

Multi Annual Work Plan for Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation & Amenity Strategic Policy Committee

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Revision Number	Date	Note
Rev 1.0	28/04/2026	Sent to CABEEMRA SPC members in advance of special meeting on 7 th May seeking approval.
Rev 1.1	07/05/2026	After approval by SPC, updated casual trading bye laws entry with information from Staff Officer in Environment, included policies as per MCahill and updated wording of policies to 'TBC'. This version then sent to Helen Purcell as iteration to go in front of CPG meeting.
Rev 1.2	05/06/2026	MAWP discussed at SPC on Friday, June 5 th - changes to be made included in Appendix No.1 at end of document. Update of Library Development Plan and Arts Plan following June 5 th SPC presentations.

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Policy	Proposed Actions	Expected Outcomes	Timeframe	Responsible / Lead	Notes
Climate					
Climate Action Plan	- The overarching goal is to transition to a climate resilient, biodiverse, sustainable, and carbon-neutral County by 2050. Our plan aligns with the national climate objective, which targets a climate-neutral economy by 2050. - 135 actions in total, 23 of which relate to Arklow, the designated Decarbonisation Zone for Co Wicklow	- The plan builds on Wicklow County Council's commitment to the Local Authority Climate Charter, pledging to achieve a 51% reduction in carbon emissions and a 50% improvement in energy efficiency by 2030	2024-2029	-Wicklow County Councils Climate Action Team -Partnership with communities, enterprise & other stakeholders at local and regional level	-2024 Implementation Report for Elected Members and Stakeholders was published in June 2025 and offers an accurate and transparent picture of progress in the first year of the plan implementation against the ambition of the plan which is aligned to the Government's National Climate Objective
Tree Management Policy	- The Tree Management Policy has been produced to provide better understanding of our tree resources in County Wicklow and the role Wicklow County Council plays in managing and	- The aim of the policy is to provide a better approach to care and maintenance of trees under public ownership, to increase tree cover in the county and to engage public participation in caring for our trees.	2022 – ongoing 5-year action plan contained in the plan	-Currently Wicklow County Council Climate Action Team but it is hoped that a Parks Department can be created to	-Currently being discussed by SPC

	developing these resources. - Contains a 5-year action plan, broken into 6 overarching Goals, containing a total of 41 actions	- The implementation of the actions contained within this Tree Management Strategy will enable us to sustain existing tree populations in County Wicklow and build numbers, so that we can pass forward to the next generation our rich arborol heritage in a healthier and more robust condition		oversee the implementation of the plan -Actions fall under remit of various bodies, for example, WCC GIS team, Municipal Districts, Arborists, Biodiversity Officer IT Section, PPN	
Glyphosate Policy	-Wicklow County Council recognises the need to reduce, replace and always where possible eliminate the use of Glyphosate due to its potential risk to the environment and human health. -6 actions included in the Policy	-Retain semi natural areas of vegetation to protect pollinators and wildlife. -Manage vegetation through mechanical methods -Use alternative glyphosate and chemical free	2022– ongoing	-Wicklow County Council Climate Action Team -Municipal Districts -Users to be registered as Professional User with Department of	-Wicklow County Council is part of a Service Level Agreement with Kildare County Council for the Scientific Assessment of alternatives to herbicide use in the maintenance of amenity public open spaces projects

		products and equipment -Business case required if use of Glyphosate is needed as last resort		Agriculture, Food and the Marine	
Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) Policy	-The purpose of this document is to provide a brief introduction to SuDS, guidance on the various standards, the Council's planning requirements and the various types of SuDS components. The document provides stormwater management design guidance and information on the standards required by development proposals in order to implement SuDS.	-Sustainable Urban Development Systems, when implemented in line with this policy, will reduce flood risk and can mitigate against the pollution of water bodies, elevated temperatures and damage to the overall environment including biodiversity loss.	2025 – ongoing	-Climate Action Coordinator -Environment Section within CERA -Planning Directorate -Municipal Districts	
Biodiversity Action Plan	-Protect, restore and strengthen the resilience of our ecological network through evidence based,	-Halt Biodiversity loss in Co Wicklow by 2030, in line with EU & National Policy.	2026-2031	-Biodiversity Officer -Biodiversity Steering Group	

