details high level goals, strategic objectives and actions that extend across a number of sectors including some of those listed above such as energy and tourism. However, it has been established that the plan itself will not set the framework for future development consent of projects and is required to be consistent with the RPGs, Development Plans or any higher level plans and not present alternate or competing proposals that would lead to inconsistency. Whilst it is acknowledged that there are a number of environmental sensitivities present within County Clare, any projects that may arise in the future associated with the LECP will be subject to the requirements of the relevant national planning procedures and be consistent with existing frameworks and Development Plans as appropriate all of which have been subject to SEA and developed in accordance with the principles of sustainability.

In summary, the LECP is not deemed to set the framework for future development consent of projects listed in the EIA Directive in Annex I and II. In this regard, they will not be placing limits on activities or development, influence location, nature, size or operating conditions nor will they dictate or specifically direct the allocation of resources at this juncture. Therefore, on the basis of the above assessment and consideration of the criteria as set out in Schedule 2a of the Regulations 2011 (as amended) it is considered the LECP is unlikely to give rise to significant environmental effects and does not require full SEA. A final determination however will not be made until the specified environmental authorities have been consulted.

## ANNEX A: DETAILED COMMENTARY

### A.1 INTRODUCTION

A review of the High Level Goals, Objectives and Actions was undertaken in order to establish consistency with the existing Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017 as varied. As can be seen from below, many goals are supported through various chapters of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, as amended. Many of the goals are also consistent with other higher level multi-sectoral policies and documents such as those proposals put forward in “Putting People First”, the EU 2020 Strategy, the Rural Development Programme (2014-2020), LEADER, the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the recent report and recommendations of the Commission for the Economic Development of Rural Areas (CEDRA).

The draft CDP 2017-2023 is also being prepared and contains relevant draft policies and objectives for the LECP. Section 9 of the LECP shows the consistency between the draft CDP and the HLGOAs prepared including any amended/altered goals and actions. Once adopted, the CDP 2017-2023 will apply as appropriate in relation to the LECP.

The following table provides a commentary on each of the high level goals, strategic objectives and actions contained with the identified themes. All relevant objectives of the Clare CDP 2011-2017 will be applied as appropriate, and the following objectives are of particular significance in terms of ensuring environmental protection through the LECP. Any changes to table below are a result of the consultation undertaken between Stages 3 and 4 of the LECP preparation and are therefore assessed again in the following table. Where text was deleted, the font is shown as ~~striketrough~~, where new text is shown in ***bold, italic and purple font***.

CDP 6.8 High Quality Development and Inclusive Design for all Forms of Economic Development It is an objective of the Development Plan: a To encourage the development of attractive and healthy working environments in such a way that the character and quality of an area is improved and by ensuring that the design of economic development, regardless of location, is high quality, inclusive and accessible; b To ensure that the design of new commercial development addresses the challenges of both climate change and pressures on the natural and historic environment c To prepare, within the Local Area Plans, Masterplans for strategic industrial and commercially zoned areas

CDP 6.11 Development Plan Objective: Natural Resources:

It is an objective of Clare County Council: To facilitate, encourage and appropriately manage the development of natural resources of the County and to ensure that this is done in a sensitive way, eliminating any significant adverse effects on the natural environment.

CDP 9.1 Development Plan Objective: Water Framework Directive:

It is an objective of Clare County Council: a To facilitate the implementation of the Shannon River Basin Management Plan and the Western River Basin Management Plan for ground, surface, estuarine, coastal and transitional waters in the Plan area as part of the implementation of the EU

Water Framework Directive; b To consider proposals for development where it can be clearly demonstrated that the development will meet the requirements of the relevant River Basin Management Plan.

CDP 9.15 Development Plan Objective: Strategic Flood Risk Assessment It is an objective of Clare County Council: To ensure that proposals for development in areas where there is a risk of flooding, (based on the flood risk maps contained in Volume 2 of the Clare County Development Plan 2011-2017, or any updated version), shall have regard to the OPW/DoEHLG planning guidelines The Planning System & Flood Risk Management (and Technical Appendices) – Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Nov 2009) and any future OPW flood assessment information, and such proposals must also demonstrate that appropriate mitigation measures can be put in place.

CDP 9.2 Development Plan Objective: Protection of Water Resources

It is an objective of the Development Plan: To permit development where it can be clearly demonstrated that the proposal would not have an unacceptable impact on the water environment, including surface water, groundwater quality and quantity, designated source protection areas, river corridors and associated wetlands, estuarine waters, coastal and transitional waters.

