



Comhairle Contae Mhaigh Eo  
Mayo County Council



# NON TECHNICAL SUMMARY

Strategic Environmental Assessment of Ballina Local  
Area Plan 2024 -2030

Prepared under SI 436 of 2004 as amended.



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This report has been prepared by Minogue Environmental Consulting Ltd with all reasonable skill, care and diligence. Information report herein is based on the interpretation of data collected and has been accepted in good faith as being accurate and valid.

This report is prepared for Mayo County Council and we accept no responsibility to third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

# 1 Non-technical summary Strategic Environmental Assessment Environmental Report of Draft Ballina Local Area Plan 2024-2030.

## 1.1.1 Context and Purpose

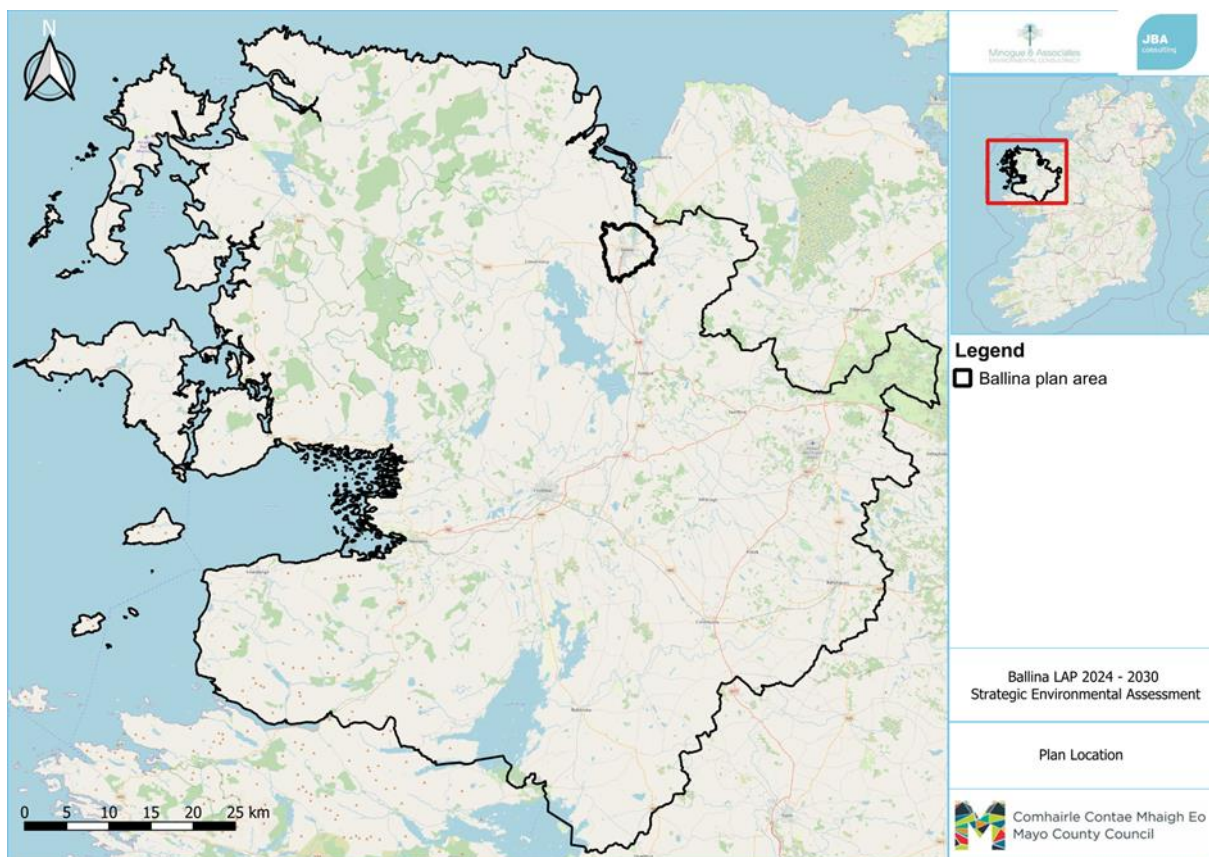
An Environmental Report has been prepared as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of the Draft Ballina Local Area Plan 2024-2030. This is the Non-Technical Summary of this report.

A Local Transport Plan (LTP) has also been prepared for Ballina and will run concurrently with the Local Area Plan. It is provided as an appendix to the Ballina LAP and has been assessed through the environmental assessment processes. Up to this point an iterative approach has been taken with regards the development of the LTP and LAP.

## 1.1.2 Summary and outline of Draft Ballina Local Area Plan

The LAP includes the following chapters that provide policies and objectives, as well as land-use zoning for the plan area. Figure 1.1 shows the Draft Ballina LAP boundary within the wider context of County Mayo.

Figure 1: Ballina Local Area Plan Boundary



## 1.1.3 Steps in the SEA Process

The steps involved in SEA are as follows:

- Screening (determining whether or not SEA is required).
- Scoping (determining the range of environmental issues to be covered by the SEA).
- ***The preparation of an Environmental Report (current stage)***

- The carrying out of consultations.
- The integration of environmental considerations into the Plan or Programme.
- The publication of information on the decision (SEA Statement).

## 1.2 SEA of Material Alterations

The LAP was placed on public display for a period of 6 weeks from 19th December 2023 to 8th February 2024 inclusive. A total of 44 no. valid written submissions were received within the statutory timeframe for public display.

The 44 no. submissions were considered by the Chief Executive and responses and recommendations set out in a Chief Executive's report, dated the 21st March 2024. The Elected Members of the Ballina Municipal District at their meeting on the 17th April 2024, considered the draft LAP and the CE Report and passed a resolution to accept the Draft LAP and the Chief Executive's report in respect of the Draft LAP, subject to the alterations in the Chief Executive's report and the subsequent alterations proposed by the Elected Members.

The Proposed Material Alterations were screened for the need to undertake full SEA and a number of these Proposed Material Alterations were determined to require full SEA. The SEA Screening Determination accompanies the SEA Environmental Report and the Proposed Material Alterations document. Annex B to the SEA Environmental Report comprises the SEA Screening Report that was prepared to inform the SEA Screening Determination. Chapter 8 Material Alterations of the Ballina LAP 2024 -2030 presents the assessment of the Proposed Material Alterations that are subject to full SEA.

The purpose of the updated SEA ER is to provide an assessment of the likely significant effects of the proposed Material Alterations in line with S 12 of the Planning and Development Act, as amended.

The updated SEA ER should be read in conjunction with the Material Alterations Report, the Natura Impact Report and Strategic Flood Risk Assessment which are also on public display.

### 1.2.1 Consultation on scoping stage

The Scoping report was issued to the statutory environmental authorities on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2021 for comment. Submissions received at scoping stage have all informed the scope of this SEA.