	collaborative and impactful action. - 5 objectives, containing a total of 50 actions			-Internal stakeholders, for example, CERA Directorate, Heritage Officer, Planning, Community and Infrastructure sections -Various external stakeholders including the Heritage Council and the Local Biodiversity Action Fund.	
Litter Management Plan	-The plan aims to deliver on the mission statement of Wicklow County Council's Corporate Plan to "actively protect the planet, promoting wellbeing and quality of life for all people, and make Wicklow the best place to live, work, visit and grow older.	-Enforcement & Regulation- To enforce the legislation to its fullest extent in order to prevent and control litter and illegal dumping. -Litter Prevention & Control -To deliver an integrated approach to the prevention and	2026-2029	-Waste Management & Enforcement -Municipal Districts -Environmental Awareness Officer	

	-This plan sets out measures to prevent and control litter, ensure enforcement of litter legislation and measures to encourage public engagement with the issue of litter. - 46 actions under 4 key objectives	management of litter, protecting the environment with reduced levels of dumping. -Education & Awareness - To promote a litter prevention and control message that fosters responsible citizenship in the protection of the environment. -Community Engagement - To empower local groups to take part in the control and prevention of litter within their own community.		-Housing Directorate -PURE	
WCC Energy Policy	-Efficiently manage and reduce consumption of energy while providing services to the citizens of Wicklow, while keeping in	- Reduction of Energy Consumption and pollutant emissions - review and track operations from	2023-ongoing	-Wicklow County Council Energy Team	

	mind targets to be achieved at a national and EU level	framework of energy performance -Improve energy performance and management -ensure compliance with all relevant legislation -support procurement of energy efficiency products and services -incorporating energy efficient and sustainable designs -promotion of energy awareness among staff			
Energy, Poverty and Retrofit Plan	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	Noted that aspects of retrofit and social housing are not included under this Directorates MAWP.
Green Events Policy	-A policy to provide guidance to staff and event organisers to promote	-A clearer understanding of what is required for event	Policy is drafted and has been circulated to the	Climate Action Officer	

	sustainable practice in the planning and operation of events.	organisers and of what options they have to increase sustainable practice in their events.	Wicklow Tourism office for comment. Need to circulate it to the Arts office and Community section. Plan should also be considered by the SPC.		
Invasive Alien Species Plan/Policy	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Landscape Development Plan/Policy	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Parks and Open Spaces Plan	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	Noted that this is not implementable until resourced Parks Section in place.
Pollinator Friendly & Green Infrastructure Plan/Policy	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

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Environment					
Waste Bye Laws	Management of household and commercial waste to promote better segregation, increase recycling rates, and reduce illegal dumping	improved waste segregation, cleaner public areas and controlling environmental nuisance	2018 – currently under review, expected timeframe for completion December 2026	-Robert Kelly, Executive Scientist, Waste Management Section -Eoin Kelly, Administrative Officer, Waste Management Section	Presentation made to SPC in July 2025 which outlined review will aim to increase fine from €25 to €75, include some minor technical changes to text, improve presentation of waste on bin day, reduce litter and increase recycling rates.
Bring Banks Policy	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	Waste Management Section	TBC
Casual Trading Bye Laws	Continue managing casual trading licences and designated trading areas under the WCC Casual Trading Bye-Laws 2012 and begin a review of the current bye-laws to consider footfall, community need, flexibility	Ensure that casual trading in Wicklow is fairly regulated, while working towards updated bye-laws that better reflect current trading activities and demands.	Any changes to bye-laws will require public consultation and approval by elected members.	Env – CERA.	Presentation given to CABEEMRA SPC in September 2025 on the current casual trading framework and the potential future review of the Casual Trading Bye-Laws.

