



APPENDIX 3

Infrastructure Delivery Schedule and Implementation

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1. INTRODUCTION

This appendix of the Local Area Plan (LAP) deals with the infrastructure delivery schedule and sequential development phasing programme linked with necessary investment in infrastructure for the growth settlement of 'Blessington'. The sequential development of the settlement, alongside the phased delivery of the necessary infrastructure including open space, waste, water, drainage, roads, transportation, educational facilities, recreational amenities and local services, is key to the sustainable development of the settlement. It is critical that the Local Area Plan ensures, in so far as is feasible, that development within the Local Area Plan area progresses in an ordered way which avoids 'leapfrogging' to peripheral areas that are geographically isolated from the existing settlement and infrastructural provision.

In order to ensure the successful delivery of the objectives of this plan, Wicklow County Council takes a positive proactive approach in active land management in order to expedite the delivery of new homes as part of the new residential neighbourhoods planned within the Local Area Plan. Wicklow County Council liaises with all relevant authorities in a collaborative process to resolve any potential blockages to deliver residential development in particular.

There are a number of stakeholders involved in the delivery of all the infrastructure projects. All projects are dependent on funding. There are also numerous other matters that need to fall in line in order for each infrastructure project to be delivered, like land acquisition, securing the appropriate planning approval, etc.

2. STAKEHOLDERS

There are a number of stakeholders involved in the delivery of all the infrastructure projects. The delivery of all the strategic infrastructure, water supply, wastewater treatment, transportation and schools are managed by key state agencies.

2.1 Uisce Éireann (UÉ) - Water Services

The provision of an adequate supply of water and wastewater treatment facilities are critical to facilitate and sustain the growth of the plan area. The delivery, integration and implementation of water and wastewater projects and infrastructural improvements are the responsibility of Uisce Éireann Wicklow County Council works closely with UÉ to ensure that the County Development Plan and the LAP continue to align with both national, regional and local planning policy and that the provision of water/wastewater services will not be a limiting factor in terms of targeted growth.

Water Supply

The plan area is serviced by the Poulaphouca Reservoir Water Supply with adequate capacity currently available to accommodate the level of growth envisaged by the Core Strategy. The Poulaphouca Reservoir supplies water to the Ballymore Eustace Water Treatment Plant, which currently serves the majority of the plan area via a 1600mm trunk line feeding reservoirs in Glen Ding Forest.

Wastewater Treatment

With regards to wastewater, the majority of the plan area is served by the Blessington Wastewater Treatment Plant, which was recently upgraded. This upgraded treatment plant has a design capacity of 9,000 population equivalent and is thus operating with no capacity issues currently. There is sufficient capacity for the growth envisioned for Blessington in the core strategy as set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028.

2.2 Roads & Transport Infrastructure stakeholders

National Transport Authority (NTA)

The NTA is the transport authority with the function of the integration of transport and land use planning, in particular public transport and traffic management needs in the eastern region of the country. Specific functions in the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) are (a) undertaking strategic planning of transport; (b) investing in all public transport infrastructure and (c) developing the effective management of traffic and transport demand.

NTA Capital Investment Programme (Department of Transport funded)

Active Travel Investment

The NTA operates an Active Travel Investment Programme whereby funding is provided to local authorities, public transport bodies and other agencies for the implementation of various projects and programmes centred around the provision of pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure and facilities, safety, and access to schools and public transport.

Public Transport Investment

The NTA operates a variety of public transport investment programmes which provides funding for various public transport projects. These include heavy rail, BusConnects, parking at railway stations, strategic park & ride sites, light rail, accessibility to public transport, transport technology, strategic transport planning, etc.

Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII)

TII is a state agency under the Department of Transport, working at both national and regional level, in partnership with Local Authorities regarding national roads and greenways, and with the National Transport Authority (NTA).

TII are responsible for supporting and facilitating the implementation of measures to improve the N81, M/N11, the development of the new National Cycle Network for Ireland, Greenways and providing Active Travel facilities along and across the National Roads network. TII have a key role in the delivery of the proposed Blessington eGreenway.

Greater Dublin Area (GDA) Transport Strategy 2022 -2042 (NTA)

The Blessington plan area is located within the Greater Dublin Area and the transport infrastructure was analysed by the NTA as part of the Greater Dublin Transport Strategy 2022 -2042. The Strategy sets out how transport will be developed across the GDA, including County Wicklow, up to 2042.

This strategy covers walking and cycling, rail and bus services and the road network in the GDA. It sets out a range of objectives relating to the Local Link Bus service, BusConnects, expansion of the cycle network (Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan, NTA 2022), Safe Routes to School, and many other transport proposals.

Blessington Transport Assessment

A Transport Assessment accompanies the Local Area Plan. The key aims of this local transport assessment are to:

- Ensure that transport and settlement patterns mutually support each other.
- To assist plan makers to deliver land use policies and objectives to produce a settlement of such form and layout that facilitates and encourages sustainable forms of movement and transport, prioritising active travel modes of walking and cycling and use of public transport.
- Minimise the need for travel and reduce the length of journeys by maximising the proximity of people, business and the services they require;
- Promote greater investment in, and usage of, public transport modes, such as the bus network, with the support of complementary land use policies;
- Protect the capacity, efficiency and safety of national roads and associated junctions;
- Ensure that zoning strategies are consistent with value for money considerations applying to the provision of public infrastructure, including roads and public transport.

