



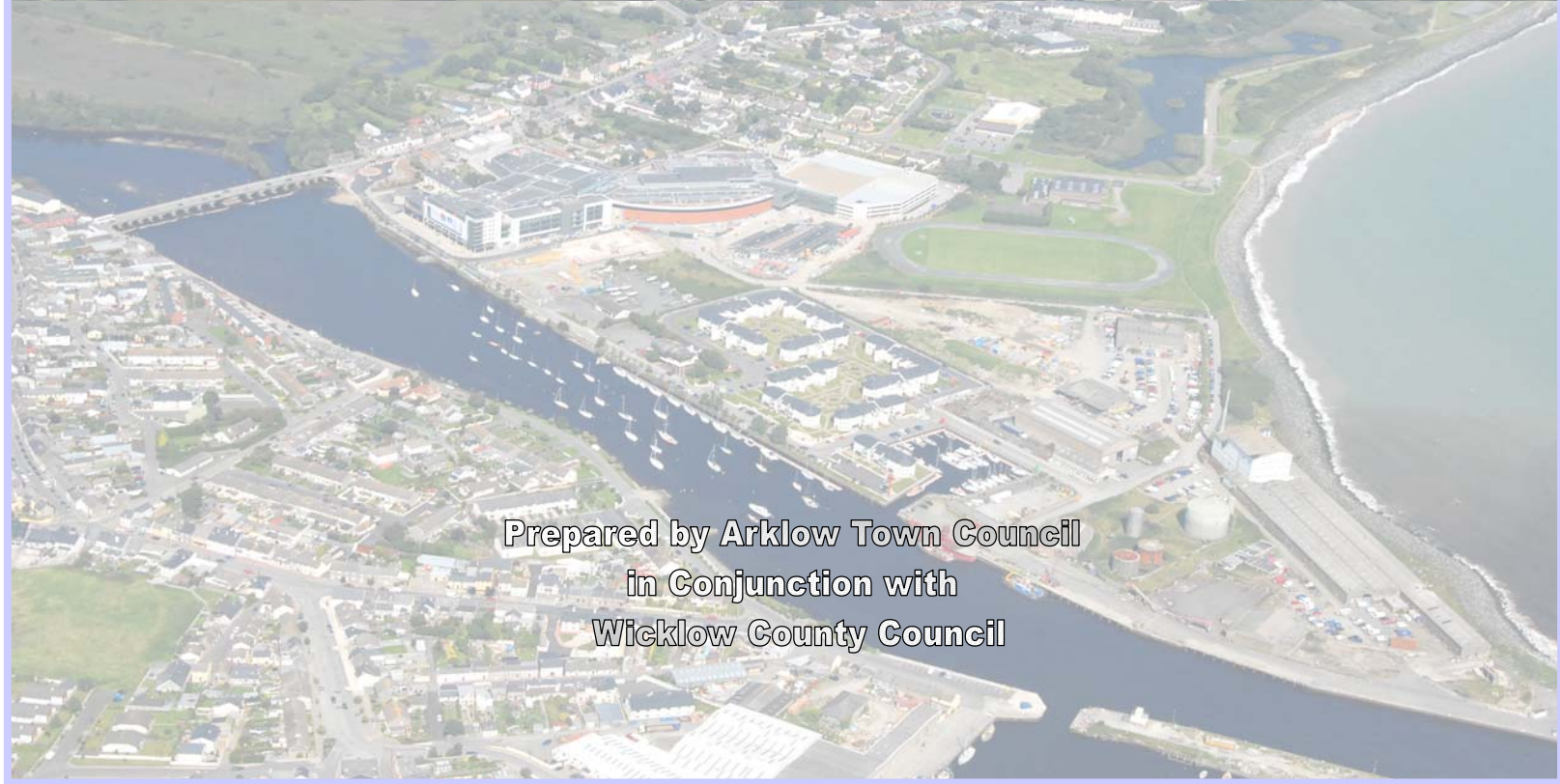
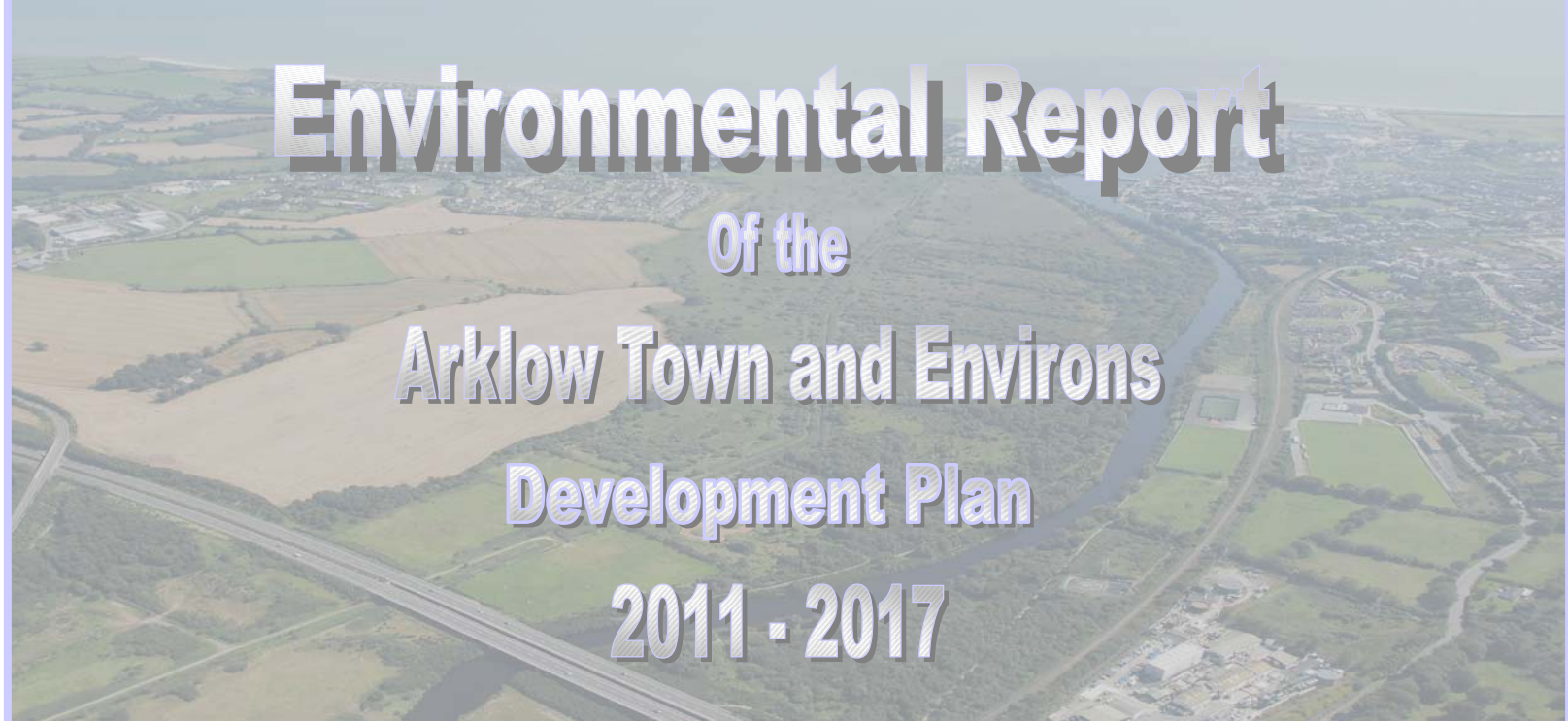
Environmental Report