CDP16.1 Development Plan Objective: Landscape Character Assessment It is an objective of Clare County Council: To encourage the utilisation of the Landscape Character Assessment of County Clare and other relevant landscape policy and guidelines and to have regard to them in the management, enhancement and promotion of the landscapes of County Clare.

CDP 17.2: Development Plan Objective: Conservation and Environmental Management It is an objective of Clare County Council: To ensure the sustainable management and conservation of areas of natural and geological heritage within the County

CDP 17.3 Development Plan Objective: Natura 2000 Sites It is an objective of Clare County Council: a To afford the highest level of protection to all designated Natura 2000 sites in accordance with the relevant Directives and legislation on such matters; b To require all planning applications for development within, adjacent to, or with the potential to affect a Natura 2000 site to submit a Natura Impact Statement in accordance with the Habitats Directive (1992); c To recognise and afford appropriate protection to any new or modified SPAs or SACs that are identified during the lifetime of this Plan.

CDP 17.8 Development Plan Objective: Non-designated Sites It is an objective of Clare County Council: a To ensure the protection and conservation of areas, sites, species and ecological networks/ corridors of local biodiversity value outside of designated sites throughout the County; b To complete the Habitat Mapping of the County (in accordance with A Guide to Habitats in Ireland – The Heritage Council 2000) in order to identify and record the natural habitats of the County at a detailed level and afford appropriate protection to areas of importance, as required.

CDP 17.9 Development Plan Objective: It is an objective of Clare County Council: a To protect and promote the sustainable management of the natural heritage, flora and fauna of the County through the promotion of biodiversity, the conservation of natural habitats and the enhancement of new and existing habitats; b To promote the conservation of biodiversity through the protection of local sites of biodiversity importance and wildlife corridors, both within and between the designated sites and the wider Plan area.

17.18 Development Plan Objective: Mitigation measures from Habitats Directive and Strategic Environmental Assessment It is an objective of Clare County Council: a To require, where appropriate, that all plans and programmes comply with the requirements of the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive 2001/42/EC; b To require, where appropriate, that all plans and projects comply with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.

CDP 18.5 Development Plan Objective: Sites, Features and Objects of Archaeological Interest It is an objective of Clare County Council: a To safeguard sites, features and objects of archaeological interest generally; b To secure the preservation (i.e. preservation in situ or in exceptional cases preservation by record) of all archaeological monuments included in the Record of Monuments and Places as established under Section 12 of the National Monuments (Amendment) Act, 1994, and of sites, features and objects of archaeological and historical interest generally; c In securing such preservation, to have regard to the advice and recommendations of the Department of the Arts, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs; d To have regard to the government publication Framework and Principles for the Protection of the Archaeological Heritage 1999 in relation to protecting sites, features and objects of archaeological interest.

**TABLE A: SEA COMMENTARY AND CONSISTENCY WITH CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2011-17 AS VARIED.**

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EMPLOYMENT AND ENTERPRISE**

Text	SEA Commentary
<b>High Level Goal 1: An Economic culture that is pro-enterprise/pro-entrepreneur.</b>	<i>This goal relates to fostering a culture to support entrepreneurs and does not have direct impacts on environmental resources. Objective 6.4 Third Level Institutions and the Knowledge Economy supports this goal.</i>
Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO) <i>SEDO 1: Ensure adequate, co-ordinated and monitored delivery of enterprise supports</i>	<i>This objective does not give rise to direct impacts on environmental resources.</i>
Strategic Actions	
<i>e.e.1 Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic Development &amp; Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor and proof the delivery of all the Economic Development, Employment and Enterprise, Research and Development, Climate Change and Energy actions in the LECP</i>	<i>This action aims to ensure consistency with the LECP actions and would not give rise to environmental impacts.</i>
<b>High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs</b>	This goal is consistent with Objectives as such as 6.1 Employment, Economy and Enterprise Promotion and 6.2 Working in Partnership.

