

Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening Report

For

**Climate Change Adaptation Strategy for Wicklow
County Council**

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

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ON BEHALF OF

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 (SI No. 200 of 2011) and the Planning and Development (SEA) (Amendment) Regulations 2011 (SI 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 and as also set out in Schedule 2A of the Planning and Development (SEA) Regulations 2004 (S.I. No. 436 of 2004) need to be considered while drafting of the Climate Change Adaptation Strategies.

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 is also being prepared for this 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 Wicklow County Council has been consistent with these guidelines.

2.3 Wicklow's Climate Change Adaptation Objectives

The purpose of the Wicklow 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, Wicklow County Council have set out a number of key objectives in their strategy, under six thematic principles. Table 1 below outlines Wicklow County Councils 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 WICKLOW'S CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY OBJECTIVES

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and business Operations
To ensure that climate adaptation is mainstreamed into all activities and operations of the Local Authority.
Theme 2: Infrastructure and Built Environment
To ensure and increase the resilience of infrastructural assets and inform investment decisions
Theme 3: Landuse and Development
To Integrate climate action considerations into landuse planning policy and influence positive behaviour
Theme 4: Drainage and Flood Management
To manage the risk of flooding through a variety of responses
To mitigate the risk and impact of flooding
Theme 5: Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure
To provide for enhancement of natural environment to work positively towards climate action.
To promote effective bio-diversity management and enhance protection of natural habitats and landscapes
To protect Heritage and Cultural Infrastructure
Theme 6: Community Health and Wellbeing
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 (Wicklow 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.*

Wicklow County Council on the 16th May 2019 sent the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and the SEA Screening Report to the following Environmental Authorities:

- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA);
- The Department of Communications Climate Action and Environment;
- The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine;
- The Department of Culture Heritage and the Gaeltacht: and
- Eastern Regional Fisheries Board.

2.4.2 Public Consultation

Post Environmental Authority consultation, Wicklow County Council conducted a four-week period from 7th June 2019 to 5th July 2019, where the Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, with the accompanying SEA Screening Report and Appropriate Assessment Screening Report were presented for public consultation. The follow outreach methods were used:

- Newspaper Notice in three local papers;
- Advertised on Wicklow.ie;
- Wicklow County Council Social media;
- Public Participation Network;
- Public presentations in Kilcoole and Bray;
- Local radio advertising;
- Engagement with adjoining Local Authorities;
- The CARO engaged with the Departments responsible for the development of sectoral adaptation plans inviting them to review the local authority adaptation strategies and to make submissions: and
- The CARO identified key high-level stakeholders according to their relevance to the subject matter of local authority adaptation strategies and invited them to review the local authority adaptation strategies and to make submissions.

A number of submissions came in during the consultation period, and 94 submissions were received in total, from the following organisation and individuals:

- Gas Networks Ireland
- Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM)
- The Bray Heads University of the Third Age Climate Action Sub-group
- Public Participation Network
- The Green Party
- Jean Melia
- Emma Flood
- Claire O'Connor
- Leigh Kenny
- Tina Maxwell
- Muriel Joyce
- Carol Duffy
- Christine Downey
- Kelly Conlon
- Margaret Dickenson
- Fiona Tuite
- Catriona Ridgeway
- Kemp Kempies
- Linda Murphy
- Lynn Kavanagh
- Evie Madden
- Carol O'Connor

