



Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

For
**Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Clare County
Council**

*Determination of the need for a Strategic Environmental
Assessment for Clare County Council Climate Change
Adaptation Strategy prepared under the National Climate
Change Adaptation Framework*

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ON BEHALF OF
Atlantic Seaboard South Region
Climate Action Regional Office (CARO)

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

The Earth's Climate is changing. While natural fluctuations in climate are considered normal, emerging research and observational records from across the world show rates of change that are far greater than those experienced in recent history. Global temperatures have risen and are projected to rise further bringing changes in weather patterns, rising sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather. Ireland's climate is changing in line with global patterns and these changes are bringing significant and wide ranging economic, environmental and social impacts.

Climate change is now recognised as a global challenge with policy responses required in terms of both mitigating the causes of climate change and in adapting to the now inevitable consequences of our changing climate. Action at local level is vitally important to help reduce the risks and impacts of climate change across communities.

This local authority Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.¹

It is tasked with mainstreaming climate change adaptation over time into all functions, operations and services of the local authority. It seeks to inform or 'climate proof' existing plans and policies produced and implemented by the local authority. This ensures a considered, consistent and coherent approach, facing head-on the challenges of a changing climate. Crucially, it also helps in building resilience within the local authority organisation itself as well as across all communities.

2 LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

2.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the formal, systematic evaluation of the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a plan or program, or variation to a plan or program, before a decision is made to adopt it. The SEA Directive² requires, inter alia, that SEA is undertaken for certain plans, programs or variations to these.

The SEA Directive has been transposed into Irish law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004) and The Planning and Development Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 436 of 2004). These Regulations have since been amended by the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 201 of 2011). The criteria as set out in Annex II of The SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC) on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, this criteria is also set out in Schedule 1 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (S.I. 435 of 2004) need to be considered while drafting the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

¹ *Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015* (S.I. No. 25/2016). Available at <http://www.irishstatutebook.ie/eli/2015/act/46/enacted/en/htm>

² Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

This SEA screening report is consistent with the process as recommended by The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government guidance document entitled *Implementation of SEA Directive 2001/42/EC Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment November 2004*, specifically Chapter 3 (SEA: Screening and Scoping) and furthermore uses the criteria for SEA screening criteria set out in the SEA Directive.

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also been prepared for this Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).

2.2 Climate Change Adaptation

2.2.1 International Context

The **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** is an international environmental treaty adopted in May 1992. The framework's objective is "*to stabilize greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system*". The framework did not set binding limits on greenhouse gas emissions and contained no enforcement mechanisms. However, the framework outlined how specific international treaties may negotiate further action towards its key objective. **The Paris Agreement 2015** is a protocol set within the context of the UNFCCC (ratified by Ireland on 4th November 2016) and it is aimed at:

- Limiting global warming to less than 2⁰C above pre-industrial level and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5⁰C.
- Building resilience and increasing the ability to mitigate the impacts of climate change.

The agreement states the need for Parties to formulate and implement National Adaptation Plans.

2.2.2 EU Context

The 2013 EU Strategy on Adaptation to Climate Change encouraged all Member states to adopt comprehensive adaptation strategies. It sought better informed decision making through the identification and addressing of gaps in knowledge about adaptation. The European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT, was developed as a resource mechanism to help users access and share information on adaptation.

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy is a voluntary, bottom up, approach for cities and local governments to combat Climate Change and move towards a low emission, resilient society. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy brought the Compact of Mayors and the EU Covenant of Mayors under one international body in January 2017 incorporating over 9,000 cities and local governments.

2.2.3 National Context

The 2012 National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (NCCAF) was Ireland's first step in developing a national policy on adaptation actions to combat the impacts of climate change.

The National Policy Position on Climate Action and Low Carbon Development 2014 restated the policy position of the NCCAF, 2012. Greenhouse gas mitigation and adaptation to the impacts of climate change were to be addressed in parallel national plans under an evolving climate policy to 2050.

The Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015 was a landmark national milestone in the evolution of climate change policy in Ireland. It provides the statutory basis for the national transition objective laid out in the National Policy Position (as per above). Further to this, it made provision for and gives statutory authority to both the National Mitigation Plan (NMP), published in 2017 and the

National Adaptation Framework (NAF) published in 2018. This Local Adaptation Strategy forms part of the National Adaptation Framework.