It will do this by:

- Identifying the existing transportation infrastructure, networks and services in the settlement;
- Identifying existing infrastructure and services shortfalls that are inhibiting more sustainable movements, in order to ensure that (a) all transport infrastructure and services delivery agencies have a clear programme of action and (b) development strategies set out in the LAP do not reinforce or exacerbate unsustainable transport patterns;
- Identifying future transportation infrastructure improvements that are either underway and / or committed (i.e. consent and funding in place and timeline for delivery fixed), as well as projects impacting the settlement that are not as yet commenced and / or committed but are identified in higher level plans / programmes are due to be delivered in the short, medium or long term;
- Setting out clear criteria as to how future development will be integrated with the existing or future transportation and movement networks.

2.3 Department of Education – school provision

The Department of Education is the main stakeholder with responsibility for the provision of schools by modernising / extending existing schools and providing new schools. Wicklow County Council will work closely with the Department of Education (DoEd) and individual developers to secure the coordinated delivery of essential school provision.

2.4 Local level stakeholders

More local level infrastructure is to be provided within the key development parcels including crèche provision, pocket parks, cycle and pedestrian routes, civic spaces and public realm improvements. In most circumstances the developer of the land is a key local level stakeholder; however there are numerous local level stakeholders many of whom are state agencies.

2.5 Wicklow County Council

Wicklow County Council (WCC) as the local authority is responsible for the plan management of the implementation of the objectives of the Local Area Plan and all the others sections of the Council – Planning, Economic and Rural Development section, Social Development section, Infrastructure and Capital Projects section, Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity section, Finance, Water and Information Systems section have roles in the project delivery of certain infrastructure solely or in conjunction with other bodies

Development contributions for the provision of services such as roads, footpaths and amenity / open space provision, etc will be applied where appropriate to approved planning applications. The details and basis for the determination of the contributions are set out in the Wicklow Development Contribution Scheme or any subsequent schemes adopted thereafter in accordance with the provision of section 48 of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended).

2.6 Kildare County Council (KCC)

Blessington is located on the boundary with Co. Kildare, with some parts of the settlement lying within Co. Kildare. The Blessington Local Area Plan does not extend past the boundary of Co. Wicklow, however it is recognised that Kildare County Council will be a key stakeholder in the delivery of infrastructure within that county that will be utilised by the population of Blessington in Co. Wicklow.

2.7 Electricity Supply Board (ESB)

The Electricity Supply Board own and operate the Poulaphouca Reservoir, which generally forms the eastern and southern boundaries of the Blessington Local Area Plan. The importance and scale of the reservoir in relation to the plan area means that the ESB will be a key stakeholder in the delivery of certain infrastructural elements. For example, much of the proposed Blessington eGreenway will traverse the lakeshore through or in the vicinity of ESB lands.

2.8 Department of Rural and Community Development

The implementation of the objectives of this Plan is often dependent on a number of funding sources. A key source of funding is available under the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund (RRDF) operated under the Department of Rural and Community Development, which is applicable to settlements with a population of fewer than 10,000 persons which are located outside the city metropolitan areas. The types of proposals eligible for funding include strategic development areas, active land management, measures to address building vacancy and refurbishment, public realm improvements, enabling infrastructure, sustainable mobility and transition to low carbon and climate resilience.

3. ACTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

The achievement of sustainable compact growth and regeneration will be supported through the implementation of active land management measures which promote the development of infill and brownfield lands, and strategically located greenfield sites that support the principles of consolidated growth.

The Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT) is a key active land management tool for the delivery of houses on serviced sites in all of the towns and villages in county Wicklow. All undeveloped / vacant / idle mixed use and undeveloped residential zoned lands are annually assessed to consider whether they are in scope to be liable for the tax. Lands that are in scope are liable to pay a tax annually.

4. FUNDING SOURCES

The LAP identifies a range of strategic and local infrastructure necessary to facilitate development in the plan area. The delivery of all infrastructure is funding dependant. The key funding sources for the delivery of infrastructure are:

<u>Developer</u> The developer of the land / infrastructure provides the

funding to deliver the infrastructure or provides the

infrastructure themselves.

<u>State</u> National Development Plan, Urban Regeneration

Development Funding, Rural Regeneration Development Funding, LIHAF funding, Smarter Travel funding, Uisce Eireann (UE), Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), National Transport Authority (NTA), LEADER/SICAP funding, OPW, Department of Education, other government departments,

etc.

<u>Wicklow County Council</u> WCC Development contribution schemes, WCC Capital

Works Programme, etc.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE DELIVERY SCHEDULE

This section sets out the key infrastructure necessary, in a staged delivery schedule, in order to achieve the timely delivery of the objectives of this plan. This section focuses on the key road, recreational, community and educational infrastructure. It is acknowledged that there is a broad range of infrastructure necessary in order to enhance the services to the homes, businesses and schools of Blessington.

The development and continued delivery of telecommunications and energy has not been incorporated into this schedule as it is addressed under the County Development Plan and Wicklow County Council continues to liaise and work with the necessary telecommunications and energy providers of such infrastructure to continue to enhance these services.