- Yvonne O'Reilly
- Samantha Duffy
- Ciara Kavanagh
- Eimear Tuite
- Seamus Gallagher
- Cassie Steele
- Helen Larkin
- Geraldine Flanagan
- Sally Phelan
- Jennifer McHugo
- Keith Scanlon
- Charlie Keddy
- Comhairle na nóg
- Donagh McGowan
- Cllr. Mary Kavanagh
- Lisa Dickenson
- Pat Tyrrell
- Kelly Ann Conroy
- Liz Grehan
- Gerry O'Reilly
- Donna Connolly
- Siobhan Forde
- Deirdre Burke
- Stanley Kenny
- Nora Gafney O'Connor
- Margaret Stokes
- Maeve Bracken
- Jackie O'Toole
- Annmarie Roche
- Tracy Doran
- An Taisce
- Sinead Wallace
- Anna O'Rourke
- Cllr. Dermot O'Brien
- Cllr. Jennifer Whitmore
- Andrea Nolan
- Tessa Stewart
- Keith Scanlon
- Elizabeth Batty
- Finnbar Howell
- Wicklow Planning Alliance – Dr. Craig Bishop
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – Built Heritage
- Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht – Archaeological Observations
- Geological Survey of Ireland
- Delgany Community Council
- Newtownmountkennedy Community Forum
- Lynsey Lynch
- Eileen O'Mahony Bowe
- Stephen McNabb
- Muriel Koyce
- Ann Scanlon
- Alex Pigot
- Zofia Howell - KRA
- Irish Business for Climate Action
- Rosemary Warner
- Antoinette Whelan
- Mary-Anne Parsons
- Fiona O'Farrell
- Donna Scanlon
- Alice O'Donnell
- Adele Meenan
- Dr. Patricia Cusack
- Sophia Meeres
- Eoin Llewellyn
- Matt Wilson
- Irish Water
- Andrew Scanlon
- Niamh McGinty
- David Sullivan
- Joan Campbell
- Rory Fallon
- Office of Public Works

Wicklow County Council reviewed each submission and incorporated a number of changes throughout the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. A number of new actions were added to the strategy post consultations, for examples, actions under Theme 6: Community Health and Well Being, Action 6.11, 6.12, 6.13, 6.14, 6.15, 6.16, 6.17 and 6.18. See Appendix 1, for a list of all actions.

The Chief Executive Report attached with Wicklow's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy provides a details summary of the submissions and 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 Wicklow's 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 Wicklow'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

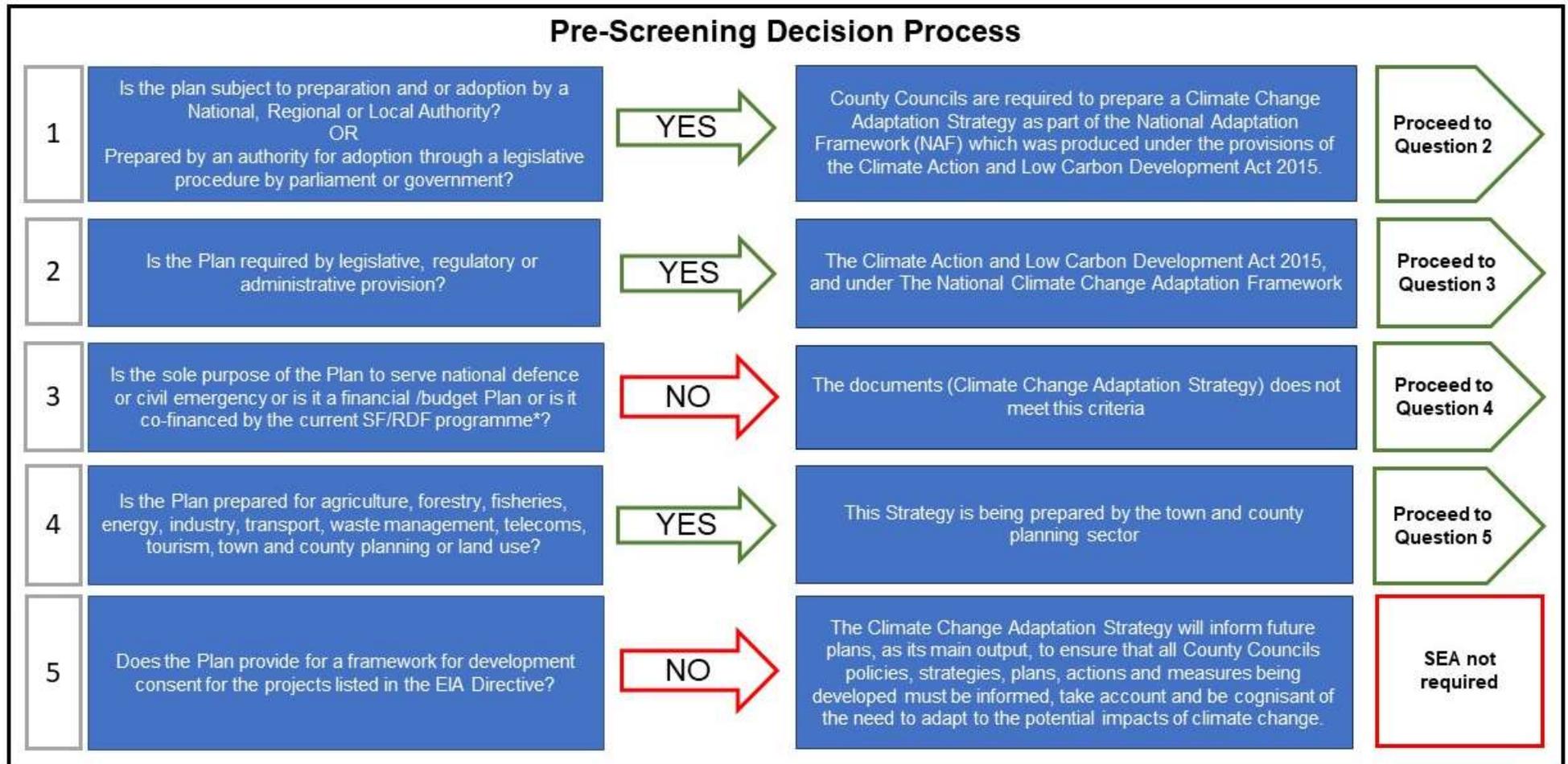
Post the Environmental Authority and Public Consultation, the updated Climate Change Adaptation Strategy was screened for SEA requirements. The below details the SEA screening process carried out.