Text	SEA Commentary
Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO) <i>SEDO 2: Increase the number of micro- enterprises and related employment in the County</i>	This objective is not location specific and would be subject to compliance with requirements of the Clare CDP as varied, no environmental impacts are identified.
<b>Strategic Actions</b>	SEA Commentary
e2.1 <i>Implement the LEO Action Plan for Enterprise start-ups</i>	As above
e2.2 <i>Implement the LDS support programme for micro-enterprise</i>	As above
e2.3 <i>Implement the LDS support programme for tourism enterprise development</i>	As above
e2.4 <i>Promote, support and develop specific locations for smaller scale foreign direct investment through the Connect Ireland initiative</i>	Specific locations for such activities would be required to be identified through landuse zoning or appropriate policies and objectives in the Clare CDP as varied. No impacts on environmental resources are identified.
e2.5 <i>Support the development of the food sector i.e. development of a food brand and food enterprises</i>	Not location specific and any new development would be required to be in compliance with the Clare CDP.
e2.6 <i>Support the development of existing enterprise centres and incubation space for micro-enterprises</i>	No impacts on environmental resources are identified for this action.
e2.7 <i>Develop and implement a pro-active tourism strategy for the county which is linked to internationally focussed tourism propositions such as the Wild Atlantic Way and the Lakelands and more local specific themes</i>	CDP 12.1 and 12.2 are related to this action which relates only to the development of such a strategy. No environmental impacts are identified for this action.
<del>e2.8 <i>Promote and support the development of social enterprises</i></del>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.
<b>High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs</b>	CDP Objective 6.2 Working in Partnership reflects this particular goal. No environmental impacts are identified.
<i>SEDO 3: Increase the number of small (10-50 employees) and medium (50-250 employees) enterprises</i>	Not location specific and does not give rise to environmental impacts.
<b>Strategic Actions</b>	
e3.1 <i>Deliver mentoring, management and marketing programmes to High Potential Start-Ups</i>	This goal is consistent with CDP Objectives such as: 6.1 Employment, Economy and Enterprise Promotion and 6.2 Working in Partnership. No environmental impacts associated with this action.
e3.2 <i>Deliver supports to businesses operating in the domestic market who are in the expansion phase of their businesses</i>	As above
e3.3 <i>Support businesses that do not qualify <b>for capital grant aid</b> under current programmes</i>	As above
<b>High Level Goal 2: An Economic market attractive to Investors and Entrepreneurs</b>	This goal is consistent with Objectives as outlined above, ie: 6.1 Employment, Economy and Enterprise Promotion and 6.2 Working in Partnership.
<i>SEDO 4: Attract Foreign Direct Investment and large enterprises</i>	As above
<b>Strategic Actions</b>	
e4.1 <i>Promote the economic comparative advantage of locating in County Clare</i>	As above
e4.2 <i>Develop a business case for investing in County Clare</i>	As above
e4.3 <i>Attract EU investment to the County (e.g. Urban Development Fund) for major projects including the Clare County Library, remodelling of town centre schemes etc</i>	Should additional development be associated with this action, it would require compliance with relevant policies and objectives of the Clare CDP. No environmental impacts are identified for

Text	SEA Commentary
e4.4 Promote Clare as a low carbon economy as a means of attracting inward investment	<i>this action.</i> CDP 9.13 addresses this action.
<b>High Level Goal 3: An Economy offering world-class, highly-skilled and flexible labour force</b>	This high level goal is not location specific and is consistent with a number of Objectives in the Clare CDP including: Goal V and CDP 6.1 Employment, Economy and Enterprise Promotion
<del>SEDO 5: Increase the number, skills and educational qualifications of the employed</del> <b>SEDO 5: Increase the skills and educational qualifications of the people of the County</b>	As above
Strategic Actions	
e5.1 Increase third level participation rates particularly <del>in the mathematical based disciplines (e.g. accounting, engineering, ICT etc)</del> <b>in STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics).</b>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.
e5.2 Increase fourth level achievement rates	As above
e5.3 Develop apprenticeship programmes relevant to the needs of businesses and the skills of the labour force	As above
e5.4 Deliver programmes for continual development in business, organisation management, <del>professions and skills</del>	As above
e5.5 Provide the county's adult population with the relevant education and training to enable them to compete for job opportunities <del>as they arise</del>	As above
<b>High Level Goal 4: An Economy, whose resource base offers economic/comparative advantage.</b>	
<del>SEDO 6: Increase the role of towns and villages as rural economic hubs</del> <b>SEDO 6: Increase the population and skills profile of towns and villages with population less than 1,000 so that they can act more effectively as rural economic hub</b>	Promoting economic regeneration in existing settlements is a more efficient use of resources and services; this goal is consistent with a number of objectives particularly in Chapter 13 of the Clare CDP such as Objective CDP 13.2 Rural Facilities. Other relevant Objectives include Objective 3.4 Small Towns, 3.5 Large Villages and 3.6 Small Villages
Strategic Actions	
e6.1 Undertake a socio-economic analysis of a number of the county's towns and villages <b>and prepare a plan to improve their quality of life and their ability to act as catalysts for the economic regeneration of their rural hinterland</b>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.