### 1.2.2 Relationship to other plans and programmes

It is a requirement of the SEA to review and assess how the draft strategy may interact with other plans and programmes; this review was undertaken as part of the SEA and please see Chapter 3 of the Environmental Report for more detail. Arising from the review, the following **Table 1** highlights key implications from this review and how it relates to the UN sustainable development goals and the EPA State of Ireland's Environment Themes 2020. The objectives in the first column are also used to undertake the detailed assessment of the Draft Ballina Local Area Plan, as shown in Annex A of the SEA Environmental Report.

TABLE -1-1 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL OBJECTIVES AND THEIR LINKS TO THE EPA AND UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

SEA Topic	Principles/Implications	Links to EPA Themes and Sustainable Development Goals
<b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b>	Guiding Principle: Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	Nature and Wild Places. Restore and Protect Water Quality Implementation of Legislation. Climate change. SDG Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.
<b>Population and Human Health</b>	Guiding Principle: Improve quality of life for all ages and abilities based on high-quality, serviced, well connected and sustainable residential, working, educational and recreational environments	Environment, Health and Well-being. Sustainable Economic Activities Restore and Protect Water Quality. Implementation of Legislation. Climate Change SDG 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages. SDG 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. SDG 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
<b>Water</b>	Guiding Principle: Protection, improvement and sustainable management of the water resource	Restore and Protect Water Quality. Nature and Wild Places. Implementation of Legislation. Climate Change SDG 6. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for everyone SDG 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
<b>Land and Soil</b>	Guiding Principle: Ensure the long-term sustainable management of land	Nature and Wild Places. Implementation of Legislation SD Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. SD Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.

SEA Topic	Principles/Implications	Links to EPA Themes and Sustainable Development Goals
<b>Air</b>	Support clean air policies that reduce the impact of air pollution on the environment and public health	Implementation of Legislation. Climate Change. Environment, Health and Well-being
<b>Climate</b>	Achieving transition to a competitive, low carbon, climate-resilient economy that is cognisant of environmental impact	SD Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation SD Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SD Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts
<b>Material Assets</b>	Guiding Principle: Sustainable and efficient use of natural resources	Implementation of Legislation. Climate Change SD Goal 9. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation SD Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns SD Goal 13. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Guiding Principle: Safeguard cultural heritage features and their settings through responsible design and positioning of development.	Environment, Health and Well-being. Sustainable Economic Activities. Implementation of Legislation SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. SD 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
<b>Landscape</b>	Guiding Principle: Protect and enhance landscape character	Environment, Health and Well-being. Sustainable Economic Activities Climate Change SDG 11. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. SD Goal 15. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



## 2 Describing the current environment

Baseline data has been gathered to present information on the current environment within the area. The Baseline section describes the following:

- Ecosystem Services and Natural capital
- Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna
- Population and Human Health
- Soil and Geology
- Water Resources including flooding
- Air Quality and Climate
- Cultural Heritage
- Landscape
- Material Assets, and the
- Interaction between the above topics.

These are summarised below:

### 2.1.1 Green and Blue Network

Green infrastructure planning is a successfully tested tool to provide **environmental, economic and social benefits through natural solutions**. In many cases, it can reduce dependence on 'grey' infrastructure that can be damaging to the environment and biodiversity, and often more expensive to build and maintain. Green spaces are key in terms of natural capital and ecosystem services. Green and Blue infrastructure can also contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation with co-benefits in terms of biodiversity, water quality, recreation, and human health<sup>1</sup>. There is strong policy support in the Plan to protect and enhance recreation and amenity space reinforced through the recognition of the importance of the same throughout the COVID-19 pandemic<sup>2</sup>. The Green Network supports the linkage between various multifunctional spaces, that include:

- Blue Spaces of the plan area's rivers
- Protected Spaces of ecological and biodiversity importance
- Green Spaces of woodland parks
- Open Spaces including recreational and amenity and agricultural zoned lands
- Community Spaces, that afford direct access to nature and amenities to the community.

### 2.1.2 Overview of High Value Biodiversity and Designations

The Plan area is rich in biodiversity, with many significant protected habitats and species including terrestrial habitats supporting a range of species and flora including otters, bats, and wildfowl amongst others. Other habitats, although not protected are very important for providing links between the protected habitats, allow migration, dispersal and genetic exchange of wild plants and mammals. Examples include scrub, hedgerows, tree lines, roadside verges, housing estate open spaces and gardens. The presence of several archaeological sites, as well as vernacular older buildings offer refuge and roosting space for bird and bat species in particular.

Natural heritage in the plan area includes a wide range of natural features that make an essential contribution to the environmental quality of the plan area. Mayo County Council also supports the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan which aims to help pollinators by improving biodiversity.

A full assessment of the Draft Ballina LAP against the qualifying interests and conservation objectives of the designated sites is undertaken throughout the appropriate assessment process which has been undertaken in

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<sup>1</sup> Spatial Planning & Climate Action Delivering a Low Carbon & Climate Resilient Future Workshop Report Feb 2021 CARO

<sup>2</sup> "COVID-19 and Sheer Wellbeing 2020 Access to and Use of Blue/Green Spaces in Ireland during a Pandemic," 19.

conjunction with the Plan preparation and SEA processes and is presented in the Natura Impact Report that accompanies the Draft Ballina LAP 2024-2030.

### 2.1.3 Population and Human health

In the 2022 Census the total population of Ballina was identified as being of 10,556 persons. The Local Area Plan considers various development zoning and phasing options so as to comply with the Core Strategy as outlined within the Mayo County Development Plan 2022-2028.

In terms of human health, where people live has a profound effect on their health. Population and wellbeing has many impacting and interrelated factors, which include (but are not limited to) choices and behaviours, quality of housing and economic and social resources to ensure a good quality of life. Built environment, travel choices, design of buildings and public space can enhance or detract from individual and community health. Air quality, light and noise pollution as well as anti-social behaviour also impact on human health. Ballina is one of the principle towns in Co. Mayo

#### Air Quality and Climate

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has developed four zones to represent all of the potential 'types' of air quality background that are likely to exist in Ireland. These four zones are stated in the Air Quality Regulations (2002) and Ballina falls within Zone D.

### 2.1.4 Climate change

Mayo County has experienced damaging impacts of extreme weather events, including coastal flooding, strong winds, wave overtopping and extreme rainfall. The next Local Authority Climate Change Action Plans will be on a statutory basis and will aim to embed and integrate climate action in terms of adaptation and mitigation through the Local Authority. The Mayo CAP is currently on display and will interact with the LAP to achieve reductions in Greenhouse gas emissions.

### 2.1.5 Water resources including flooding

Ireland is required to produce a river basin management plan under the Water Framework Directive and the current plan is from 2018-2021. The upcoming RBMP 2022-2028 sets out the actions that Ireland will take to improve water quality and achieve 'good' ecological status in water bodies (rivers, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters) by 2027. The main catchment in the plan area is the Moy and Killala Bay Catchment (Code: 34). This catchment covers an area of 2,345km<sup>2</sup>. The lowland parts of the catchment are underlain by various types of limestones while the upland areas from the Ox Mountains and Croaghmoyle are underlain by a band of igneous and metamorphic rocks. Much of the lowland area south of Lough Conn exhibits a drumlin topography

Flood risk is a key consideration in preparing a Local Area Plan. The Flood Risk Guidelines seek to ensure that development avoids flood risk, substitute less vulnerable uses when avoidance is not possible, and mitigate and manage the risk where avoidance and substitution are not possible.