The lifetime of the Local Area Plan is six years. The delivery schedule is divided in to the following four phases as well as an on-going stage with delivery throughout the plan lifetime and beyond:

Immediate termYear 1 and Year 2Short termYear 3 to Year 5Medium termYear 5 to Year 10Long term10 years plus

On - going Throughout the plan lifetime and beyond

This schedule is a living programme. It will be reviewed at regular intervals to assess how the implementation is progressing, available resources and as new sources of funding and/or providers emerge.

Implementation & Infrastructure Delivery Schedule Table

Infrastructure	Delivery Schedule	Funding	
TRANSPORT	<u>-</u>		
Implement measures identified in 'Blessington Transport Assessment'	On-going	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
Complete the Blessington Inner Relief Road (northern and southern sections)	Immediate term – Short term	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
Connect the N81 to Kilbride Road via Doran's Pit	Medium Term	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
Blessington Demesne Link Road	Medium Term	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
N81 Tallaght to Hollywood Cross Road Improvement Scheme	Long term	State	
Additional Commuter/Recreational Car Parking	Medium Term	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
Improved and new bus services within and 'in and out' of the Settlement	Short term – Medium term	State	
General Road Improvements	On-going	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
General Footpath Improvements	On-going	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
General Cycle Improvements	On-going	Developer, Stat WCC	te,
General Car parking Improvements	On-going	Developer, Stat WCC	te,

Infrastructure	Delivery Schedule	Funding
WATER AND WASTE WATER		
General water supply network upgrade and extension.	On-going	State (UE)
General wastewater treatment network upgrade and extension.	On-going	State (UE)
General - Replace the combined surface water system with a	On-going	State (UE), WCC
separate network to the waste water.		

Infrastructure	Delivery Schedule	Funding
SOCIAL		
Open Space at Blessington Demesne (Town Park)	Immediate term –	Developer
	Short term	
Active Open Space at Blessington Demesne	Medium Term	Developer
Active Open Space at Doran's Pit – zoned Mixed Use (MU)	Medium Term	Developer
Crèche/ Childcare facilities	Short - Medium term	Developer
Community Facility in Doran's Pit	Medium Term	Developer
Additional Community facilities (Audit required 1)	Short - Medium term	Developer
Graveyard Expansion	Short Term	WCC
School at Blessington Demesne (SLO1)	Medium term – Long	State (DoEd)
	term	
School at Blessington Demesne (SLO2)	Medium term – Long	State (DoEd)
	term	

6. PHASING

It is an objective of the Council that development is undertaken in an orderly and sustainable manner. The development of zoned land should generally be phased in accordance with the sequential approach:

- Development shall extend outwards from the centre of Blessington with undeveloped land closest to the centre and public transport routes given priority. <u>'Leapfrogging' to peripheral</u> <u>areas shall be strongly resisted unless absolutely necessary;</u>
- A strong emphasis should be placed on encouraging infill opportunities and better use of underutilised lands:

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See Wicklow County Development Plan Objective - Housing development shall be managed and phased to ensure that infrastructure is adequate or is being provided to match the needs of new residents. New significant residential or mixed use development proposals (of which residential development forms a component) (Being defined as developments in excess of 50 units of housing in any settlements in Levels 1-4 in the hierarchy, 25 units in Levels 5-10, and all developments over 25 units in excess of 500m distance to a public transport service, as well as other format / sizes / locations are may be deemed necessary by the Local Authority) , shall be required to be accompanied by a Social Infrastructure Audit, to determine if social and community facilities in the area are sufficient to provide for the needs of the future residents. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity of existing or planned services. New significant residential or mixed use development proposals shall be required to be accompanied by a 'Accessibility Report' that demonstrates that new residents / occupants / employees (including children and those with special mobility needs) will be able to safely access through means other than the private car (a) local services including shops, schools, health care and recreational and sports facilities, and (b) public transport services. Where deficiencies are identified, proposals will be required to either rectify the deficiency, or suitably restrict or phase the development in accordance with the capacity/quality of existing or planned linkages.

- Areas to be developed should be contiguous to existing developed areas; and
- The development of Specific Local Objectives (SLOs) should be phased in accordance with the stated objectives of the SLO where phasing has been specified.

With regard to residential development, 'edge of centre' locations will be considered the priority location for such new greenfield residential development and will generally be zoned as 'New Residential - Priority 1' (zoned RN1) while more 'out of centre' housing sites (zoned 'New Residential - Priority 2' RN2) will only be considered where Objective BLESS7 is satisfied and on the basis of integrated housing / community facilities / open space schemes that can be well connected to the existing built up area. In order to be cognisant of extant permissions and the key role that some sites will play in the delivery of essential infrastructure, it may be necessary for some 'out-of-centre' sites to remain as Priority 1.

Objective BLESS7

Notwithstanding the zoning / designation of land for new 'greenfield' residential development (RN), permission will only be considered for RN2 Priority 2 lands where the following two conditions are satisfied:

- 75% of Priority 1 new residential lands (RN1) lands have been activated (i.e. consent obtained and development initiated) **or** after 3 years following adoption of the LAP, less than 50% of the RN1 lands have been activated;
- It can be shown that the housing / population generated by the proposed development would not result in the prevailing Core Strategy targets at the time of the decision to grant permission being significantly breached.