The Local Authority Adaptation Strategy Development Guidelines 2018 provides guidance to Local Authorities to develop their own Climate Action Adaptation Strategy. In developing this adaptation strategy Clare County Council has been consistent with these guidelines.

2.3 Clare's Climate Change Adaptation Objectives

The purpose of the Clare County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to achieve the national objective of becoming a more climate resilient society and economy by 2050. In order to help tackle current and future challenges that climate change can present, Clare County Council have set out a number of key objectives in their strategy, under thematic principles. Table 1 below outlines Clare County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy objectives per theme.

Under each theme in the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, there are a number of actions that have been detailed to achieve each Objective. All the actions per theme can be found in Appendix 1.

TABLE 1 CLARE'S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

G1 Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations	
1	To ensure that climate adaptation is mainstreamed into all activities and operations of the Local Authority. To implement an appropriate response in addressing diversity of climate change impacts.
G2 Infrastructure and Built Environment	
1	To ensure and increase the resilience of infrastructural assets and inform investment decisions.
2	To promote County Clare as a Low Carbon County and support the development of low carbon and green technology businesses and industries throughout the County.
3	To support sustainable travel in County Clare.
4	To support land use policy, future development proposals and transportation strategies that ensure the viability of bus and rail services in County Clare.
G3 Land Use and Development	
1	To provide for the integration of planning, land-use and transportation considerations in identifying the optimum location for future development.
2	To integrate climate action consideration into landuse planning policy and influence positive behaviour.
G4 Drainage and Flood Management	
1	To manage the risk of flooding through a variety of responses
2	To ensure that areas that are at risk of Flooding are clearly identified and to ensure that inappropriate development does not take place within areas that are at risk of flooding.
3	To mitigate the risk and impact of flooding
4	To undertake measures to reduce coastal flooding and to proactively react to incidences of coastal flooding in County Clare.
G5 Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure	
1	To provide for enhancement of natural environment to work positively towards climate action
2	To protect heritage and cultural infrastructure.
3	To promote effective Bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes.
4	To promote and facilitate the provision of high quality, secure, efficient and reliable renewable energy sources along with appropriate energy storage facilities in order to assist in the creation of a low carbon County Clare.

5	To support the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan for the Shannon Estuary in order to harness the significant energy resources of the Shannon Estuary.
6	To protect and preserve the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark while only allowing for appropriate development in accordance with environmental legislation.
7	To liaise and work with other bodies and agencies responsible for the management of water resources.
8	To expand the cultural infrastructure of County Clare through the development of the tourism industry, the green infrastructure and public amenities and facilities of the county.
G6 Community Health and Wellbeing	
1	To build capacity and resilience within communities

2.4 Consultation

2.4.1 Environmental authorities

Article 5 (4) of the SEA Directive specifies that each Member State should designate the relevant Environmental Authorities which, by reason of their specific environmental responsibility, are likely to be concerned with the potential environmental effect of any plan or programme. Article 9(5) and 9(6) of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (as amended) details the need for the competent authority (Kerry County Council) to consult the relevant environmental authorities regarding the development of certain plans and programmes. On an Irish context, as a minimum the following environmental authorities should be contacted when developing county plans and programmes:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Minister for the Environment (Minister Communications, Climate Action and Environment) – *where the planning authority considers that a plan might have significant effects in relation to the architectural or archaeological heritage or to nature conservation; and*
- The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources (Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine) - *where the planning authority considers that a plan might have significant effects on fisheries or the marine environment.*

Clare County Council on the 9th July 2019 sent the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, the SEA Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment (AA) Screening to the following Environmental Authorities:

- Minister for Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht;
- Minister for Communications, Climate Action and Environment;
- Minister for Housing, Planning and Local Government;
- Minister for Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine; and
- Environmental Protection Agency.