3.1 The 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



*SF/RDF: Structural Funds and Regional Development Funds under Council Regulation (EC) Nos. 1260/99 and 1257/99 which operate programming periods of 2000–2006 and 2000–2007, respectively.

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 2 and Table 3 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 2 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	
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 Wicklow County associated with climate change and to set strategic goals, objectives and actions to adapt to these changes.</p> <p>Wicklow 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>Wicklow 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>
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 Wicklow 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>
The relevance of the plan or programme for the integration of environmental considerations in particular with a view to promoting sustainable development;	<p>As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into Wicklow County Councils plans, strategies and management team's agendas, the climate change adaptation measures will be implemented via future plans.</p> <p>This Climate Change Adaptation Strategy's main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies and</p>

	<p>plans for Wicklow 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>
<p>Environmental problems relevant to the plan or programme;</p>	<p>The Climate Change Adaptation Strategy looks to integrate climate change adaptation into Wicklow 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 Wicklow 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>
<p>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>	<p>As the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy is aimed at integrating climate change adaptation into identified Wicklow 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 Wicklow 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 Wicklow County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change.</p>

TABLE 3 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	
Criteria	Screening Determination
The probability, duration, frequency and reversibility of the effects	Wicklow County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy aims to integrating climate change adaptation into the Local Authorities plans, strategies and management agendas, this in itself will help develop climate resilience. The climate change adaptation actions will be implemented via future plans as its main output is to ensure that all policies, strategies, plans and measures developed by Wicklow County Council must be informed of the need to adapt to the potential impacts of climate change. Individual policies, strategies, plans and measures must be considered individually under the SEA, EIA and/or AA process. Any and all 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.
The cumulative nature of the effects	
The transboundary nature of the effects	
The risks to human health or the environment (e.g. due to accidents)	
The magnitude and spatial extent of the effects (geographical area and size of the population likely to be affected)	
<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> 	
The effects on areas or landscapes which have a recognised national, community or international protection status.	

5 CONCLUSION

This SEA Screening Report was carried out in order to determine the need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment for Wicklow 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. This is due to the fact that this Strategy does not provide a framework for development consent for projects listed in the EIA Directive. 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 programmes.