7. IMPLEMENTATION, MONITORING & REVIEW

Wicklow County Council is committed to taking a pro-active approach to progress the delivery of the Plan. The LAP will have effect for a period of six-years from the date of adoption, unless otherwise extended, amended or revoked, as per the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended). Prior to the fifth year from adoption, the Planning Department will carry out a review of the LAP to inform whether the Plan should be extended (for a maximum of another five years) or revoked. The findings of the review will be presented to the Elected Members for their consideration.

The Plan objectives are specific, measurable, achievable and realistic. However, a number are set within a longer timeframe, thus they may not be fully implemented over the lifetime of the plan period. It is important to note that the implementation of a plan may be constrained by a number of elements, namely, the economic climate, political support, allocated local authority funding, and the availability of funding from other sources. Therefore, no funding of projects is guaranteed in advance nor is the implementation of all objectives contained within the plan.

It is intended that the various agencies, including voluntary groups, professional institutions, public and private bodies including Wicklow County Council, and other organisations in Blessington will be encouraged to participate whenever possible, in the implementation of the policies and objectives of this plan to move the settlement forward.

The Planning Section of the Council is the lead section responsible for monitoring and implementing the Plan, mainly through its development management function. However, it is important to note that this Plan co-ordinates the work and objectives of other directorates, including Baltinglass Municipal District.

The Plan will also be regularly reviewed in light of new legislation or guidelines, to assess progress, and to determine where amendments are required, a variation of the Plan will be necessary.

8. IMPLEMENTATION AND TIMEFRAMES WITH RESPECT TO ALL OBJECTIVES OF THE PLAN

Town Ce	ntre Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
BLESS1	To support and facilitate activities and developments that will improve the vitality, connectivity and vibrancy of Blessington Town Centre.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan through the Development Management system and via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
BLESS2	To encourage the development of infill sites and back lands within Blessington Town Centre in a manner that preserves/creates fine grain building plots and presents strong urban frontages to existing and proposed streets. Active frontages at ground floor level will be encouraged. Traditional arches on Blessington Main Street should be used/reused as primarily pedestrian and cyclist passages to back lands, with vehicular traffic accessing plots from alternative locations if practical. Such areas include: Opportunity Sites as identified in this plan and the Blessington Town Centre First Plan. Back lands of premises on Blessington Main Street facing onto Kilbride Road, between the junction with Blessington Main Street and the Rectory residential development, subject to the preservation of historic boundary walls and landscape amenity in relation to the Poulaphouca Reservoir.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan through the Development Management system and via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
BLESS3	To support and facilitate improvements to the public realm in Blessington Town Centre to provide an attractive, comfortable environment for pedestrians, cyclists and users of public transport. Such improvements could include the following: Reductions in through traffic along Blessington Main Street The rationalisation and reconfiguration of car parking within Blessington Town Centre. The reconfiguration of traffic movements around Newtown Square. Improvements to the spatial and visual connectivity between Blessington Main Street, Market Square and Newtown Square The implementation of a comprehensive public realm scheme on Market Square and adjacent areas of Blessington Town Centre. The undergrounding of cabling along Blessington Main Street.	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Ongoing
BLESS4	To direct retail development into the Core Retail Area as a first priority, as set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan 2022-2028 (or any update thereof), in line with its position in the County Retail Hierarchy & Strategy. This will be accomplished as follows:	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

	 There will be no quantitative restriction on the development of retail floorspace within the Blessington Core Retail Area. All developments for additional retail floorspace, which are both outside the Core Retail Area and within Blessington Town Centre (as zoned for such purposes), will be required to be accompanied by a Retail Impact Assessment in line with 'Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Retail Planning' 2012 and any updated or relevant guidelines. The development of retail floorspace outside of Blessington Town Centre (as zoned for such purposes) will not be facilitated unless absolutely necessary. 		
BLESS5	To promote the development of opportunity sites within Blessington Town Centre in accordance with the specific criteria set out for each identified area within this Local Area Plan. Regard should also be had to concept and access plans for opportunity sites as included in the Blessington Town Centre First Plan (or any update thereof).	To be proactively pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the TRO.	Ongoing

Resident	ial Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
BLESS6	The priority for housing growth shall be the existing built up area of the settlement, on lands zoned 'town centre', and 'existing residential'. In cognisance that the potential of such regeneration / infill / brownfield sites is difficult to predict, there shall be no quantitative restriction inferred from this plan or the associated tables on the number of units that may be delivered within the built up envelope of the town.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
BLESS7	Notwithstanding the zoning / designation of land for new 'greenfield' residential development (RN), permission will only be considered for RN2 Priority 2 lands where the following two conditions are satisfied: - 75% of Priority 1 new residential lands (RN1) lands have been activated (i.e. consent obtained and development initiated) or after 3 years following adoption of the LAP, less than 50% of the RN1 lands have been activated; - It can be shown that the housing / population generated by the proposed development would not result in the prevailing Core Strategy targets at the time of the decision to grant permission being significantly breached.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