2.4.2 Public Consultation

Clare County Council also conducted a four-week period from 12th July 2019 to 9th August 2019, where the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, with the accompanying SEA Screening Report and AA Screening Report, were presented for public consultation. The following outreach methods were used:

- Newspaper Notice published in the Clare Champion dated Friday July 12th, 2019;
- Published on the Council website on the 12/7/19;
- Draft documents brought before July 2019 Council Meeting

- Copies of the documents were sent to the follow adjoining Authorities:
 - Kerry County Council
 - Limerick City and County Council
 - Galway County Council
 - Galway City Council
 - Tipperary County Council

2.4.3 Summary of Consultation submissions

A number of submissions came in during the consultation periods, and 29 submissions were received, from the following organisation and individuals:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Geological Survey Ireland (GSI)
- Irish Water
- Gas Networks Ireland (GNI)
- Dr Tracy Watson
- Cynthia Cox
- Féidhlim Harty, FH Wetlands Systems Ltd.
- Extinction Rebellion Clare
- An Taisce
- The Environmental Pillar
- Niall Williams & Christine Breen
- Evelyn Sorahan
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
- Failte Ireland
- Andrew St.Ledger, The Woodland League
- Office of Public Works (OPW)
- Martin Obst
- Ciara Ward
- Kathleen Connelly
- Aisling Wheeler
- Future Proof Clare
- Emma Houlihan
- Clare Public Participation Network (Clare PPN)
- Gwen McHale
- Audrey Flynn
- Limerick Clare Energy Agency (LCEA)
- Clare Greens
- Síle Ginnane
- Green Schools Clare

Clare County Council reviewed and responded to each of the submission. In reviewing all the submissions, a number of common themes which encompassed all the submissions received. Table 3 below summaries the main themes from the submission to the consultation period and provides a summary of Clare County Councils response.

TABLE 2 SUBMISSION SUMMARIES BY THEME

Theme	Clare County Council Submission Summary Response
Specific Objectives outlined in submissions.	This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is a high-level strategic document which has been screened for both AA and SEA in accordance with legislation. The objectives detailed in the strategy are high level which may require further

	development of policy and operational plans to facilitate their implementation. When for example such operational plans and policies are being implemented in a specific area then further environmental screening may be required. Therefore, it has not been possible to include at this time submissions which detail specific objectives which would require immediate environmental screening to comply with legislation.
Primary Legislation required	A number of submissions suggest the requirement for legislation to be enacted at national level to facilitate their implementation. Those objectives cannot be included at this time as they are beyond the power of the local authority to deliver them based on current legislation.
Adaptation versus Mitigation	This Strategy deals with Adaptation and although it recognises mitigation as an important element in dealing with climate change, this strategy is focused on Adaptation goals and objectives. Therefore, it is not appropriate for this strategy, in keeping with the National Adaptation Framework, to include the mitigation types of objectives identified in many of the submissions.
Objective already included	There were submissions made which included goals and objectives already included and clearly defined in the strategy under the 6 themes and so in effect are already included in the strategy.
Other documents conflated with this strategy	Some submissions referenced other government policy documents and included many objectives from those documents to be included in this Strategy. It is not appropriate to include all these objectives; however many are already included where relevant. The strategy needs to stay focused on Adaptation and not become conflated with other government policies.
Objectives not relevant	A number of submissions referenced proposed objectives which were not related to climate adaptation and therefore were not considered.
Advertising	A small number of submissions came under the guise of climate adaptation/mitigation measures but in essence appeared to be about advertising their own organisations and so were not considered further in that regard.

In light of this reviewing all of the submissions, Clare County Council have concluded no further amendments are required to the Climate Change Adaptations Strategy. Many of the submissions received will in due course form part of and inform the further development of the strategy when more detailed plans and programmes of work are being considered under the different Goals and Objectives.

The Chief Executive Report attached with Clare's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy provides a detailed summary and Clare County Councils specific response to each of the submissions.

2.5 Appropriate Assessment

An Appropriate Assessment Screening Report has also been prepared for this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy in line with Article 6(3) of the EU Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC). The Report concludes:

In conclusion, further to a screening of Clare County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for possible significant effects on Natura 2000 sites no significant effects were identified.

The screening outlined in this report included an assessment of possible in-combination effects. Based on the objective information contained in this report and applying the precautionary principle, it is concluded that the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will not have a significant effect on Natura 2000 sites.

The AA Screening Report accompanies Clare's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.