### 2.1.6 Geology and Soil

The soils and habitats of Ballina have been influenced by the area's underlying geology. The majority of the plan area is underlain by grey limestone and thin shale. Other parts are composed with dark fine-grained limestone and shale. There are a number of geological sites within or around the immediate environs of Ballina namely the Moy River and Killala Area.

The majority of soils and sub-soils in the core of the plan area are classified as 'Urban' and 'Made' respectively under the SIS National Soils, these are soils which have been disturbed, transported or manipulated by activity in the urban environment.

### 2.1.7 Material Assets

Ballina's drinking water is supplied by the Ballina Water Resource Zone. It is envisaged that there is adequate capacity to cater for the projected population increase of 1,979 over the Plan period 2021-2027. However, an upgrade to provide additional capacity is likely to be required beyond the lifetime of the Plan.

Ballina benefits from a public wastewater treatment system located in the north of the settlement catering for a population equivalent to 10,171. The facility is well within design capacity of 25,000 pe. In un-serviced areas within the plan area, the main method of sewage disposal is by means of individual septic tanks and proprietary wastewater treatment systems

A key aim of the Ballina LTP is to improve the integration between Land Use and Transport Planning. It provides an appraisal of the current transport environment bringing sustainable transport considerations to the forefront. In particular, the LTP provides alternatives to car-base travel, including the promotion of active travel and alternative technologies, as well as a strategy for the delivery of sustainable transport. It provides a suite of necessary supporting infrastructure/measures and services, in line with land uses, through a range of design solutions and specific measures aimed at enhancing the physical public realm and transport network.

A primary aim of the Ballina LAP is to promote a compact development, through regeneration of brownfield/infill sites in the town centre and by densification and consolidation of established neighbourhoods within the plan area. This will have the effect of reducing or avoiding the need for longer distance trips and tie in with active travel alternatives to private car use. The Ballina LTP examines existing and proposed transport infrastructure and services across all modes of transport including public transport, active modes (walking and cycling), the general vehicular network, as well as other complimentary measures. It provides recommendations for the necessary interventions and measures required to effectively facilitate the anticipated increase demand arising from growth. The approach taken to achieve a more sustainable transport sector is based on the Avoid-Shift-Improve principle as set out in National Sustainable Mobility Policy. The Local Transport Plan has been prepared, will run concurrently with the LAP and is included as an appendix to the draft LAP.

### 2.1.8 Landscape

High-quality open spaces and amenity areas are essential for a good quality of life and are key components of sustainable communities. Green infrastructure includes nature conservation areas, parks, open space, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, farmland and town greenways which support and improve environmental conditions in a way that facilitates environmental, economic and societal benefits.

Ballina town is located on the highly scenic River Moy and Killala Bay..

As compact growth/regeneration strategies are vital for sustainable growth of compact urban settlements, it is expected that the new LAP will place emphasis on the regeneration and repopulation of the urban cores and built-up areas and not disturb the greenfield sites around the town. The new Ballina LAP will examine all elements contributing to the place and ensuring that these elements blend harmoniously to create an attractive and district public realm.

### 2.1.9 Cultural Heritage

The collective arrangement of buildings within the town of Ballina and industrial heritage features as well as Belleek Castle and associated landscapes are of great significance to the town and contribute to a strong sense of place.

### 2.1.10 Key environmental issues

The following key environmental issues are identified for the Draft Ballina LAP:

- Avoiding loss of local areas of importance for wildlife and nature, and protect existing sites of international and national significance
- Ensuring sustainable communities and housing provision under compact growth
- Maintaining and improving water quality
- Addressing and management of flood risk and climate change effects
- Adaptation and mitigation of climate change
- Integrating landuse and transport
- Enhancing the public realm
- Ensuring water services are managed sustainably

- Protection and enhancement of built heritage and addressing threats to erosion of built heritage
- Recognising relationship between natural and cultural heritage

### 3 Consideration of Alternatives

In the case of the Draft Ballina LAP, possible alternatives include different land uses and scales of development were examined and assessed against the SEOS (Table 1).

1. **Continuation of Existing LAP land use zonings and policies/objectives (The Do-Nothing Scenario).** Continue with the existing LAP in its current context.
2. **Town centre consolidation:** This approach would be to focus explicitly on the densification of the town centre with intensification of land uses and focus on employee intensive sectors.
3. **Town centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure:** Promotion of development lands within the town centre for development and the designation of secondary and edge of centre areas where this type of development is considered appropriate in certain circumstances.

Following the assessment, the preferred alternative from an environmental strategic perspective is Alternative 3, Town Centre consolidation and designation of future development lands in a tiered structure. This provides the greatest positive environmental effects and is consistent with national and regional planning policy. Greater consistency with the requirements of the National Planning Framework, North Western Region Economic and Spatial Strategy, Mayo County Development Plan 2022 -2028.

- Developing the existing settlement, compact growth, serviced settlements are more robustly planned for under this Scenario.
- Key village centre and brownfield sites are planned for and can through master planning, provide for public realm and permeability enhancements that increase the attractiveness of town centre living whilst efficiencies in terms of existing infrastructure are maximised and reduced reliance on private or individual septic tanks and wells.
- Smarter Travel policies, reduction in commuting, increased walking and cycling can fit better within this scenario;
- This scenario directs development to town centre;
- This approach allows for better protection of designated sites and achievement of WFD targets as serviced led development is directed to the plan boundary.
- Reuse of brownfield and infill sites promoted in this scenario. This scenario performs strongest in terms of cultural heritage as it promotes reuse of older and historical buildings and the embodied carbon within these structures. Indirect, positive interactions with PHH and L SEOS under this scenario also.

## 4 Assessment of Significant Environmental Effects

The table overleaf provides an overall evaluation of the environmental effects arising from the Draft Ballina LAP 2024-2030. These effects encompass all in-combination/cumulative effects arising from implementation of the Strategy. The potentially significant adverse environmental effects (if unmitigated) arising from implementation of the LAP are detailed as are residual effects, taking into account mitigation through both provisions integrated into the Plan and existing provisions already in force through the Mayo Development Plan 2022-2028.

The Local Transport Plan for Ballina is provided as an appendix to the LAP, will run concurrently to the LAP and has been assessed through the SEA and AA process.

Environmental impacts which occur will be determined by the nature and extent of multiple or individual projects and site specific environmental factors.