Employm	ent Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
BLESS8	To facilitate and support all forms of employment creation on appropriately zoned land in Blessington and to promote the intensification of activities on existing employment sites.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit and LEO.	Ongoing
BLESS9	To protect employment zoned land from inappropriate development that would undermine future economic activity or the sustainable development of such areas.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLES10	To facilitate and support the development of large-scale employment generating developments in Blessington, as the only settlement in West Wicklow designated for strategic employment development.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit and LEO.	Ongoing
BLESS11	To facilitate and support Blessington Town Centre as the priority for 'people'-based employment development, in line with the Core Retail Area as set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan.	To be proactively implemented and pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and the operations of the Council's Economic Development unit, LEO and TRO.	Ongoing
BLESS12	To facilitate and support the regeneration of current and former quarry lands for employment uses, as zoned for such purposes. The redevelopment of these lands would be suitable for a single large scale employer or for a wide variety of individual 'people'- or 'product'-based industries operating within an overall integrated layout within the lands.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS13	To encourage the redevelopment of brownfield sites for enterprise and employment creation throughout the plan area and to consider allowing 'relaxation' in normal development standards on such sites to promote their redevelopment, where it can be clearly demonstrated that a development of the highest quality, that does not create an adverse or unacceptable working environment or create unacceptable impacts on the built, natural or social environment, will be provided. For the avoidance of doubt, the redevelopment of quarry lands for employment purposes should not generally require the relaxation of standards due to the scale of employment lands in this area.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS14	To facilitate and support the incremental reconfiguration of Blessington Business Park/Oak Drive toward a secondary 'people'-based employment area with a high quality public realm, active frontages, and safe active travel accessibility. New	during the lifetime of the plan via the Development	Ongoing

	applications for employment developments will be considered subject to the inclusion of proposals for the above public realm improvements. New applications for developments deemed to be 'product'-based, or applications concerning existing developments of that type, will be further required to demonstrate that HGV traffic sufficient to create a hazard to active travel users within and around a subject site would not be generated.	·	
BLESS15			

Tourism 8	& Recreation Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
BLESS16	To support opportunities to improve the tourism product in Blessington and to facilitate appropriate tourism development within the settlement.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit including Tourism Department, the Municipal District team and the TRO.	Ongoing
BLESS17	To facilitate and support the development of improved linkages between areas of tourist attractions within the settlement of Blessington, as follows: The lakeshore and tourist facilities at Burgage More/Burgage Castle. Blessington Town Centre/Architectural Conservation Area/Greenway Hub. Glen Ding Forest and Rath Turtle Moat. Possible woodland attractions, lake views, and tourist services at Doran's Pit.	To be proactively pursued and supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit including Tourism Department, the Municipal District team and the TRO and the Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate.	Ongoing
BLESS18	To facilitate and support future tourism projects in the Blessington lakeside area including but not limited to links between the town centre and the lakes, and a possible extension to the existing Blessington Greenway.	To be proactively pursued and supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit including Tourism Department, the Municipal District team and the TRO and the Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate.	Ongoing
BLESS19	To facilitate the redevelopment of the former HSE building on Kilbride Road as a Visitor Hub supporting future tourism projects in the Blessington area.	To be proactively pursued and supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit including Tourism Department, the Municipal District team and the TRO and the Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate.	Medium term
BLESS20	To facilitate and encourage the delivery of supporting tourism infrastructure as indicated on Map No. 7 Lakeside Tourism Supporting Infrastructure.	To be proactively pursued and supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit including Tourism Department, the Municipal District team and the TRO and the Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate.	Ongoing

BLESS21	To facilitate active travel links to nearby tourist attractions, e.g. Russborough House, and other settlements in the area.	To be proactively pursued during the lifetime of the plan by Council's Roads and Transportation Department.	Medium term
BLESS22	 To positively consider the development of a) new hotels in Blessington; b) the development of touring caravan (Aires park) and camping sites (not static mobile home parks) having due regard to surrounding land uses and proper planning and development of the area; c) the development of hostels along established walking routes, the route of the existing Greenway or other future tourism projects in the lakeside area within the settlement, and adjacent to existing tourism facilities; the improvement of, and extension to, existing tourist accommodation related developments, subject to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. 	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
BLESS23	To promote and encourage the sustainable recreational use of the lakeshore of the Poulaphouca Reservoir for eco-tourism activities. Where such recreational uses involve the development of structures or facilities, the Council will ensure that the proposals will respect the natural amenity and scenic character of the area.	To be supported on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Council's Economic Development Unit including Tourism Department and Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate.	Ongoing

Social Inf	rastructure Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
BLESS24	The Planning Authority will resist developments that entail the loss of existing community, education and open space/recreation lands or buildings unless it can be demonstrated that (a) adequate community, education and open space/recreation lands and buildings would be retained in the settlement having regard to the planned future population of the settlement or (b) the particular lands or buildings are not suitable or needed for current or future educational, community or open space / recreational usage. In particular, developments that would unduly constrain the ability of existing schools to expand will not be permitted.	lifetime of the plan via the Development Management	Ongoing
BLESS25	To facilitate the provision of schools on lands zoned Community and Education (CE) and to consider the provision of schools on any land use zoning, excluding OS1 and OS2 zones, where it is in line with the County Development Plan, this Local Area Plan, relevant planning guidelines (including the Department of Education guidelines) and proper planning.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS26	To facilitate and support the provision of new childcare facilities in a manner, which is compatible with land-use and transportation policies and adheres to the principles of sustainable development. To facilitate and encourage the co-location of childcare facilities with other educational facilities such as schools. Applications for the development of new educational facilities, or the significant redevelopment or extensions of existing facilities, should consider the provision of co-located childcare facilities within the development.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS27	 To facilitate and encourage the delivery of new open spaces, parks and multipurpose sport uses close to the built-up area of Blessington, including covered spaces. In particular, To require the delivery of significant areas of outdoor play space on lands zoned AOS as part of SLO-2 and SLO-4. To require the delivery of public parks on lands zoned OS1 in SLO-1 and SLO-2. 	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system, supported by the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate subject to detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	Medium term (developed led)
BLESS28	To facilitate and encourage the continued operation of existing and development of new community infrastructure, including (but not limited to) indoor multi-functional community spaces, youth centres etc., in Blessington. In particular, to require the development of a community hall in the redevelopment of Doran's Pit in line with SLO 4, and the development of a community building in line with SLO9.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system, supported by the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate; the delivery of new facilities shall be subject to detailed	Ongoing