3 DETERMINING WHETHER AN SEA IS REQUIRED

The objective of the SEA Directive for the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the Environment is to:

“provide for a high level of protection of the environment and to contribute to the integration of environmental considerations into the preparation and adoption of plans and programmes with a view to promoting sustainable development, by ensuring that, in accordance with this Directive, an environmental assessment is carried out of certain plans and programmes which are likely to have significant effects on the environment.”³

The below details the SEA screening process carried out.

3.1 Requirement to carry out SEA – Pre-Screening Checklist

In order to determine if this Strategy is considered a plan/programme under Article 3 of the SEA Directive, a pre-screening check is necessary. Figure 1 below provides details of the pre-screening checklist; this checklist is based on the decision tree published by the EPA in the *Development of SEA methodologies for plans and programmes in Ireland*.⁴

³ Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment

⁴ P. Scott & P. Marsden., 2001-EEP/DS-2/5 *Development of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Methodologies for Plans and Programmes in Ireland* Synthesis Report © Environmental Protection Agency 2003

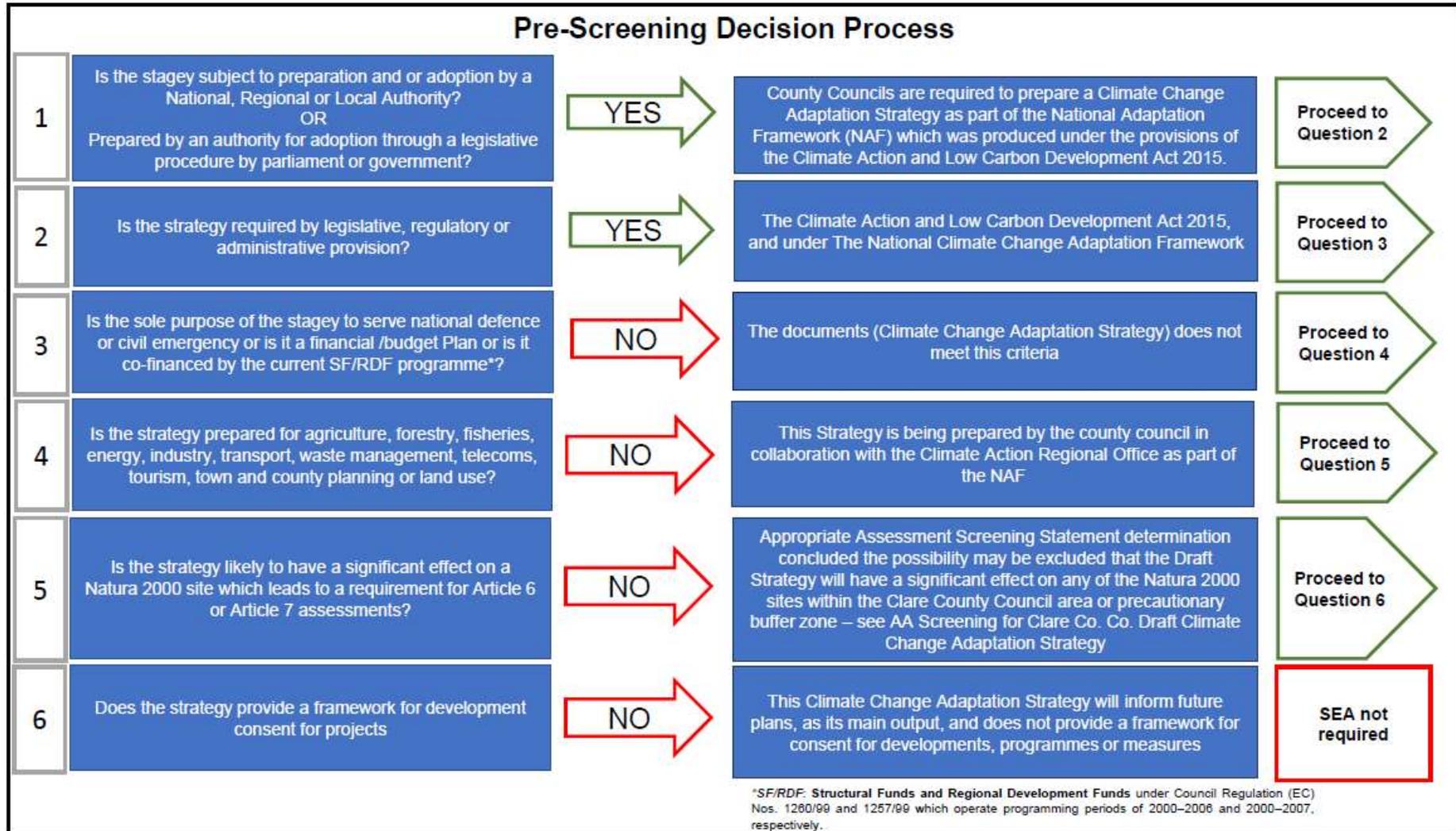


FIGURE 1 PRE-SCREENING DECISION PROCESS

4 SEA SCREENING DETERMINATION

The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was screened using the criteria contained in Annex II of the SEA Directive. Table 3 and Table 4 below, details the screening assessment using the *criteria for determining the likely significance of effects* as set out in the SEA Directive, Annex II.

TABLE 3 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR ANNEX II (1.), CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

The Characteristics of the Plan and Programmes having regard, in particular, to, the following criteria		Likely to have significant environmental effects
Criteria	Screening Determination	
The degree to which the plan or programme sets a framework for projects and other activities, either with regard to the location, nature, size and operating conditions or by allocating resources.	<p>The purpose of this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to identify the risks to Clare County associated with climate change, and to set strategic goals, objectives and actions to adapt to these changes.</p> <p>Clare County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy forms part of Ireland's national strategy for climate adaptation as set out in the National Adaptation Framework (NAF) which was produced under the provisions of the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015.</p> <p>Clare County Council's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, if adopted, will not set a framework for future development consent of projects, i.e. projects listed in both Annex I and Annex II of the Environmental Impact Assessment Directive.</p>	No
The degree to which the plan or programme influences other plans and programmes including those in a hierarchy;	<p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy will inform other future plans, as its main output, to ensure that Clare County Councils policies, strategies, plans, actions and measures being developed must be informed, take account and be aware of the need to adapt to the impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Future individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered under the SEA, EIA and/or AA processes.</p>	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into Clare County Councils plans, strategies and management team's agendas, the climate change adaptation measures will be implemented via future plans.	No