TABLE 4.1: OVERALL EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS OF THE LAP

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
<p><b>Biodiversity, Flora and Fauna</b></p>	<p>The natural environment includes those spaces outside of the built environment such as open spaces, lakes, rivers and agricultural land.</p> <p>Despite the fact that the plan area is primarily urban in character, the town and its environs, have developed around the River Moy SAC and other European Sites within the plan area are;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• River Moy SAC (within Plan area)</li> <li>• Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SAC (within Plan area)</li> <li>• Killala Bay/Moy Estuary SPA (within Plan area)</li> </ul> <p>The inclusion of specific policies (NEP1 &amp; NEP2 ) will provide protection of these and other important habitats that may not be designated but function as important ecological corridors and stepping stones.</p> <p>These features are supplemented by a range of open spaces and parks, woodland associated with Belleek castle and important estuarine habitats, which all combine to form an attractive physical environment that distinguish Ballina from most other urban centres of its size.</p> <p>Apart from their intrinsic ecological value as habitats for a variety of plant and animal species these elements of the environment provide direct and indirect benefits to the population of Ballina and its surrounds. They are places where people can engage in recreational activities such as walking, swimming, water related activities and playing formal and informal field sports. These areas also provide a</p>	<p>Loss of/damage to biodiversity in designated sites (including European Sites and Wildlife Sites) and Annexed habitats and species, listed species, ecological connectivity and non-designated habitats; and disturbance to biodiversity and flora and fauna in the absence of detailed surveys and assessment.</p> <p>In addition to this the would be</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A reduction in water quality can impact water dependant habitats. Therefore, site selection and the appropriate environmental assessment will be vital to ensure that the integrity of these habitats are not impacted.</li> <li>- Lack of protection for non-designated aspects of biodiversity such as ecological corridors and linkages, and ensure control and manage measures for invasive species.</li> <li>- This lack of protection would also affect hedgerows and treelines, amenity development and greenways, bats, and lighting issues.</li> </ul>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>visual amenity that enhances the attractiveness of the town as a place in which to live and work.</p> <p>Due to increased utilisation of lands within the existing development boundary and use of existing utilities and brownfield sites reduces pressure and need for greenfield land development (DSO 1 Development Strategy; HSCP1).</p> <p>Embedding nature-based solutions to climate change – allows for co-benefits with other environmental parameters including biodiversity, water and human health (NEP 3 Designated Sites policy; CAP6 Climate Action policies; and NEP 3 Ecological Corridor Objective; NEP5 Trees and hedgerows policy; NEO3 Trees and hedgerows objective; HSCO5 Residential Density, Design &amp; Mix Objective).</p> <p>Promotion of pedestrianisation and cycle friendly town with modal shift contributes to air quality improvements at local level and noise level reductions with positive effects on urban wildlife.</p> <p>Positive effects on water quality arising from nature-based solutions from micro to macro scale. This can reduce pressure on stormwater overflows and conserve water, thus reducing abstraction pressures on water dependent habitats and species.</p>	
<b>Population and Human health</b>	<p>Land use planning (e.g., residential, community, education, work, recreation, transport) impacts on the everyday lives of people and can either hinder or help promote healthy sustainable environments and communities. This will be important to protect, enhance and improve quality of life for the local population and/or those visiting the area.</p>	<p>Activities associated with construction and operation, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas may result in emissions to air and water; with accompanying adverse effects on local health and well-being.</p> <p>Maintaining negative trends in terms of GHG emissions and resource use such as waste ultimately impacts in the immediate to long term on population and human</p>



SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>For example, the provision of safe walking routes and cycle-ways, parks, playgrounds, safe routes to school, public transport facilities, etc. result in direct and indirect health benefits and allow for healthier transportation choices to be made by communities above private motor car (MTP1 Sustainable Mobility Policy; and MRT4,) as well as the interactions with the Local Transport Plan which will run concurrently with the LAP.</p> <p>Many of the policies identified in the LAP 2024-2030 give rise to long term positive effects on population and human health both by responding and adapting to the impacts of climate change, promoting town centre, compact living, enhancing access to open space and improving the public realm (DSO6 Development Strategy Objective, NEP1 Designated Sites Policy; CAO3 Climate Action Objective; Sustainable Communities and Town Centre Policy such as: HSCP 2 Promote healthy place-making, increase the liveability factor of Ballina, encourage the most efficient use of land, and ensure a mixture of residential unit types that are designed and constructed on the principles of universal design, life-long adaptability and energy efficiency.</p> <p>; NEO3 Trees and Hedgerows Objective; HSCP6 Density, Design &amp; Mix Policy; HSCO4 Density, Design &amp; Mix Objective; HSCP 7 Age Friendly Objective; HSCO3 Residential Development Objective).</p> <p>In turn longer positive interactions with population and human health in facilitating. access to additional well-designed green and blue space</p>	<p>health through climate change impacts on supporting infrastructure, extreme weather events and declining environmental quality .</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>Adaptation to climate change by reducing reliance on fossil fuel for heating as well as transport (CAP 1 to 10 will also interact positively with actions in the Draft Climate Action Plan once approved).</p> <p>Reuse of existing buildings represents embedding existing carbon in existing buildings. (TCP2: Seek to develop and improve areas within the town in need of regeneration, renewal and redevelopment. The Council will seek to apply, where appropriate, the provisions of the Urban Regeneration and Housing Act, Derelict Sites Act, and use Compulsory Purchase Orders and other active land management instruments, as appropriate, to facilitate regeneration, housing supply, employment opportunities and community facilities.</p> <p>TCP3: Protect the visual character, built &amp; cultural heritage, ambience and vitality of the traditional heart of the town centre to meet the retailing and service needs of the area, in addition to offering a pleasant and attractive environment for shopping, business, tourism, recreation and living.</p> <p>TCP4: Actively encourage, support and facilitate environmental and public realm improvements in Ballina to address environmental quality, urban design, safety, identity and traffic impact. As well as positive interactions relating to landscape, cultural heritage and soil and geology.</p>	
<b>Water</b>	<p>The Mayo CDP 2022-2028 includes a range of provisions and measures to address and minimise the adverse, including measures around green infrastructure, flood risk management and development control.</p> <p>This LAP further enhances and strengthen these through the flood resilience actions and nature-based solutions in particular (IESP 1 &amp;</p>	<p>A reduction in water quality in groundwater, springs and watercourses associated with the construction phase of new developments (short to medium term impacts)</p> <p>Surface water runoff from impermeable surfaces leading to reduced water quality in groundwater springs or surface waters affecting qualifying habitats and species</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>IESP 2 Water Quality and Water Framework Directive; IESP 4 and 5 Flood Risk Management IESP5 Drinking water Wastewater Policy).</p> <p>Additional tree planting and a focus on riparian habitats provide for positive effects as they reduce soil run off and allow for water attenuation and filtration (NEP 1). Again, this provides for longer, positive effects associated with linear habitat creation and ecological connectivity.</p> <p>The introduction of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) has a number of benefits including heat reduction through evaporation and flood prevention, particularly during periods of high rainfall when surface water runoff increases in urban areas. SuDS mimic natural drainage by storing, infiltrating and slowing the flow of water. The impervious surface in urban environments has lower infiltration and evaporation than natural environments and greater surface run-off. Measures around SuDS, and other natural water retention measures are particularly positive, creating long term direct positive effects on water resources, as well as soil and biodiversity, landscape and population (CAP1Climate Action Policy).</p>	<p>downstream (impacts can range from short to long term);</p> <p>Changes in the flow rate of watercourses arising from an increased footprint of impermeable surfaces within the Plan area - increasing the extent of impermeable surfaces will result in a decrease in infiltration and an increase in runoff.</p> <p>Generally, land use practices can result in water quality impacts and whilst surface water impacts may be identified quickly, impacts to groundwater can take much longer to ascertain due to the slow recharge rate of this water resource.</p> <p>Water quality impacts can also have human health impacts in the case where bacterial or chemical contamination arises.</p>
<b>Soil and Geology</b>	<p>Soil quality and function may be enhanced through particular measures associated with flood resilience and nature-based solutions.</p> <p>The promotion of brownfield and town centre sites embeds existing geological resources and reduces requirements for additional geological resources and greenfield development (DSO1 Development Strategy Objective; Policies included in Chapter Four</p>	<p>Given the historical and recent land use associated with a number of town centre sites, the potential for contamination soil presents a risk in the absence of mitigation.</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>Town Centre and Regeneration Strategy, EPD 11 and architectural heritage policies as well as DSO 1.</p> <p>The support for reuse of existing buildings, and promotion of brownfield over greenfield sites is supported through national, regional and county policy and actions relating to these are supportive of such policy measures and positive for soil and geology SEOs with indirect positive measures for water, habitats and species, and human health.</p> <p>The recognition of ecosystem services and green infrastructure further recognises the essential role and function that soil plays in terms of biodiversity, landscape, human health and climate change adaptation and mitigation (CAP 1 Climate Action Policy; NEP3 Ecological Corridor Policy;)</p> <p>The LAP also recognises and supports the ecosystem services approach which identifies CAP1 (Climate Action Policy) areas within the Plan area that show the greatest carbon retention in the soil.</p> <p>Micro and macro nature-based solutions ranging from green roofs to larger nature water retention measures all serve to reduce the volume and rate of flow of water, thus impacting positively in terms of potential loss of soil associated with increased surface water runoff and extreme weather events.</p>	
<b>Material Assets</b>	<p>Many of the measures in the LAP are identified with a view to minimising adverse effects of climate change on material assets, and also responding and facilitating behavioural and modal change in energy use and transport (all infrastructure and climate action policies and objectives).</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the opportunity to embed reuse of existing buildings and brownfield development would not occur.</p> <p>This would also be the case with the reduction of waste and modal shift in transport which contribute to the reduction of greenhouse gases.</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
<b>Air Quality</b>	<p>Will contribute positively to climate change adaptation through the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blue and green infrastructure giving rise to increased surface water storage and potential carbon sequestration (CAP1 Climate Action Policy)</li> <li>• Focus on energy efficiency and innovation (CAP3 Climate Action Policy; CAO4 Climate Action Objective; NEO2 Ecological Corridor Objective;</li> <li>• Other energy related measures are all identified as positive in relation to this SEO such as energy masterplan CAP 10.</li> </ul> <p>These will also interact positively with the actions in the draft CAP 2024 -2020.</p> <p>Key measures relating to behavioural change around transport and the increase in walking/cycling and public transport measures are essential in addressing transport emissions over the lifetime of the strategy and beyond (Local transport plan will run concurrently and interact positively )</p> <p>Recognising the ecosystems functions of soil, water and biodiversity is a key element in the Nature Based solutions theme and is an important acknowledgement that also provides for positive effects across a number of SEOs.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the opportunity to embed meaningful actions in the plan that are needed to deliver the overall vision and aims is lost. Particularly in the areas of urban greening, and nature-based solutions which offer co and multiple benefits in responding to climate change whilst enhancing the overall environmental quality of the plan area of Ballina.</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	<p>Long term positive effects associated with the town centre use and intensification of use (Chapter 6 Housing and Sustainable Communities - Residential Density, Design &amp; Mix Objective )</p> <p>The relationship between the urban realm, townscape and cultural heritage features and intangible cultural heritage (BEP1-BEP5 Built</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, potential adverse effects particularly in relation to the townscape setting and context of architectural conservation areas.</p> <p>Statutory legislation will apply in terms of sites/ structures designated as such but erosion or loss of</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>Heritage Conservation Policy; BEP6 Architectural Heritage and Record of Protected Structures Policy; BEP7 Archaeological Heritage Policy; BEP9 &amp; BEP10 Placemaking &amp; Views &amp; Prospects Policy; BEO 1-BEO1 Built Heritage Conservation Objective; BEO2-BEO5 Architectural Heritage and Record of Protected Structures Objective; BEP 8 Archaeological Heritage Objective).BEP 7 is particularly positive across a number of parameters with positive interactions for CH, CC, L, PHH and SG SEOs</p> <p><i>BEP 7 Encourage the rehabilitation, renovation, climate-proofing and re-use of existing protected structures and vernacular buildings within the plan area, where appropriate, over the demolition of same and new-build on-site</i></p>	<p>vernacular or industrial heritage features may be an issue. The new LAP policies relating to placemaking and reuse of buildings will provide mitigation for same.</p>
<b>Landscape</b>	<p>Long term positive effects are identified in the LAP for landscape primarily through the public realm enhancement (<i>BEP 10 Encourage and facilitate improvements to the physical fabric and environment of the town, including streetscape, street furniture, landscaping (hard and soft), signage and wirescape, while recognising that both private and public developments can contribute to effective public realm)</i> Town Centre policies), green and blue infrastructure (NEP1 Designated Sites Policy), increased tree planting (NEP3 Trees and hedgerow objective), etc.</p> <p>Many of the measures in the LAP require a landscape level response such as recognition of green and blue infrastructure and corridors and this an important approach to take when responding to climate change (CAP 1 &amp; CAP2 Climate Action Policy;).</p> <p>Public realm enhancement and reuse of existing buildings are also consistent with landscape SEOs.</p>	<p>In the absence of mitigation, the varied landscape, and historical townscape an inherent part of Ballina’s natural heritage requires protection in its own right. Therefore, the landscape must be protected against possible development, which would undermine or change its character. It is paramount to Ballina’s future development only takes place where visual intrusion is minimal, particularly within areas of elevated topography or sparse vegetation.</p> <p>The consideration of modal shift, increased pedestrianisation and cycling are all positive but require consideration to avoid visual clutter associated with excessive infrastructural and signage.</p>

SEA theme	Significant positive effects	Significant adverse effects, if unmitigated
	<p>Overall, positive effects identified for Landscape SEOs, as landscape change can be considerable with climate change effects in terms of changing water levels, habitat change, transport measures and adaptation measures such as flood risk management.</p> <p>An increase in open space, green infrastructure, public realm and permeability would all create long term positive effects for the Landscape SEOs.</p>	<p>The public realm enhancements offer a good opportunity to embed urban greening measures to avoid an over hardscaped public realm design.</p>

#### 4.1.1 Ballina LAP Landuse Zonings and Opportunity Sites

The Landuse zonings and four opportunity sites identified in the draft LAP were also evaluated and assessed with the Appropriate Assessment and Strategic Flood risk assessment processes. In summary positive interactions are identified for a range of SEOS notably Population and Human Health, Soil and Geology, Material Assets and Climate Change. The interaction between several proposals relevant to the Opportunity Sites offer positive interactions in relation to landscape, plus climate change, air quality, material assets. The landuse zonings for the Ballina LAP were assessed through the SEA, AA and SFRA process and commentary are provided in Annex A of the SEA ER. Overall, these are identified as consistent with the Strategic Environmental Objectives of the SEA ER.