## THEME: QUALITY OF LIFE, HEALTH AND WELLBEING

<b>High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity</b>	This goal is supported through Objective CDP 5.2
Strategic Community Objectives SCO1: <del>Ensure adequate, co-ordinated, proofed, monitored and delivery of social inclusion supports</del> <b>Ensure adequate benchmarking data and adequate co-ordinated, proofed, monitored delivery of social inclusion supports</b>	As above
q1.1 Establish a structure within the LCDC and the Economic & Enterprise SPC to co-ordinate, monitor and proof the delivery of all the Quality of Life, Health & Wellbeing, Education & Training actions	As above

<b>High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity</b>		This goal is also supported through Objective CDP 5.2
<i>SCO 2: Reduce the number of Small Areas (CSO definition) that are 'deprived' or 'very deprived' and reduce the number of individuals 'at risk of poverty' or experiencing 'basic deprivation'</i>		As above
<b>SCO 2: Reduce the number of 'Deprived' and 'Very Deprived' Small Areas (Haase-Pratschke Index definition)</b>		
<b>Reduce the number of individuals experiencing 'Consistent Poverty' (both 'At risk of 'Poverty' or experiencing 'Basic Deprivation')</b>		
<b>Reduce the number of 'Jobless Households' and the number of 'Jobless Households with a Child'</b>		
Strategic Actions		
q2.1	<i>Implement all local and community development programmes and services in the County for the benefit of those 'at risk' of poverty and/or experiencing 'basic deprivation' and/or living in 'deprived communities' having regard to gender equality e.g. LDS, SICAP, County Childcare Strategy, Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, Clare Youth Strategy, Intreo, LCETB Strategic Framework 2015-2020</i>	As above
<b>Implement local and community development programmes/services in the County for the benefit of those living in 'deprived communities' or who are members of disadvantaged communities or are 'at risk' of poverty and/or experiencing 'basic deprivation' having regard to Equality and Diversity e.g. LDS, SICAP, County Childcare Strategy, Sports Partnership Strategic Plan, Clare Youth Strategy, Intreo, LCETB Strategic Framework, FRCs, Clare Womens Network'</b>		
Q2.2	<i>Deliver RAPID type interventions where deprived small areas are clustered</i>	No environmental impacts are identified for this action.
<b>High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity</b>		CDP Objective 5.2 supports this goal
<i>SCO 3: Reduce unemployment levels in the County</i>		Not identified as giving rise to environmental impacts.
Strategic Actions		
q3.1	<i>Pursue labour market activation programmes that benefit the unemployed</i>	As above
q3.2	<i>Increase qualifications and skills of the unemployed especially the long-term unemployed and young people (18-24) not in employment, education or training</i>	As above
q3.3	<i>Engage long term unemployed men with in structures where they are comfortable (e.g. Men's Shed Programmes etc)</i> <b>Support county-level Network of Men's Sheds and Network of Women's Groups. Support the engagement of Long-term unemployed men and women on Labour Market Activation Programs within structures where they are comfortable</b>	As above
q3.4	<b>Reduce intergenerational, long-term unemployment.</b>	
<b>High Level Goal 5: A Society that is Inclusive and cherishes People's Health, Participation and Solidarity.</b>		CDP Objective 5.2 supports this goal
<i>SCO4: Improve the well-being and quality of life for vulnerable communities, families, youth, children and individuals in the county (i.e. people who are vulnerable to unemployment, psychological distress, social and physical isolation, neglect and abuse)-of the people of the county, especially of those who are most vulnerable.</i>		This goal is supported throughout the Clare CDP for example through objectives contained in Chapters Five and 13 of the plan.
Strategic Actions		
q4.1	<b>Undertake a longitudinal study of the County's Health, Well-Being and Quality of Lif</b>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.