	<p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy's main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies and plans for Clare County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.</p>	
Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;	<p>The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy looks to integrate climate change adaptation into Clare County Council as a management function and/or an important criterion to be considering in developing Local Authority Plans or Actions. The climate change adaptation actions taken will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures for Clare County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p> <p>Individual county development policies, strategies, plans and projects must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process.</p>	No
The relevance of the plan or programme for the implementation of Community legislation on the environment (e.g. plans and programmes linked to waste-management or water protection).	<p>As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into identified Clare County Councils Plans and Strategies and future Plans and Strategies, with some specific actions to help raise awareness of climate change both within management team and the wider public in Clare County, these actions can support plans and programmes that are related to waste generation, management, flood resilience and protection.</p> <p>However, these climate change adaptation actions will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures for Clare County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p>	No

TABLE 4 SCREENING DETERMINATION FOR ANNEX II (2.), CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING THE LIKELY SIGNIFICANCE OF EFFECTS

Characteristics of the Effects and of the Area Likely to be Affected, taking account of the following criteria		Likely to have significant environmental effects
Criteria	Screening Determination	
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is designed to inform responses throughout the local authority to the effects of climate change, which is now inevitable. At this stage, based on current information, it is difficult to estimate the duration, or indeed it's variability, but it is likely to be long term which justifies the need for an adaptation strategy such as the one being prepared. The adaptation strategy in its role to "climate-proof" existing plans, policies and activities of the Local Authority is an essential first step in dealing with climate change effects from a Local Authority perspective.	No
The cumulative nature of the effects	Changes in climate change are cumulative and work in combination. This can be seen where climatic factors combine and create what are called "compound events" where combined weather events may contribute to enhanced risk.	No
The transboundary nature of the effects	In order to deal with transboundary effects Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy has included actions, for example, under the Drainage and Flood Management theme, which state that it will work with the OPW in the development of CFRAMS and coastal erosion, in addition to working with Irish Water.	No
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is designed to inform responses to the effects of climate change including working with other agencies to raising awareness of the impacts of climate change on communities (e.g. specific actions under the Community and Wellbeing theme)	No
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	Areas of characteristics and cultural heritage within Clare County are provided with a level of protection from both planning policy and planning legislation. However, Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is designed to inform responses throughout the local authority to the effects	No