For some Opportunity sites, project level assessment is required and mitigation measures are recommended.. A number of sites are identified as meriting ecological assessment given the existing habitats on site, and application of mitigation measure as recommended through the SEA, SFRA and AA.

The Draft LAP will set the six year framework for the sustainable development of Ballina and the material alterations as shown and assessed in the accompanying Chief Executive Report do, for a number of Material Alterations (MA numbers 14, 15, 27, 29, 30, 31, 33, 34, 35 and 36)significantly alter the findings of the SEA of the draft LAP to date. These are evaluated in Chapter Eight and Annex B of the SEA ER.

## 5 Mitigation Measures

This section presents some of the mitigation measures that will prevent, reduce, and offset as much as possible any significant adverse effects on the environment of the plan area resulting from the implementation of the Plan. Mitigation measures can be generally divided into those that:

- Avoid effects;
- Reduce the magnitude or extent, probability and/or severity of effect;
- Repair effects after they have occurred, and
- Compensate for effects, by balancing out negative impacts with positive ones.

The table below presents some of the mitigation measures identified through the SEA process, additional measures from the Appropriate Assessment and site specific commentaries are included in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

**TABLE 5-1: SEA MITIGATION MEASURES**

TCO 7	Undertake a building heights and residential density study for Ballina town, within a year of adoption of this Local Area Plan, to identify suitable locations within the town where development potential for greater height and density rates can be suitably accommodated. <b>These may require screening for SEA /AA and Ecological Impact Assessment as appropriate.</b>
TCO 10	Mayo County Council will prepare, or coordinate, as appropriate, urban design frameworks/masterplans for the Opportunity Sites in Ballina Town to inform future development proposals. <b>These may require screening for SEA /AA and Ecological Impact Assessment as appropriate.</b>
NEP 1	Where development proposals are made along a riparian corridor, ensure that a vegetated strip <b>informed by ecological assessment to ensure it is robust and appropriate for wildlife and nature conservation</b> along the river in consultation with the National Parks and Wildlife Service.
NEP 3	Protect, reinforce and strengthen the Green <b>and Blue</b> Infrastructure network in Ballina and strengthen links to the wider regional network.
	A number of SEA recommendations are also made in Annex A to the Opportunity Sites, see below:
Opp Site 1 Market Square	Based on a review of aerial photography, this opportunity site comprises of a brownfield land and supports built land and artificial surfaces. Key location within town centre; opportunities to support adaptive re-use of existing buildings; overall positive effects and consistent with SEOS. <b>To enhance ecological connectivity it is recommended that a landscape plan that is designed in line with the All Ireland Pollinator Plan is included with native species mix of tree planting as appropriate. A bat survey to assess if the building is being used by roosting bats and a bird survey may be required in advance to works..</b>

## 6 Monitoring

The monitoring programme will consist of an assessment of the relevant indicators and targets against the data relating to each environmental component. Similarly, monitoring will be carried out frequently to ensure that any changes to the environment can be identified.

It is recommended that data arising from planning applications, particularly in terms of environmental constraints mapping and Environmental Impact Statements be integrated into the GIS and monitoring system. This will assist in assessing cumulative impacts also, in particular ecology and water quality.



Finally, it is recommended that the monitoring report be made available to the public upon its completion. It is recommended that this data be shared with neighbouring local authorities to assist in monitoring cross county effects and ensure consistency of monitoring.

TABLE 6-1 SEA MONITORING

TABLE 9-1 INDICATORS, TARGETS, SOURCES AND REMEDIAL ACTIONS

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
<b>Biodiversity Flora and Fauna</b>			
<p><b>BFF1 Conserve and enhance biodiversity at all levels</b></p>	<p>No reduction in length or loss of hedgerows.</p> <p>Operators who conduct mechanical hedge cutting should have achieved the Teagasc proficiency standard MT 1302-Mechanical Hedge Trimming.</p> <p>30% broadleaf/native afforestation.</p> <p>Protection and promotion of non-designated salmonid rivers.</p> <p>No. ecological networks or parts thereof which provide significant connectivity between areas of local biodiversity to be lost without remediation as a result of implementation of the MCDP 2021-2027</p> <p>Afford the same level of protection to Margaritifera Sensitive Areas as is afforded to Freshwater Pearl Mussel SAC rivers</p>	<p>Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in non-designated sites over the lifetime of the Plan through trending of annual/bi-annual surveys.</p> <p>Percentage of broadleaf/native afforestation.</p> <p>Number of green infrastructure and blue infrastructure measures implemented during Part 8 applications.</p> <p>Number of pollinator friendly planting schemes as part of public realm works.</p> <p>Number of pollinator friendly schemes identified under Tidy Towns</p> <p>Number of Part 8 applications requiring Ecological Clerk of Work</p> <p>Percentage loss of connectivity between areas of local biodiversity importance as a result of implementation of the MCDP as evidenced from a resurvey of CORINE mapping and the Biodiversity Mapping undertaken by MCC for towns and villages where present.</p> <p>Decrease in population of freshwater pearl mussels in <i>Margaritifera</i> sensitive areas and/or habitat and water quality deterioration.</p>	<p>MCC</p> <p>MCC Part 8 planning applications Coillte- Annual NPWS – Annual or as and when surveys completed by NPWS for National Monitoring programmes on a rolling basis and/or surveillance monitoring undertaken for compliance with Article 17 of the Habitats Directive and reported on every 6 years. MCC - Annual OPW - Annual National Biodiversity Data Centre – Annual</p> <p>Ireland River Basin Management Plan –second and third RBMP Cycle</p>