APPENDIX 1 – CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGY - ACTIONS

Theme 1: Local Adaptation Governance and Business Operations	
Operations	Actions
1.1	Establish a Climate Action Steering Group, chaired by a Climate Adaptation Champion at Director of Services level with representatives from across key functions of local authority and the Chair of the Planning, Development and Environmental SPC, to: Ensure the successful implementation of the actions of this Climate Change Adaptation Plan and to report on progress. Set Strategic Direction and assist in policy formation. Encourage local innovation.
1.2	Mainstream Climate Action policy as integral consideration in the Corporate Plan objectives providing for the all local authority activities and the delivery of functions and services across the administrative area.
1.3	Ensure that Climate Action is listed as a standing item on the agenda of the Management Team meetings.
1.4	Integrate Climate Action into the Service Delivery Programme and provide for its translation to Team Development Plans and Personal Development Plans to enable actions to be directly pursued per operational area.
1.5	Compile a list of local service indicators to be used to track and monitor the progress of adaptation actions.
1.6	Appoint a Climate Action Officer (CAO) with responsibility for climate related activity within the County administrative area
1.7	Explore the potential for Wicklow County Council to expand its service delivery to include Climate Action considerations with the scope to inform on local climate change issues, climate action measures, run awareness campaigns and manage funding for climate action projects.
1.8	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the Eastern & Midlands CARO in the delivery of adaptation actions from this strategy.
1.9	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: Preparing for critical services disruptions, Mitigating/Minimising the impact of service disruption and, Improving the capacity/ability to recover.
1.10	Ensure that all safety statements assess climate related risks and identify measures to ensure staff safety.
1.11	Develop a Weather Events Communication Strategy as part of WCC Communication policy. Part of this strategy should delineate actions the public can take and actions the Local Authority services can take.
1.12	Develop an IT system to allow access to remote data including CCTV coverage, rainfall and flow gauges to allow key staff to safely monitor and assess risks during weather events.
1.13	Integrate Climate Change in all funding applications provided by WCC.
1.14	Develop a programme to increase the number of electric vehicles in the Council Fleet.
1.15	Undertake a staff commuter survey, with results used to assess the feasibility of remote working days, promotion of car pooling, cycling and walking to work.
1.16	Develop a template to capture impacts, responses and costs for all major climate events. This template should incorporate a post incident review. Annual costs related to weather events should be reported by Finance to the Members of Wicklow County Council.
1.17	Train outdoor staff on working in adverse weather related situations to include flood waters, high winds and icy conditions.
1.18	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the sectors identified in the NAF, subject to funding and resources, in the delivery of the Government approved sectoral adaptation actions, where they relate and are relevant to the functions and activities of the council at local level/in local communities.
1.19	Engage with the Eastern Midlands Waste Regional Office to ensure the upcoming review of the regional waste management plan gives fuller consideration of climate action and the development of the circular economy in the formulation of policy and actions.
1.20	Assess the range and scope of existing mitigation measures already undertaken by WCC and those that will be required under the Climate Action Plan.
1.21	Develop and deliver training and awareness campaigns on climate action for WCC staff, elected representatives and communities.
1.22	Develop a green procurement strategy for WCC, which will stipulate where specific conditions are to be assessed prior to procurement.
1.23	Create a climate and biodiversity special policy committee (SPC), to examine climate and biodiversity policy, advise and monitor the work of WCC on climate action and implementation of this strategy. The SPC should have representation from the elected members of WCC and other stakeholders in the County.
1.24	Provide an update on progress with the Climate Adaptation Strategy and on climate mitigation measures in the CE's Monthly Report.
1.25	Liaise, collaborate and work in partnership with the sectors identified in the NAF, subject to funding and resources in the delivery of the Government approved sectoral adaptation actions, where they relate to and are relevant to the functions and activities of the council at local level or in local communities.