	of designated pitches and emerging trading trends.				
Maritime Strategy	To be discussed	TBC	2026	TBC	TBC
Wicklow and Arklow Harbour Bye-Laws	Review existing Bye-Laws. This process was commenced in 2025 but the draft Bye-Laws need additional work due to outcomes of meetings with MARA.	Bye-Laws to provide a consistency in the operation of Wicklow and Arklow Harbours in line with the Maritime Area Planning Act.	2026	TBC	TBC
Beach Bye-Laws	Review of existing Bye-Laws required	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Beaches and Coastal Management and adaptation strategy	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Water Action Plan	The Water Action Plan for a LA is how the LA will meet their obligations under the 2022-2027 River Basin Management Plan (RBMPs are now called Water Action	TBC	TBC	Tom Griffin, Jonathan Sexton	Support being provided by LawPro in the development of the WAPs. LawPro have provided a template for the WAP and a reporting workbook. This will maintain a consistency across all catchments nationally.

	Plans). The Plan will outline how WCC will improve, and reduce the decline of, water quality on a catchment basis.				
Recreation					
Wicklow County Outdoor Recreation Plan	Delivering a coordinated, sustainable and inclusive approach to outdoor recreation across the county. It will prioritise strengthening leadership and partnerships, secure resources and staffing, and improving planning and governance structures. Key actions also aim to protect the natural environment and heritage, enhance and maintain existing infrastructure such as trails, expand and diversify participation opportunities, particularly for underrepresented groups, and improve access for all users. The plan also	The expected outcomes of the Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Plan 2025–2030 centre on creating a more accessible, inclusive and sustainable outdoor recreation environment across the county. It aims to increase participation among all population groups, particularly those currently underrepresented. The plan also seeks to protect and enhance Wicklow’s natural landscapes through responsible use and	2025-2030	Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee	

	emphasises increasing awareness, promoting responsible use of the outdoors, and building the skills and capacity of stakeholders to ensure long-term, sustainable delivery.	management, alongside upgrading and expanding high-quality infrastructure. Strong collaboration between stakeholders is expected to lead to more coordinated delivery and long-term investment, while increased awareness and education will support safer, more sustainable engagement with outdoor spaces.			
Wicklow County Council Sports Action Plan	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Play Policy	To be discussed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC

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Amenity					
Wicklow County Council Libraries Development Plan	To be confirmed	TBC	2026-2030	Margaret Birchall	Plan presented to SPC on June 5 th and feedback sought from members. Will go out to public consultation again and will be brought back to SPC and full council for adoption in due course.
Arts Plan	To be confirmed	TBC	2026-2030	Jenny Sherwin	Update on the development of the Arts Plan was presented at SPC on June 5 th . Draft plan hoped to go in front of plan in September 2026.

Appendix 1

Amendments and/or inclusions agreed at **CABEEMRA SPC of Friday 5th June 2026**.

Amendment/Inclusion Proposed	Detail	Agreed
Energy, Poverty and Retrofit Plan Proposed by Cllr Danny Alvey	Noted that retrofitting and items related to social housing cannot sit under this MAWP as it would be under Housing Directorate. Energy is under this SPC, but Energy sits under the Corporate Directorate. Noted that energy policy already included.	Agreed by SPC members on 5 th June 2026 to include this plan, but not the social housing or retrofit aspects.
Beaches and Coastal Management and adaptation strategy. Proposed by Cllr Danny Alvey	Agreed this will fall under CERA Directorate and is suitable for inclusion. Also noted that CERA does not have resources to include measures to address Anti-Social Behaviour at coastal recreational areas.	Agreed by SPC Members on 5 th June 2026.
Parks and Open Spaces Plan Proposed by Cllr Danny Alvey	Agreed this will fall under CERA Directorate but noted that it is not implementable until such time as a sufficient Parks Department is in place.	Agreed by SPC Members on 5 th June 2026.
Bring Banks Policy Proposed by Austin Baines	Agreed to include and will fall under the Waste Management Section.	Agreed by the SPC Members on 5 th June 2026.