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
<b>BFF2 – Avoid and minimise effects on nationally and internationally rare and threatened species and habitats through sensitive design and consultation, recognising ecological connectivity.</b>	<p>No loss of protected habitats and species during the lifetime of the Plan.</p> <p>No compromise in the favourable conservation condition of European sites. No compromise or impact on the achievement of the favourable conservation condition objectives (whether maintain or restore) of European sites.</p>	<p>Designation of additional areas due to biodiversity and/or geological value.</p> <p>Percentage of unique habitats and species lost in designated sites through trending of annual surveys.</p> <p>No./percentage of developments in/near Natura 2000 network.</p> <p>Percentage of European sites in the plan area that are at 'Favourable' conservation status.</p> <p>Percentage of Qualifying Interest Features which have achieved their specific objectives of maintain or restore.</p>	
<b>BFF3 – Avoid and minimise habitat fragmentation and seek opportunities to improve habitat connectivity.</b>	<p>Submission of Ecological Impact Assessments for planning applications</p> <p>Number of green and blue infrastructure measures implemented through Part 8 applications.</p> <p>Ensure provision of riparian zones at project/site level.</p>	<p>Number of Ecological Impact Assessments with planning applications.</p> <p>Number of Part 8 applications with green and blue infrastructure measures</p> <p>No. of planning applications with sufficient inclusion of buffer zones where necessary and applicable.</p>	
<b>BFF4 – Ensure careful consideration of non-native invasive and alien species particularly as they relate to watercourses</b>	<p>Prevent the introduction of new invasive or alien species.</p> <p>Control/manage new invasive species.</p> <p>Control/manage/eradicate invasive species throughout the county.</p>	<p>No., type and location of invasive species identified.</p> <p>No. of actions achieved under the Biodiversity Action Plan.</p> <p>Increase/decrease in coverage of invasive species identified.</p>	

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
		<p>No. of submissions/observations submitted through invasive species Ireland "Alien Watch". <a href="http://www.invasivespeciesireland.com/alien-watch">www.invasivespeciesireland.com/alien-watch</a></p> <p>The National Biodiversity Data Centre will track success in the implementation of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan by measuring increases in the abundance and diversity of pollinators within the Irish landscape as the 81 actions are implemented.</p>	
<p><b>B5 - Promote green and blue infrastructure networks, including riparian zones and wildlife corridors.</b></p>	<p>Ensure new development is set back from rivers.</p> <p>The recommended width for larger river channels (&gt;10m) is 35m to 60m and for smaller channels (&lt;10m) is 20m or greater. The determined width should be tailored to site specific, river reach or lakeshore characteristics and their associated habitats. It is important that the buffer zone is large enough to protect the ecological integrity of the river (including emergent vegetation), the riparian zone (bank side vegetation including trees) and takes into account the human history of the area.</p>	<p>No. planning permissions close to water.</p> <p>Number of Part 8 applications with green and blue infrastructure measures</p>	
<p>Population, Human Health</p>			

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
<p><b>P1 Protect, enhance and improve people’s quality of life based on high quality residential, community, educational, working and recreational environments and on sustainable travel patterns.</b></p>	<p>Increase in the number of green and blue space in settlements.</p> <p>Improved trends in perceived quality of life related to these matters.</p> <p>Bonds to ensure the completion of developments until taken charge.</p> <p>No significant deterioration in human health as a result of environmental factors.</p>	<p>No/area of green spaces and amenities available to the public as shown in public realm improvements</p> <p>Improved trends in perceived quality of life related to these matters as gathered through surveys.</p> <p>Employment rates over the lifetime of the Plan. Completion handover of development to MCC Availability of public transport/ smarter travel initiatives. Occurrence of any decline in human health around the plan area.</p>	<p>MCC – URDF funding and other funding sources CSO – every six years in line with census MCC - Annual</p> <p>Iarnrod Eireann - Annual Bus Eireann – Annual</p>
<p><b>P2 To protect human health from hazards or nuisances arising from incompatible land uses/developments.</b></p>	<p>No spatial concentrations of health problems arising from environmental factors. Number of complaints received from public relating to Noise, Air and Water Emissions.</p>	<p>Any occurrence of spatially concentrated deterioration in human health.</p> <p>Complaints to MCC Environment Section, Health and Safety Authority and EPA</p>	<p>CSO – every six years and as results arise on a yearly basis from the 2016 census Healthwell Database MCC – Annual</p>
<b>Water</b>			
<p><b>W1 – Protect and enhance the status of aquatic ecosystems and, with regard to their water needs, terrestrial ecosystems and wetlands directly depending on the aquatic ecosystem (quality, level, flow).</b></p>	<p>To achieve a Q rating of 4 ‘good’ quality status by 2021.</p>	<p>Biotic quality rating of river waters at EPA monitoring locations.</p>	<p>EPA – Annual as recorded through the WFD Monitoring Programme</p>
<p><b>W2– Maintain or improve the quality of surface water and groundwater (including estuarine) to status objectives as</b></p>	<p>Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface water quality by 2021</p>	<p>Changes in receiving water quality as identified during water quality monitoring for WFD, National RBMP conducted by MCC and EPA.</p>	<p>MCC EPA</p>

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
set out in the Water Framework Directive (WFD), the River Basin Management Plan and POMS.			
<b>W3– Reduce the impact of polluting substances to all waters and prevent pollution and contamination of ground water by adhering to aquifer protection plans and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.</b>	Improvement or at least no deterioration in surface and groundwaters by 2027 at the latest	Changes in receiving waters and groundwater quality as identified by water quality monitoring programmes conducted by MCC and EPA.	MCC - Annual EPA – Annual
<b>W4 - Promote sustainable water use, water conservation and sources of water supply in the plan area and to maintain and improve the quality of drinking water supplies.</b>	Pressure on water and waste water treatment plants.	Decrease in no. of water shortage notices issued during drought periods.  Decrease in the amount of water consumed per household in the plan area.	MCC/Irish Water
<b>W5–Protect flood plains and areas of flood risk from development through avoidance, mitigation and adaptation measures.</b>	In accordance with OPW/DOEHLG, all planning applications within designated Flood Risk Zones A and B as identified in the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for the plan are required to undertake Flood Risk Assessment.  Increase in nature based solutions to flood risk and blue infrastructure measures	Level and location of flooding.  Number of measures achieved in Goal 3 of Climate Ready Mayo.  Number of NBS that form part of public realm, Part 8 applications.	MCC – Records obtained as and when flood events occur  OPW –
<b>Soil and Geology</b>			

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
<b>SG1 To maximise the sustainable re-use of the existing built environment, derelict, disused and infill sites (brownfield sites), rather than greenfield sites</b>	NPF target of 30% urban development and 20% of rural developing on brownfield lands achieved over lifetime of the plan	Planning applicationsq	MCC annually
<b>SG2 Conserve, protect and avoid loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites.</b>	No loss of diversity and integrity of designated habitats, geological features, species or their sustaining resources in designated ecological sites. Designation of sites as County Geological Sites.	Percentage of habitats, geological features, species etc. Lost over the lifetime of the Plan through trending of annual/bi-annual surveys.  No. of areas designated as County Geological Sites.	GSI MCC
<b>Material Assets</b>			
<b>Air Quality and Climate</b>			
<b>AQ1 Recognise the ecosystems functions of habitats in and around the plan area and promote nature-based solutions to climate change mitigation and adaptation.</b>	Maintain and enhance ecosystems functionality in and around plan area  Integrate nature-based solutions through planning applications, public realm plans, greenways and transport projects.	% land mapped for green and blue infrastructure in urban settings and along greenways.  Enhancement of ecological networks/linkages through habitat creation/restoration	MCC
<b>AQ2 Minimise all forms of air pollution and maintain/improve ambient air quality.</b>	Maintain ambient air quality through reduction of private vehicle usage.	Air quality indicators.	<CC - Annual EPA - Annual
<b>AQ3 Minimise emissions of greenhouse gases and contribute to a reduction and avoidance of human-induced global climate change.</b>	Provide for increased use of public transport.	Use of public transport.  Provision of cycle lanes and walking routes.	MCC – Annual CSO – Annual as figures/reports based on 2016 census become available.