q4.2	<i>Support older people to continue living as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution and heeding their particular needs</i>	<i>CDP Objective 5.2 supports this action</i>
q4.3	<b>Support young people (&lt;18 yrs.) and young adults (18-25 yrs.) in the county to live as valued members of the community, recognising their contribution, heeding their particular needs and supporting their right to have a say in decisions which affect them.</b>	<i>Objective 5.2 of the CDP supports this action</i>
q4.4	<b>Support youth projects, groups and clubs to continue to offer information and educational opportunities for young people and young adults on a countywide basis</b>	<i>This action is indirectly supported throughout the Clare CDP for example through objectives contained in Chapters Five and 13 of the plan. Positive population and human health impacts are associated with this action.</i>
q4.5	<b>Support initiatives that foster positive mental health of the people of the County</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.6	<b>Support inter-agency co-ordination and collaboration to achieve best outcomes for all Children and Young People</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.7	<b>Support the improvement of the Health and Wellbeing of the population of the County</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.8	<b>Support vulnerable adults</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.9	<b>Support the provision of and access to community-based mental health and the recovery of people who experience mental health difficulties and their families</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.10	<b>Support people who experience difficulty in returning to the labour force</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.11	<b>Support people whose employment is vulnerable</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.12	<i>Support people who are living in remote locations of the county/isolated circumstances</i>	<i>As above</i>
q4.13	<i>Develop specific supports for <b>children (12-18 yrs.) who are 'at risk of' or have been cautioned by the Juvenile Liaison Officer (JLO)</b></i>	<i>As above</i>
q4.14	<b>Support the reduction of re-offending and the promotion of community re-integration amongst young people (&lt; 18 yrs) and young adults (18-24) who have been referred by the courts for either probation or community service</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.15	<b>Address the collective disadvantage of people with Disabilities, People from the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) Communities, People who are Lone Parents, People from the Traveller Community, People from the Roma Community and People from the New Communities</b>	<i>As above</i>
q4.16	<i>Support the provision of and access to community-based mental health supports and facilities</i>	<i>As above</i>
q4.17	<i>Support people whose employment is vulnerable or who experience difficulty in returning to the workforce</i>	<i>As above</i>
	<i>Ensure that the Local Development Strategy reflects the identified needs of the county</i>	<i>CDP 5.1 supports this action.</i>
q4.8	<i>Support the development of a countywide programme of youth activities and infrastructure (e.g. Youth Clubs/Hang-outs</i>	<i>As above</i>
<b>High Level Goal 6: A Society where People, Neighbourhoods and Communities are Safe and Secure and Active.</b>		<i>This goal will enhance quality of life and support safer communities. It is not identified as giving rise to environmental effects but would relate in part to Objectives contained within Chapter 20 Regeneration and Renewal of the Clare CDP.</i>

<i>SCO 5: Create a safe and secure physical and social environment for the people of the county Objectives (SCO)</i>		As above
<b>SCO 5: Create a Quality Community and Social environment where people are safe, secure and active both physically and socially</b>		
q5.1	<i>Support the work of the Joint Policing Committee in preventing crime, protecting vulnerable members of the community and addressing anti-social behaviour</i>	As above
q5.2	<b>Support community initiatives to prevent crime and to achieve a sense of social security and personal safety.</b>	
q5.3	<b>Support the provision of recreational/health/ sporting/social inclusion activities</b>	As above
q5.4	<b>Support volunteering, volunteers and their infrastructural needs</b>	As above
<b>High Level Goal 7: A Society that is Socially and Physically Connected</b>		This goal is supported throughout the Clare CDP for example through objectives contained in Chapters Five and 13 of the plan.
<i>SCO 6: Increase ICT, Transport and Social Infrastructure Provision the provision of infrastructure for environmental, social, transport and ICT needs</i>		A number of objectives in the CDP are consistent with this goal, most notably Goal XVIII. CDP Objectives 10.16 ICT and 11.4 Community transport also support this objective.
Strategic Actions		
q6.1	<b>Pilot group broadband schemes in black-spots</b>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.
q6.2	<i>Support the implementation of plans that to enhance the county's physical connectivity e.g. Limerick Northern Distributor Road, Shannon Crossing at Ballina/Killaloe</i>	Clare CDP 11.1 and 11.2 support this action.
q6.3	<i>Support sustainable transport initiatives in the County that complement existing public and private transport services and the provision of associated infrastructure including stops, shelters and service and timetable information</i>	CDP Objective 11.4 supports this action
q6.4	<i>Support volunteering, volunteers and their infrastructural needs as well as employment outcomes</i> <b>Support the enhancements of community facilities and extend the range of usage</b>	CDP Objective 5.1 supports this action.
<i>Support the provision of communities' sporting and physical facilities and activities</i>		
q6.5	<i>Support the implementation of plans that enhance the environment eg the Shannon Green Infrastructure plan-g</i>	Strategic Aims 17.1 of the CDP support this action.
<b>High Level Goal 8: A Society that is Culturally Rich with Strong Identities</b>		The Goals of the Clare CDP support this high level goal as do a number of supporting objectives particularly those contained in Chapters 17 and 18
<i>SCO 7: Strengthen community's identities and the county's cultural and built heritage Objectives (SCO)</i>		As above
<b>SCO 7: Strengthen the County's Culture and its Communities' Cultures and related Infrastructure and the County's and its Communities' Built Heritage</b>		
Strategic Actions		
q7.1	<b>Support the work of the library service by; developing a single central facility for its work; developing a service to support enterprise and the knowledge economy; managing, preserving and making available the local and national culture of the county; enhancing access and social inclusion</b>	As above. Should a new development be associated with this action, it would require compliance with relevant policies and objectives of the Clare CDP; no environmental impacts are identified