Of the

Arklow Town and Environs

Development Plan

2011 - 2017



Prepared by Arklow Town Council
in Conjunction with
Wicklow County Council

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction and terms of reference

This is the Environmental Report of the Draft Arklow Town and Environs Development Plan 2011-2017 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). The purpose of the report is to provide a clear understanding of the likely environmental consequences of development that occurs on foot of the zonings and objectives proposed for Arklow Town and its Environs. The SEA is carried out in order to comply with the provisions of the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004) and in order to improve planning and environmental management of future development within the plan area. This report should be read in conjunction with the Draft Development Plan.

1.2 SEA Definition

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are taken into account before the decisions are made. Environmental Impact Assessment, or EIA, is generally used for describing the process of environmental assessment which is limited to individual projects while Strategic Environmental Assessment, or SEA, is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans, and other strategic actions, which help determine what kind of individual projects take place.

SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan, or other strategic action, in order to insure that these effects are appropriately addressed at the earliest appropriate stage of decision-making on a par with economic and social considerations.

The kind of development that occurs within Arklow Town and Its Environs and where it occurs will be significantly determined by the implementation of the Town and Environs Development Plan. By anticipating the effects and avoiding areas in which development cannot be sustainably accommodated and by directing development towards more compatible and robust receiving environments real improvements in environmental management and planning can occur in within the plan area – the scope of any EIAs which may be required as part of planning applications are likely to be reduced; and, planning applications that comply with the provisions of the plan are more likely to be granted permission.

1.3 Legislative Context

Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27 June 2001, on the assessment of the effects of certain plans and programmes on the environment, referred to hereafter as the SEA Directive, introduced the requirement that SEA be carried out on plans and programmes which are prepared for a number of sectors, including land use planning. The SEA Directive was transposed into Irish Law through the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No.) 435 of 2004) and the Planning and Development (Strategic Environmental Assessment) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 436 of 2004). Both sets of Regulations became operational on 21 July 2004.

1.4 Implications for the Councils involved and the Elected Members

The above legislation requires certain plans and programmes, which are prepared by local authorities - including Development Plans - to undergo SEA. The findings of the SEA are expressed in an Environmental Report, which is submitted to the Elected Members alongside the Development Plan. The Elected Members must take account of the Environmental Report before the adoption of the Plan. When the Plan is adopted a statement must be made public, summarising, inter alia: how environmental considerations have been integrated into the Plan; and, the reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted over other alternatives detailed in the Environmental Report.