		design and availability of funding mechanisms and/or through the delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	
BLESS29	To facilitate and encourage the continued operation of existing and development of new care and health related facilities, including (but not limited to) primary care centres, general practitioners surgeries, care / nursing homes and respite / hospice centres facilities particularly within the built-up area of Blessington.	lifetime of the plan via the Development Management	Ongoing
BLESS30	To facilitate and support the development of a swimming pool/leisure centre within Blessington.	To be supported by Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate and Municipal District team.	Medium term

Heritage,	Biodiversity and Green Infrastructure Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
BLESS31	To consolidate and safeguard the historical and architectural character of Blessington through the protection of individual buildings, structures, shopfronts and elements of the public realm that contribute greatly to this character ² .	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Heritage Officer.	Ongoing
BLESS32	To protect those features that have been identified in the Architectural Conservation Area Appraisal as contributing to the town centre's overall appearance and heritage value and to ensure that new development contributes positively to the designated Architectural Conservation Area.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Heritage Officer.	Ongoing
BLESS33	To promote the sustainable use and re-use of heritage vernacular buildings along Blessington Main Street/N81, Market Square, and Kilbride Road, and to resist the demolition of any such building unless absolutely necessary.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the TRO and the Council's Heritage Officer.	Ongoing
BLESS34	Protect and enhance the character, setting and environmental quality of natural, architectural and archaeological heritage assets, and in particular those features of the natural landscape and built structures that contribute to their special interest. The natural, architectural and archaeological heritage of the area shall be protected in accordance with the objectives set out in the Wicklow County Development Plan. In particular, the heritage assets of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and Glen Ding Forest shall be rigorously protected.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and via the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team and the Council's Heritage & Biodiversity Officers.	Ongoing
BLESS35	To protect the listed views and prospects, as they relate to the plan area, from development that would either obstruct the view / prospect from the identified vantage point or form an obtrusive or incongruous feature in that view / prospect. Due regard will be paid in assessing development applications to the span and scope of the view / prospect and the location of the development within that view / prospect. Particular regard will be had to listed (and other) views and prospects to and from the Poulaphouca Reservoir.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing

² The National Inventory of Architectural Heritage can be utilised as a source of information with regard to the architectural value of any such features, but should not be considered an exhaustive list of buildings worthy of protection.

BLESS36	To protect the following additional views: - From St. Mary's Church to Bastion Wood and Glen Ding Forest. - From side streets/laneways east (to the Poulaphouca Reservoir/Wicklow Mountains) and west (to Glen Ding) from Blessington Main Street.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS37	To reinforce the lakeshore character of the settlement and to provide for the enjoyment of the Poulaphouca Reservoir, Glen Ding Forest, and other natural areas as recreational and natural assets.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Council's Heritage and Biodiversity Officers.	Ongoing
BLESS38	To promote and support the development of enhanced or new greenways and amenity walks at the following locations and require development in the vicinity of same to enhance existing routes and / or provide new links: - Poulaphouca Reservoir (Blessington Greenway/future tourism projects in the Lakeside area) - Glen Ding Forest - Wooded areas at Doran's Pit - Blessington Demesne (Town Park) The enhancement of existing, and development of new, recreational facilities along the lakeshore area, such as walking routes, car parking areas, signage, changing / toilet facilities and water based clubs/facilities, will be considered subject to compliance with the provisions of the EU Habitats Directive and other planning considerations.	To be pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, the TRO and the Council's Heritage and Biodiversity Officers, subject to detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms and/or through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	
BLESS39	To require development proposals to have regard to existing green infrastructure assets (as identified within this local area plan or otherwise), including trees and hedgerows, that may exist within a subject site, and to consider how the biodiversity value and ecological connectivity of such assets may be maintained. Where existing GI assets or green corridors within a site have been identified on Map No. 3 'Key Green Infrastructure' or the accompanying Blessington Green Infrastructure Audit, proposals should include measures to preserve and, where necessary, improve ecological connectivity and biodiversity value across said assets/corridors.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS40	To facilitate the development of new green corridors within the plan area where	To be pursued on an ongoing basis during the lifetime	Ongoing