q7.2	Support the growth of community arts and the work of community artists including the provision of related infrastructure <b>Support the growth of the arts in our communities and the work of artists including cultural infrastructure</b>	Objective 5.9 of the Clare CDP supports this action.
q7.3	Support place-making initiatives that enhance our towns and villages <b>and rural communities</b> e.g. Ennis 2020 Plan	As above
d		
q7.4	Develop and protect the county's sites of heritage and historic importance to the benefit of communities and visitors to the county e.g. Scattery Island, Holy Island  <b>Develop and protect the county's sites of built heritage and historic importance to the benefit of communities and visitors to the county (e.g. Scattery Island, Holy Island) and provide a matched Conservation Grant Scheme between Central Government and Clare County Council.</b>	Chapters 16, 17 and 18 support this action. Should a new development be associated with this action, it would require compliance with relevant policies and objectives of the Clare CDP; no environmental impacts are identified

### THEME: EDUCATION & TRAINING

<b>High Level Goal 9: A Learning environment that addresses educational disadvantage and achieves High Educational Participation rates.</b>	This goal is supported indirectly through CDP 5.6 Educational Facilities and CDP 5.7 Third Level Institutes and is not identified as giving rise to environmental effects.
SCO 8: Increase participation and achievement rates at second and third level	
Strategic Actions	
t1.1 Implement a 'schools completion' type programme in a number of primary and secondary schools where retention is a challenge	No environmental impacts identified for this action.
t1.2 Implement a range of post secondary and third level access programmes	This goal is consistent with objectives contained in Chapter Five of the CDP, most notably Objectives CDP 5.5 and 5.6
t1.3 Support the mental health of the county's young people thus helping them to remain in and progress through the education system <b>Support the mental wellbeing (healthier life) of the county's young people (12 to 18) which, in addition, will help them to remain in and progress through the education system</b>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.
t1.4 Provide targeted educational and developmental interventions to children and young people in need of such supports <b>Provide in-school supports to primary and secondary students in need of developmental and educational supports.</b>	This goal is consistent with objectives contained in Chapter Five of the CDP, most notably Objectives CDP 5.5 and 5.6
<b>High Level Goal 10: A Learning environment with Broad Participation in Further / Higher Education, continual learning and development.</b>	This goal is supported indirectly through CDP 5.6 Educational Facilities and CDP 5.7 Third Level Institutes and is not identified as giving rise to environmental effects.
SCO 9 : Increase participation levels in further / higher education, continual learning and development	As above
Strategic Actions	
t2.1 <b>Support innovative developmental initiatives that encourage, empower and incentivise individuals to</b>	No environmental impacts identified for this action.