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
	<p>Increase number of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes in the plan area.</p> <p>Establish incentives/increase no. of permissions for renewable energy projects.</p>	<p>No. of grants given for insulation works; energy efficiency of new buildings – energy rating figures.</p> <p>No. of planning applications for residential houses with low carbon footprint.</p> <p>No. Of wind turbines permitted which may contribute to mitigation of, and adaptation to Climate Change.</p> <p>Location of permitted wind farms and other renewable energy projects as identified in the Co Mayo RES. w</p>	<p>MCC and SEAI – increase in BER rating at Small Area for towns identified.</p> <p>Number of Energy Retrofitting grants in County</p> <p>MCC – No and type of planning applications in relation to low carbon residential housing and wind turbines and/or commencement of construction of such on an annual basis. SEAI</p>
<p><b>AQ4 Reduce car dependency within the plan area by way of an integrated approach to sustainable urban transport.</b></p>	<p>An increase in the percentage of the population travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means.</p> <p>A decrease in the average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.</p>	<p>Percentage population within the plan area travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means.</p> <p>Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.</p>	<p>CSO – every 6 years through census information.</p>
<b>Material Assets – Waste</b>			
<p><b>MA1 Avoid and minimise waste generation</b></p>	<p>Reduction in the quantities of waste sent to landfill.</p>	<p>Quantity of household waste sent to landfill.</p>	<p>MCC Environment Section</p>
<p><b>MA2 Maximise reuse of material resources and use of recycled materials</b></p>	<p>Increase in the quantities of waste sent for recycling.</p> <p>Increase in the number of bring banks in the plan area.</p>	<p>Quantity of household waste sent to recycling</p> <p>Number of repair/ reuse initiatives over plan lifetime</p>	<p>Connaught Waste Management annual report</p>



Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
	Compliance with the Region Waste Management Plan		
<b>Material Assets -energy</b>			
<b>MA3 Minimise energy consumption and encourage use of renewable energy</b>	<p>Increase in renewable energy developments.</p> <p>Adaptive reuse of town centre buildings</p>	<p>No. of renewable energy developments granted planning permission.</p> <p>Establishment of R&amp;D projects (one or more).</p> <p>Meet or exceed County contributions to national renewable energy targets.</p> <p>Meet or exceed County contributions to national energy efficiency/conservation targets.</p> <p>Number of houses increasing BER rating to B3</p>	<p>MCC – new solar farms, windfarms or other renewable energy developments granted.</p> <p>– number of new R&amp;D projects within the Plan area e.g., testing of tidal energy devices.</p> <p>Regional Assembly for the Northern and Western Region</p> <p>Marine Institute</p> <p>SEAO</p>
<b>Material Assets -Transport</b>			
<b>MA4 Promote sustainable transport patterns and modes</b>	<p>An increase in provision of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes.</p> <p>An increase in population travelling to work and school by public transport or non-motorised transport.</p> <p>A reduction in the distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.</p>	<p>No. of cycle lanes and pedestrian routes provided in the plan area.</p> <p>Percentage of the population within the plan area travelling to work or school by public transport or non-mechanical means.</p> <p>Average distance travelled to work or school by the population of the plan area.</p> <p>Number of private cars on road as a percentage of Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT).</p>	<p>MCC</p> <p>CSO – every 6 years through census information.</p> <p>TII</p>
<b>Material Assets – Waste Water</b>			

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
<p>MA5 To maximise the capacity of wastewater collection networks by excluding surface water run-off from the sewage network through the use of SUDs and Blue/green Infrastructure.</p>	<p>Based on current loading it is estimated there is approx. 5,269 p.e. capacity remaining in the plant which means there is sufficient treatment capacity to accommodate the projected increase in population for Ballina and to facilitate enterprise</p>	<p>WWTP currently has capacity for the planned population growth for Ballina</p>	<p>Uisce Éireann -Achievement of Water Services Strategic Plan objectives.</p> <p>MCC – monitoring</p> <p>.</p> <p>3</p>
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>			
<p>CH1 Conserve, preserve and record architectural and archaeological heritage</p>	<p>No permitted development which involves loss of cultural heritage, including protected structures, archaeological sites, Architectural Conservations Areas and landscape features.</p>	<p>No. of developments permitted during the lifetime of the plan which will result in the loss or partial loss of protected structures or sites of archaeological status.</p> <p>No. of additions to the list of Protected Structures.</p> <p>No. of additions to the list of Architectural Conservation Areas.</p> <p>Development of cultural heritage areas for amenity resources.</p>	<p>MCC - ongoing</p>
<p>CH2 Avoid and minimise effects on historic environment features through sensitive design and consultation.</p>	<p>Increase in consultation and engagement with statutory bodies.</p> <p>Increase in architectural heritage impact assessments</p>	<p>No. of applications which are referred to the Conservation and Heritage Officers.</p>	<p>MCC - ongoing</p>

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
<b>CH3 Support and enhance both tangible and intangible cultural heritage</b>	Increase in awareness of cultural heritage	No. planning applications for restoration/re-use of vacant and derelict structures.	MCC – ongoing
	Increase in use of Irish Language	No of Irish Language speakers	CSO
	Reverse island population trend	No of Irish Language Impact assessment  Population of Islands	
<b>Landscape</b>			
<b>L1 Ensure no significant disruption of historic/cultural landscapes and features through objectives of the County Development Plan</b>	. No significant visual impact from development.	No. of developments permitted and their impacts on cultural/historic landscapes.	CCC – ongoing
	Ensure no significant disruption of high landscape values.	No. of developments located within Scenic Route or no degradation of Coastal Areas	Heritage Council - ongoing
		No. of developments located within a designated scenic view in Co Mayo that disrupt views (based on the LCA).	Fáilte Ireland - ongoing
		Development and application of framework in relation to the application of LCA and their contribution to SEA.	GSI - ongoing NPWS - ongoing EPA SEA Unit in conjunction with CCC
<b>L2 Promote and enhance landscape character at county and local scale through sensitive siting and design</b>	Maintain and enhance landscape quality within the plan area by minimising visual impacts through appropriate design, assessment and siting.	No. of developments located within a high landscape area that disrupt views	MCC - ongoing
	Number of applications referencing Rural Housing Guidelines	No of large-scale developments permitted with Visual Impact Assessment prepared  Km of additional hedgerow /treelines planted	

Strategic Environmental Objective	Target	Indicator/Data Sources	Source/Responsibility/Frequency
	Number of applications reflecting native tree /hedgerows and local stone treatments		