Theme 2: Actions	
Infrastructure and Built Environment	
2.1	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.
2.2	Develop a climate change risk map with scenarios for the county.
2.3	Integrate climate considerations into the design, planning and construction of all roads, footpaths, bridges, roundabouts, amenity areas, recreational trails, public realm and other construction projects. Make provision to incorporate green infrastructure as a mechanism for carbon offset.
2.4	Integrate climate considerations into the design, planning and construction of multilevel developments to take account of predicted flood events.
2.5	Undertake a Risk Assessment of road infrastructure in the area to 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 investment strategies.
2.6	Create a post incident review following all major weather events Report on all weather related damage and repair costs to infrastructure Report on number of call outs of emergency services Document and evaluate lessons learnt during weather events in Wicklow and other LAs particularly in relation to Health and Safety Statements. Collate all post incident review data in an annual report.
2.7	Create a database of Council owned buildings and infrastructure at risk from coastal flooding.
2.8	Develop a protocol for operations during a heatwave including servicing of key sites, public advisory notices and liaison with other relevant actors.
2.9	All new buildings to be built by WCC or on it's behalf to consider best available practice in ensuring buildings contribute to climate action through their design; considering a range of design options that will include, but not be restricted to, use of low carbon materials, insulation of the building fabric, green roofs, use of photovoltaics and rainwater harvesting, taking account of government policy, design standards and guidelines.
2.10	Engage with Irish Water to ensure collaboration on the provision of sustainable water services and the maintenance of good water quality.
2.11	Undertake a review of the current status of coastal erosion and protection measures, identifying areas that are vulnerable to increasing sea levels through CEFRAM Maps in order to assess the effects of increasing tidal levels and inundation events.
2.12	Discuss with the OPW implementing a monitoring and inspection programme for vulnerable areas of coast, coastal protection works, exposed roads and railways, harbours, piers, marinas and quays, to identify works that would protect them against rising sea levels.
2.13	Collaborate with relevant external agencies to identify, fund and programme works to protect coastal infrastructure assets.
2.14	Develop a Sustainable Transport Plan which will address public transport, cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, measures to reduce car dependence and measure to reduce carbon emissions from transport.

Theme 3: Actions
Landuse and Development

3.1	Identify and integrate climate change as a critical consideration and guiding principle informing core strategy of the County Development Plan, Local Area Plans, Heritage Plans, Transportation Plans, Tourism and Economic Plans incorporating best practice as a guiding principle where feasible and appropriate.
3.2	Integrate and promote climate-smart building and urban design performance outcomes in development standards through the development management process.
3.3	Promote the integrated planning, design and delivery of green infrastructure (including urban greening) through appropriate provisions in planning policies, development standards, infrastructural, public realm and community projects.
3.4	Research and incorporate, in the content of the County Development Plan, 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 including the promotion of measures to—(i) reduce energy demand in response to the likelihood of increases in energy and other costs due to long-term decline in non-renewable resources, (ii) reduce anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions, and (iii) address the necessity of adaptation to climate change; in particular, having regard to location, layout and design of new development;
3.5	Assess the role of Natura Sites, Natural Heritage Areas (NHAs) and other locally important biodiversity areas in creating a more climate resilient environment and undertake a public awareness campaign to highlight their role
3.6	Undertake the identification, recording and mapping of wetlands and other locally important biodiversity areas and use this information to inform landuse decisions.
3.7	Prepare a map of County Wicklow the projects increased tidal levels heights at the year 2050.

Theme 4: Actions	
Drainage and Flood Management	
4.1	Undertake and implement 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 flood risk and provide for detailed mapping of areas prone to surface water and groundwater flood risk.
4.2	Stipulate the requirement for the design and specification of urban stormwater drainage systems for new development to take account of the potential future impact of climate change.
4.3	Draw up a Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDs) Policy and ensure the incorporation of the requirement for SuDs in local authority projects and private development sites.
4.4	Promote and encourage Community involvement in the retrofit of SuDs in existing developments.
4.5	Investigate best practice in storm runoff attenuation through the use of green infrastructure in urban open spaces.
4.6	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.
4.7	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).
4.8	Coordinate with River Basin Coordinators regarding measures and funding/incentives for riparian buffers in priority waterbodies.
4.9	Develop a scheme to ensure clearing and repairing of gullies and drains in all municipal districts.