	<b>consider, engage with and participate in learning opportunities, regardless of their age</b>	
	<i>Deliver an extensive programme of further and higher education to people outside the labour force (i.e. those at work and the unemployed) and older people</i>	
t2.2	<b>Deliver programmes of Further Education to people who are employed, unemployed or who are outside the labour force, regardless of their age.</b>	As above
t2.3	<b>Deliver programmes of Continual learning and Development to people, regardless of their age</b>	As above
	<i>Provide childcare services, supports and incentives to those who wish to access further and higher education</i>	
t2.3	<i>Develop and implement innovative developmental initiatives that encourage and empower individuals to consider and engage with learning opportunities</i>	
t2.4	<i>Support older people to participate in continual learning and development</i>	

### THEME: RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

	<b>High Level Goal 111: Exploit the Enterprise/Social/Academic partnerships.</b>	This is not identified as giving rise to environmental effects as it relates to a partnership approach. It is supported by Objective 5.7 that provides for partnership and research and development opportunities at Third Level.
	<i>SEDO 1: Increase Enterprise R &amp; D activity Development Objectives (SEDO)</i>	As above
	<b>SEDO 7: Increase Academic/Sectoral Collaborative Research and Development in the Enterprise and Social sectors and its respective commercialisation and application.</b>	
	Strategic Actions	
r1.1	<b>Support the development of collaborations between third level institutions and key industries</b>	As above
r1.2	<b>Support the commercialisation of R &amp; D activity by converting the results into viable enterprises.</b>	As above
r1.3	<b>Support the expansion of supply-chain activity by encouraging smaller enterprises to service larger ones</b>	As above
r1.4	<b>Support the development of a National Aerospace and Aviation Institute in Shannon</b>	As above
r1.5	<b>Support the development of collaborations between third level institutions and social sectors/organisations</b>	As above
r1.6	<i>Examine root causes of poverty and social exclusion and identify best practice in addressing the root causes and monitor progress</i>	As above

### THEME: CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

	<b>High Level Goal 12: <del>Pursue Energy Efficiency solutions</del> In Terms of Energy Use – Reduce Greenhouse Gasses and Increase its Efficiency</b>	Chapter Ten of the Clare CDP addresses energy including renewable energy and energy efficiency.
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Sustainable Economic Development Objectives (SEDO) <del>SEDO 1: Increase energy efficiency in the County</del>		Objective 6.7 supports this goal
<b>SEDO 8: Reduce Energy use and reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Increase the efficiency of energy use</b>		
Strategic Actions		
c1.1	<b>As a means of de-carbonising the economic and social sectors, thus reducing Greenhouse Gases, we will support the increased use of renewable energy in the Transport, Residential, Commercial and Agricultural sectors</b>	
c1.2	Support energy efficiency in industry and communal programmes at town and village level and in households	As above
c1.3	<del>Support public sector bodies to achieve ISO Energy Standards</del> <b>Support public sector bodies to achieve energy efficiency targets in their use of energy and support them in adopting energy management systems (e.g. ISO 50001)</b>	As above
<b>High Level Goal 13: <del>Collectively and individually engage in Renewable Energy Production</del> – Increase the Production of Renewable Energy</b>		Chapter Ten of the Clare CDP addresses energy including renewable energy and energy efficiency.
SEDO 2: Expand renewable energy production in the County		As above, a range of objective supports this action including: Objective 10.2 in particular.
Strategic Actions		
c2.1	<del>Support renewable energy production on land and off-shore by a range of appropriate technologies</del> <b>Support on-land and off-shore renewable energy production by a range of appropriate technologies</b>	Objectives 10.2 and 10.4 support this action.
<b>High Level Goal 14 : Proactively address Climate Change and climate action.</b>		These goals are consistent with a number of CDP objectives and policies and Goal xiv of the CDPs supports this particular high level goal.
SEDO 3: Create a county that is responsive to climate change and acts as a custodian of our natural heritage <b>and biodiversity</b>		As above
Strategic Actions		
c3.1	Support awareness of and responses to climate change <b>and to environmental quality (Air and Water Quality).</b>	Objective 9.3 supports this action
c3.2	Develop <b>and deliver</b> a Climate Change Adaptation Plan for the county	CDP 9.13 refers to climate change and any updated version of national climate change strategy 2012.
c3.3	<b>Develop and deliver a Climate Change Mitigation Plan for the county</b>	CDP 9.13 as above.
c3.4	<b>Support awareness of and protect/enhance and, where appropriate, contribute to the substantial recovery of the county's Natural Heritage and Biodiversity.</b>	A suite of objectives in Chapter 17 support this action.
c3.5	<b>Support the development of the County's environmental and green infrastructure e.g. the Shannon Green Infrastructure Plan.</b>	Strategic Aims 17.1 of the CDP support this action.