	of climate change and does not identify specific areas for development.	
<p>The value and vulnerability of the area likely to be affected due to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>special natural characteristics or cultural heritage;</i> - <i>exceeded environmental quality standards or limit values; and</i> - <i>intensive land-use.</i> 	<p>Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is designed to inform responses throughout the local authority to the effects of climate change, and to incorporate adaptation measures into all plans and policy produced by the county council. This strategy will not result in development plans or set a framework for future development, and as such will not result in changes to the landscape, land-use or exceed environmental parameters.</p>	No
<p>The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.</p>	<p>Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is designed to inform responses throughout the local authority to the effects of climate change and does not identify specific areas for development. Any effects uncovered as part of this process will be considered in relation to the characteristics of the effects and of the area likely to be affected, and the process will have regard, in particular, to the criteria as listed, according to the legislation.</p>	No

5 CONCLUSION

This SEA Screening Report was carried out in order to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for Clare County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy prepared under the National Climate Change Adaptation Framework. It has been concluded, based on the pre-screening check, and review against the environmental significance criteria as set out in Annex II of the SEA Directive, that a Strategic Environmental Assessment is not required. Furthermore, the purpose of this Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is to inform Local Authority policies, procedures and further plans on the need to incorporate climate change adaptation measures and it does not set out projects, plans or specific measures.

It is likely, that through the implementation of Clare County Councils Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, that there would be expected beneficial effects, as it aims to reduce risk from climate change. Specific actions in the strategy propose environmentally friendly adaptation measures, particularly actions falling from the objective under the Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure.

APPENDIX 1 – ACTIONS PER THEME

Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations	Actions
1	Establish an Adaptation Steering Group with representatives from across key functions of local authority to ensure the successful implementation of the actions of this Climate Change Adaptation Plan and to report on progress.
2	Main Stream Climate Action Policy as integral considerations in the Corporate Plan objectives providing for all the local authority activities and the delivery of functions and services across the administrative area.
3	Undertake and implement a Business Continuity Plan to identify and address specifically, the impacts associated with extreme weather events on all functions/services of the local authority including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Preparing for critical services disruptions, · Mitigating / Minimising the impact of service disruption and, · Improving the capacity / ability to recover.
4	Through our Learning and Development Unit we will work with all Directorates in the first instance to raise awareness and basic understanding of Climate Change and Adaptation among our staff, Councillors and the wider community. We will work through our existing networks and partners (i.e. Junior Achievement / Regional Training Centres etc) to develop more formalised structures and training: particularly in the areas of response and Health & Safety.
5	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the sectors identified in the National Adaptation Framework in the delivery of the sectoral adaptation actions, as approved by Government, where they relate and are relevant to the functions and activities of Clare County Council at local level and in local communities.