	 opportunities may be identified, and barriers in ecological connectivity rectified, via the development management process. In particular, the following additional green corridors will be facilitated: The creation of green corridors through Quarry Lands, and where relevant SLO3, to link the Deerpark watercourse and Glen Ding Forest with the plan boundary in the direction of the Red Bog SAC. The creation of green corridors linking the Deerpark Watercourse to Local Biodiversity Areas and existing wooded areas on the eastern boundary of SLO3 (refer to SLO3 below). The creation of a green corridor through the grounds of St. Mary's Senior National School to improve the connectivity between existing green corridors along Oak Drive/Blessington Business Park and Blessington Main Street. This link may in turn improve ecological connectivity to the lakeshore via boundary hedging on the grounds of the Church of Our Lady and the 'Priest's Walk' through the Rectory residential development. 	of the plan through the projects and programmes of the Municipal District team, the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate, and the Council's Heritage and Biodiversity Officers, subject to detailed design and availability of funding mechanisms, and/or through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites	
BLESS41	To enforce a general presumption against the culverting of watercourses within the plan area, except where absolutely necessary. Where development is proposed within sites that contain culverted watercourses, proposals should be included to restore or 'daylight' said watercourses with an appropriate riparian zoned in line with CPO 17.26 of the Wicklow County Development Plan. Similarly, where development includes significant works to existing roads with culverted crossings of watercourses, proposals should be included, where practical, to improve the ecological connectivity of these crossings, e.g. the replacement of culverts with clear span bridges, box culverts with wildlife ledges, etc.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system.	Ongoing
BLESS42		To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing

Transportation Objectives	Implementation	Timeframe
prepare a Local Transport Plan for Blessington and integrate its provisions	The delivery of a LTP shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit during the lifetime of the plan, subject availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII)	Short Term
projects, including (but not limited to): The Blessington Main Street N81 Road Safety Improvement Scheme The Blessington Pedestrian & Cyclist Improvement Scheme The Blessington Gateway Road Safety Improvement Scheme The possible extension of the existing Blessington Greenway, and future tourism projects in the lakeside area, as it relates to the plan area. BLESS45 Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport Assessment with regard to the delivery of new regional/distributor roads and road improvements ³ , including(but not limited to): a) The completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road (northern and southern sections). b) The provision of a road objective through Doran's Pit, linking the N81 to	The delivery of these road improvement projects and programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit and Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites. The delivery of these road improvement projects and programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals	a) Short term (development led) b) Medium term (development led)

³ The detail associated with new transport or green/blue infrastructure projects referred to in this Plan and accompanying Transport Assessment, including locations and associated mapping, that are not already permitted or provided for by existing plans / programmes / etc. is non-binding and indicative. Such new projects shall be subject to feasibility assessment, taking into account the environmental constraints and the objectives of the Plan relating to sustainable mobility. A Corridor and Route Selection Process will be undertaken for such projects where appropriate. Proposed interventions will be required to demonstrate that they are consistent with all relevant legislative requirements.

BLESS46	Support the implementation of the recommendations of the Transport	The delivery of these road improvement projects and	Ongoing
	Assessment with regard to the delivery of safe active travel routes along the	programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's	5 5
	existing road network and along new off-road routes, including - The delivery of the Greater Dublin Area cycle network, as it relates to	Roads and Transportation Unit during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding	
	the plan area.	mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and	
	- The delivery of the National Cycle Network, as it relates to the plan	through their delivery in tandem with development proposals	
	area (exact route from Blessington to Naas to be determined).	on privately owned sites.	
	- The delivery of local/greenway feeder routes within the plan area (refer to Map 6A/6B Active Travel and the accompanying Transport		
	Assessment).		
	- The delivery of identified, and other, permeability improvements		
	within the settlement (refer to Map No. 6A/6B Active Travel). - The delivery of identified, and other, traffic management measures		
	within the settlement (refer to Map No. 5A/5B Transport Strategy and		
	the accompanying Transport Assessment).		
	- The delivery of new pedestrian and cyclist routes through green field		
	and brownfield lands, as indicatively indicated on Map No. 6A/6B Active Travel.		
	- The delivery of additional pedestrian and cyclist routes where		
	development occurs along the boundaries of green corridors – on		
	sites containing or immediately adjacent to OS2 lands, appropriate		
	pedestrian and cycle routes should be laid out along the OS2 boundary, with permeability improvements and short sections linking		
	to other routes where necessary at site boundaries.		
BLESS47	To ensure that development along the route of the existing Blessington		Ongoing
	Greenway (and possible extension were such a route to be determined), and	the plan via the Development Management system	
	along indicated greenway feeder routes (see Map No. 6A/6B Active Travel), minimises the creation of additional entrances/junctions to only those		
	absolutely necessary, in order to reduce potential conflict between greenway		
	users and vehicular traffic.		
BLESS48	New development should, where relevant, have regard to the indicated street		Ongoing
	descriptions shown on Map No. 5A/5B Transport Strategy (refer to the Design Manual for Urban Roads and Streets), subject to the completion of the	the plan via the Development Management system	