Theme 5: Actions	
Natural Resources and Cultural Infrastructure	
5.1	Develop a strategy to undertake and implement an active Tree Planting programme with mapping of sites suitable for planting in the context of climate adaptation in conjunction with an awareness campaign that informs of the benefits to communities in improving air quality, offsetting carbon emissions, promoting biodiversity, limiting flood risk, reducing urban heat, as well aesthetic value.
5.2	Integrate natural borders/buffers as an integral component of the design of greenways, tracks and trails and amenity areas to promote natural enhancement.
5.3	Incorporate best practice on biodiversity for all planting schemes on municipal properties and in the public realm.
5.4	Develop a tree policy which identifies the benefits of trees for climate action and also addresses maintenance concerns and facilitates good planning for the accommodation of trees as they mature.
5.5	Review Bio-diversity Plans / habitat conservation strategies, plans and projects to ensure that: 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.
5.6	Research and map areas considered beneficial for use as local carbon offset through carbon sequestration and include in Green Infrastructure strategy.
5.7	Ensure adequate scoping for climate impacts in Strategic Review of the Maritime for County Wicklow.
5.8	Appoint consultants to produce an Invasive Alien Species Plan.
5.9	Appoint Consultants to undertake an assessment of the impact of climate change on biodiversity and ecosystems services in the County.
5.10	Undertake a study to identify natural corridors in County Wicklow and measures that can be taken to improve connectivity along these corridors and increase connectivity between corridors.
5.11	Appoint consultants to carry out an assessment of works necessary to protect wetland and dune system sites identified as vulnerable which act as a natural defence to rising sea levels.
5.12	Undertake and audit of natural and cultural heritage assets, identifying those areas most vulnerable to climate change risks and identifying mitigating measures as relevant.

Theme 6: Actions	
Community Health and Wellbeing	
6.1	Through Public Participation Network (PPN) raise awareness of the impacts of climate change and ways for communities to increase response and resilience to these impacts.
6.2	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
6.3	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: 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
6.4	Identify and integrate climate change as a consideration and guiding principle informing core strategy of LECP.
6.5	Ensure that grants to communities fund climate resilient projects.
6.6	Develop a Local Climate Adaptation Enterprise Plan which will meet the following: Identifying business opportunities and the production of local products for Wicklow that can help to build resilience. Identify measures to allow people to work at home or closer to home.
6.7	Facilitate small business innovation and research on climate adaptation solutions.
6.8	Assess feasibility of augmenting public transport, pedestrian routes, cycle routes and park and rides within the County, identifying key priorities for each of the five Municipal Districts. Action to be taken on at least three identified priorities in each municipal district over the lifetime of this strategy with a timeframe for addressing other identified priorities.
6.9	Engagement with citizens on sustainable travel initiatives and schemes.
6.10	An awareness campaign on the role of waste prevention, resource efficiency and the circular economy in climate action to demonstrate how it can assist in creating a more efficient and resilient local authority and strengthen the resilience of the Wicklow communities.
6.11	Develop a steering group to explore and develop common goals and objectives between Wicklow County Council and representatives from the farming, forestry, NPWS and land owners in rural and upland areas of the county.
6.12	Support the delivery of climate action awareness and education in County Wicklow schools through Green Schools and associated environmental awareness initiatives
6.13	Review Wicklow Food Strategy to assess which goals and actions, including those developing local products, local markets and allotments, can help delivery on climate action.
6.14	Support local groups in undertaking suitable climate action projects through advice, information, grants and service support.
6.15	Expand the reach of WCC's annual Tidy Towns and Environmental Awards to engage a greater range of groups, give greater recognition to work done by schools and recognise a greater range of environmental activities that help to address climate change.
6.16	Facilitate cooperation between the CCSD SPC , Economic and Enterprise SPC and Transport Water and Emergency Services SPC, to ensure they coordinate measures to reduce dependence by the public on commuting for work, identifying measures to provide car independent work opportunities.
6.17	Develop a section of the Wicklow.ie website to provide information on climate change, the Climate Adaptation Strategy, climate mitigation measures and to report on progress towards targets.
6.18	Create a database of clean technologies operating in Wicklow, technologies offered elsewhere in Ireland and new technologies being developed outside of Ireland as a tool to focus attention on developing this sector in County Wicklow.