Infrastructure and Built Environment	Actions
1	Apply a robust risk assessment and management framework to Local Authority owned buildings and properties to identify and protect against the key vulnerabilities to the impacts of climate change and mitigate against service disruption.
2	Integrate climate considerations into the design, planning and construction of all roads, footpaths, bridges, public realm and other construction projects. Make provision to incorporate green infrastructure as a mechanism for carbon offset.
3	Under a Risk Assessment of physical infrastructure in the area identify the severity of climate change risks on their function and condition. The risk assessment should provide for an understanding and quantification of risks posed. The findings should be integrated into decision making processes, road infrastructure programmes and physical investment strategies.
4	Incorporate climate change impacts into Major Emergency Risk Assessment. These include an assessment of the risks to Co. Clare associated with severe weather extremes (wind storms, severe cold/ice, electrical storms, heat waves, flooding, landslides and forest fires), and maintenance of critical infrastructure
1	Facilitate through land use, policy objectives, the Development Management Process and subject to the necessary environmental investigations and safeguards, the development of energy sources which will achieve low carbon outputs.
2	Promote measures to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases through the adoption of sustainable planning strategies, as well as objectives for the integration of land use and transportation planning.
3	Raise awareness and understanding of the impacts of climate change on both the local economy and communities in the County.
4	Support sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling through promotional strategies and the provision of infrastructure where required.
5	Support on-land and off-shore renewable energy production by a range of appropriate technologies
6	(a)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 commercial and agricultural sectors. (b)Support energy efficiency in industry and communal programmes at town and village level in households. (c)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)
7	Develop and Promote Clare as a sustainable, secure affordable and low carbon economy as a means of attracting inward investment. Increase participation of businesses in energy management programmes.
8	Develop a risk assessment to safeguard capital buildings such as housing stock, libraries, community buildings, fire stations, Museum, Leisure Centres, Visitor attractions, works depots and Civic Amenity sites that Clare County Council owns and maintains from the risks associated with the impacts of climate change.
9	In accordance with the objectives of the Atlantic Economic Corridor, identify the vacant Council owned buildings and Enterprise space in key towns in the County and work to maximise occupation of existing vacant buildings and brown field sites.
1	Prepare an integrated transport strategy that takes account of 'Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future – A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020' and promote the development of walking, cycling, public transport and other sustainable forms of transport.
2	Support the provision of green infrastructure development, active living and sustainable residential development.
3	(a) Prepare and implement a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan for the Ennis and Environs area. (b) implement an Active Travel Towns programme in the Ennis area arising from the Ennis 2040 strategy.
1	Support and facilitate the improvement and expansion of rail infrastructure and services and the opening/reinstating of railway stations on the Western Railway Corridor within County Clare and in particular Crusheen.
2	Support and work with relevant partners to sustain year round rail services from Ennis to Limerick.
3	Through land use zoning and the Development Management Process, identify and safeguard land required for the development of rail infrastructure including bridges, stations and goods terminals and areas necessary for the development of the rail infrastructure in the County.
4	Work with relevant stakeholders to encourage and promote a sustainable, community-based public transport scheme that will enable access to service centers for all members of the community in the County.

Landuse and Development	Actions
1	Through the Development Plan and Local Area Plan process, ensure that sufficient lands are zoned at appropriate locations in order to meet the envisaged land use requirements of the area during the lifetime of the Development Plan.
2	Input into the development of the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) and implement when adopted.
1	Integrate and promote climate-smart and NZEB (Near zero energy buildings) design performance outcomes in development standards through the development management process.
2	Promote the integrated planning; design and delivery of green infrastructure (including urban greening) through appropriate provisions in planning policies, development standards, and infrastructural, public realm and community projects.
3	Research and incorporate, in the statutory planning process, measures in accordance with Section 10 (n) of the Planning and development Acts 2000 (as amended) for: (n) the promotion of sustainable settlement and transportation strategies in urban and rural areas

Drainage and Flood Management	Actions
1	Develop a surface water management plan for the assessment and management of flood risks with the aim of reducing the adverse consequences of flooding, to prioritise projects to reduce surface water and groundwater flood risk
2	Stipulate the requirement for the design and specification of urban stormwater drainage systems including SUDS (sustainable urban drainage systems) for new development to take account of the potential future impact of climate change.
3	Maintain Clare County Council Flood Emergency Plan, this includes specific flood response plans for identified areas
1	Through the Development Management process ensure that proposals for development in areas where there is a risk of flooding, have regard to the document 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management (and Technical Appendices) – Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009' and any current ie CFRAMS and future OPW flood assessment information.
2	(a) Ensure that adequate storm water infrastructure is in place to accommodate the planned level of growth in County Clare. (b) Require developments to provide a separate foul and surface water drainage system and request the submission of details regarding Surface Water Attenuation Systems
3	Through land use and development policy and zoning objectives, facilitate green infrastructure developments as a means of managing flood risk and enhancing the natural environment.
1	Incorporate considerations of the impact of climate change into proposals submitted under the Minor Works Programme to ensure that measures proposed are adaptable to future changes.
2	Ensure that potential future flood information is obtained/ generated by way of a Flood Risk Assessment (FRA) and used to inform suitable adaptation requirements within the Development Management process in line with the Guidelines for Planning Authorities on Flood Risk Management (DoECLG & OPW, 2009)
3	Assess the impact of Climate Change on the potential shock flows of surface water on to Clare's beaches during severe weather events, and how increased surface water flows will impact on bathing water quality and erosion of the beach infrastructure.
4	Liaise with Irish Water to identify Waste Water Treatment plants which are subject to flooding from severe weather events, the consequence of which impact negatively on amenity and sensitive areas and Prioritise these plants for suitable upgrades.
1	(a) Engage with the Office of Public Works to develop appropriate strategies for the management of identified coastal flood and erosion hazards and associated risks. (b) Seek funding for defence works based on the outcome of detailed Coastal Erosion and Flood Risk Management Studies undertaken in areas identified as being at risk.

Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure	Actions
1	Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active Tree Planting programme in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities.
2	Make provision for natural borders/buffers and include as an integral component of the design of greenways / blueways, tracks and trails and amenity areas to promote natural enhancement.
1	Undertake a risk assessment of the Heritage and Cultural Assets in the county to assess the vulnerability and the risk to the historical environment from the impacts of climate change and to help build resilience to these important assets.
1	<p>Review Bio-diversity Plans / habitat conservation strategies, plans and projects to ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · all risks from adverse climate change have been identified; · future changes are assessed and measures employed to address issues identified · carbon capture within habitats is considered · To protect all designated European sites in County Clare in accordance with the relevant Directives and Legislation
2	(a) Research and map areas considered beneficial for use as local carbon offset through carbon sequestration and (b) include the development of a Green Infrastructure strategy.
1	<p>(a) Encourage proposals for renewable energy developments and ancillary facilities in order to meet national, regional and county renewable energy targets, and to facilitate a reduction in CO2 emissions and the promotion of a low carbon economy through Planning Policy and land use objectives.</p> <p>(b) Through land use policy and objectives, support and facilitate the development of new alternatives and technological advances in relation to renewable energy production and storage.</p> <p>(c) Support the implementation of the policy document 'Ireland's Transition to a Low Carbon Energy Economy 2015-2030'</p>
1	Work to promote and harness the potential of the Shannon Estuary for the sustainable development of renewable energy sources to assist in meeting renewable energy targets.
2	Ensure that all development in the Shannon Estuary that is associated with the energy sector has regard to the Strategic Integrated Framework Plan (SIFP) – as per Volume 7 of the Clare County Development Plan 2017-2023.
1	Advocate for the funding and preparation, by the National Parks & Wildlife Service, of a Conservation Management Plan for the Burren National Park.
2	Continue to work in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to support the on-going work of the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark and to secure the retention of the 'Geopark' status into the future.
3	Seek, on an on-going basis, new funding mechanisms for the work of the Geopark e.g. from national and EU sources.
1	Work with and support Irish Water and Group Water Scheme Sector in identifying public drinking water sources vulnerable to climate change and develop source protection or alternative sources, in order to maintain water quantity and quality levels.
2	Work with Irish Water and LAWPRO (Local Authority Water Programme) to identify the impacts of critical and vulnerable receptors in accordance with the River Basin Management Plan and Water Framework Directive.
3	Liaise and work with Irish Water in the development, conservation and upgrade of the water supply systems so as to ensure County Clare has robust infrastructure and adequate supply of water to address climate change demands.
1	Facilitate the on-going development and improvement of green infrastructure in County Clare, including green networks, green amenities and linked green corridors which ensure the provision of recreational amenities, natural areas for the growth of wildlife and biodiversity, and a network of infrastructure which results in a better quality of life for visitors and inhabitants alike.
2	Undertake a review of the Gardening Section operations to determine what current operations should be adapted and to support the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020.

Community Health and Wellbeing	Actions
1	Through public participation network raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and ways for communities to increase response and resilience to these impacts.
2	Assess communities across the county in the context of their vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. Identify vulnerable communities and the risks to the community.
3	<p>For identified vulnerable communities, develop and implement a programme to enhance their capacity to respond to and recover from extreme weather events with specific aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · help the vulnerable community to develop a stronger facilitating role for mitigating risks · provide advice on the risk of extreme events affecting their locality · devise mitigating actions to enhance preparedness · provide support to develop appropriate resilience arrangements to enable response and recovery
4	Ensure that future development proposals contribute to the creation of sustainable communities throughout County Clare.