	necessary road objectives to allow that function (as set out in the		
	accompanying Transport Assessment.) Streets without an indicated		
	description should be considered 'local' streets.		
BLESS49	 Support the development of additional car parking areas within the plan area, including but not limited to: A public transport park and ride in Blessington along the N81. A car park in Doran's Pit for potential greenway/tourism parking and access to adjacent woodland. A car park on Active Open Space lands in Blessington Demesne to serve those lands and as an alternative car park for access to Glen Ding. 	programmes shall be actively progressed by the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit and Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate during the lifetime of the plan, subject to final detailed designs and availability of funding mechanisms, including public funding (Council / NTA / TII) and through their delivery in tandem with development proposals on privately owned sites.	
BLESS50	To continue to work with the NTA to promote the delivery of improved and new bus services, facilities and infrastructure within the plan area and connecting the plan area to the wider region by: supporting the development and delivery of bus service enhancement projects, under the Connecting Ireland and Bus Connects programmes and measures to improve bus priority such as additional bus lanes and priority signalling etc as may be deemed appropriate; facilitating the needs of existing or new bus providers with regard to bus stops and garaging facilities (although unnecessary duplication of bus stops on the same routes / roads will not be permitted); supporting the development of enhanced bus shelters, of secure covered bicycle parking facilities at key locations along bus routes, to promote and support the improvement of N81 in a manner capable of facilitating greater free flow of public transport, to support and facilitate the existing service providers and encourage the further development of the Local Link Rural Transport Programme (and any other or subsequent rural transport programmes). Enhancing pedestrian and cycling connectivity to public transport services. 	Ongoing engagement between the NTA and the Council's Roads and Transportation Unit	Ongoing

BLESS51	To protect the strategic function of the N81 in accordance with the Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DoECLG, 2012) and in compliance with TII Publications.	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
Flood Ma	nagement Objectives		
BLESS52		To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system	Ongoing
Other Inf	rastructure Objectives		
BLESS53	To support the continued upgrade of Blessington Waste Water Treatment Plant and/or additional Waste Water Treatment Plants serving the plan area, subject to the full environmental protection of the Poulaphouca Reservoir and associated watercourses.	Ongoing engagement with the Council's Infrastructure Directorate.	Ongoing
BLESS54	To protect both ground and surface water sources, to avoid water quality deterioration and reduce the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water, in accordance with Drinking Water and Water Framework Directives. New developments which could pose an unacceptable risk to	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of the plan via the Development Management system and through the projects and programmes of the Council's Climate, Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate and other	Ongoing

	drinking water sources will not be permitted.	State Agencies such as Uisce Eireann, the EPA and IFI.	
BLESS55	To support and facilitate the improvement of the quality of surface water	To be implemented on an ongoing basis during the lifetime of	Ongoing
	runoff that directly (or indirectly) will reach Poulaphouca Reservoir. This shall	the plan via the Development Management system and	
	be applied to both new/expanded developments and to any planned	through the projects and programmes of the Council's Climate,	
	improvements to existing urban spaces. In this regard, developments shall be	Environment, Recreation and Amenity Directorate and other	
	designed in accordance with the guidance document "Implementation of	State Agencies such as Uisce Eireann, the EPA and IFI.	
	Urban Nature-based Solutions: Guidance Document for Planners, Developers		
	and Developer Agents" LAWPRO 2024		

Infrastructure assessment and requirements for key development areas (identified as SLOs)

	Current servicing status			Additional infrastructure needs to support full development of site	
Site ID	Water	Wastewater	Surface Water	Roads &	
	Supply	Infrastructure	Infrastructure	Transportation	
SLO1 Naas Road	2	2	2	2	Roads – completion of link road within site to connect Oak Drive to Naas
					Road – Developer + WCC
					Water Services – services available in Naas Road - developer delivered
					Community facilities (school site) – land reservation
					Amenity park – Developer +WCC
SLO2 Blessington Demesne	1	2	2	2	Roads
(west)					(1) completion of link road within site to connect Oak Drive to Naas Road – Developer +WCC
					(2) completion of northern section of BIRR – Developer +WCC
					Water Services – services available in Oak Drive - developer delivered
					Community facilities (school site) – land reservation
					Amenity Park – Developer +WCC
					Sports Park – Developer +WCC
SLO3 Quarry Employment	2	2	2	2	Roads – completion of BIRR – Developer +WCC
Lands					Water Services – services available from N81 or future BIRR - developer
					delivered
					Amenity park – Developer +WCC
SLO4 Doran's Pit	2	2	2	2	Roads – link road within site to connect N81 to Kilbride Road – Developer +WCC
					Water Services – extension of services outside of site – Uisce Eireann.
					Community facilities (community building) – Developer +WCC
					Sports Park – Developer +WCC
					Amenity Park – Developer +WCC
					Community / Tourism facilities – Developer +WCC
SLO5 Burgage More	1	1	1	1	N/A
(north)					
SLO6 Burgage More	1	1	1	1	N/A

(central)					
SLO7 Burgage More (south)	1	2	2	2	Roads – access via SLO6 - Developer +WCC Water Services – extension of services outside of site – Uisce Eireann.
SLO8 Santryhill	2	2	2	2	Roads (1) completion of northern section of BIRR – Developer +WCC (2) completion pedestrian infrastructure along N81 from town centre to new BIRR / N81 roundabout - Developer +WCC
SLO9 Blessington Demesne (East)	1	1	1	1	Water Services – services will be available in BIRR - developer delivered Community facilities – Developer
SLO10 Milltown Gate	1	1	1	2	Roads – roads safety improvements along N81 in area – Developer +WCC Community facilities (public car park) – Developer

1 = serviced, 2 = serviceable, 3 = unserviced