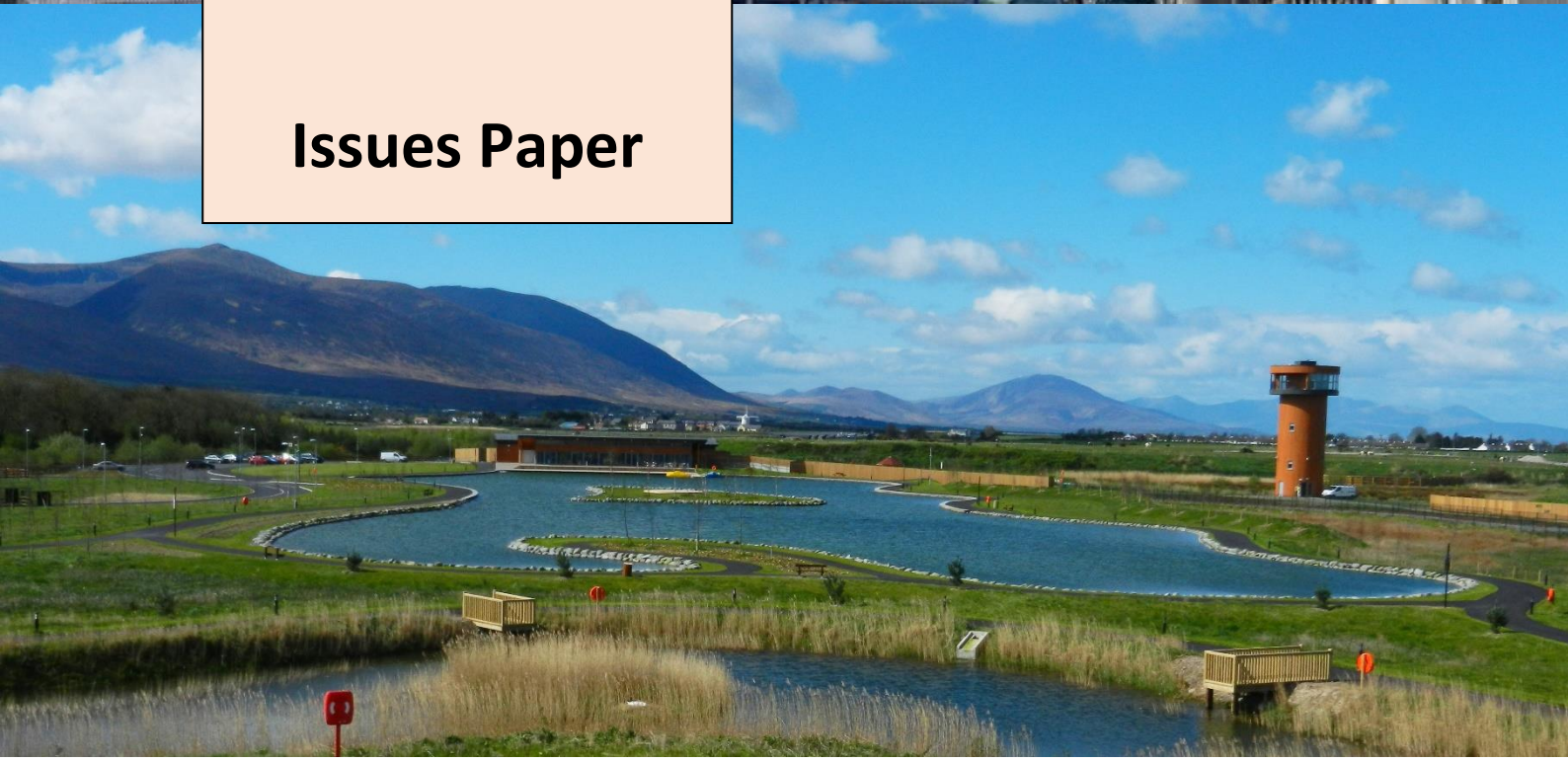


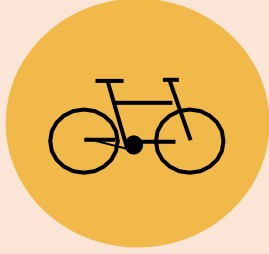
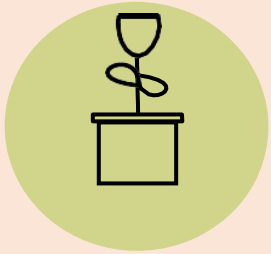


**Tralee MD
Local Area Plan
2023-2029**



Issues Paper





What will the future vision and Plan for Tralee Municipal District's growing communities, places, housing, jobs, sustainable transport and the delivery of services be?

Making a Submission

This is YOUR opportunity to contribute towards the first steps in shaping and directing the future growth and development of the Tralee MD area. Key strategic issues have been outlined below which you can have your say on or raise other issues of concern in YOUR area.

Join the conversation and let us know your views for the next Tralee Municipal District Local Area Plan 2023-2029.

Please include your name and address and where applicable details of the organisation or group you represent. Further information on this process and updates are available on <https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en>.

Submissions/observations may be made via the following methods:



<https://consult.kerrycoco.ie/en>



Pre-Draft Tralee MD Local Area Plan,
Planning Policy Unit,
Kerry County Council,
County Buildings,
Rathass,
Tralee,
Co. Kerry.

All submissions should be signed and clearly headed **‘Tralee MD LAP Pre-Draft’**.

Closing date for submissions/observations is the 10th of March 2023.

All written submissions/observations must be signed.
Submissions/observations received will be published online.

Introduction

A draft Local Area Plan (LAP) is being prepared for lands in the Tralee Municipal District in accordance with the requirements and provisions of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. The purpose of the Plan is to set out a comprehensive local planning framework with clear policies and objectives including land-use zoning in the interest of the common good.

This new Plan will replace the existing Tralee Town Plan as contained in the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028 (Volume 2) and the Tralee Municipal District LAP 2018-2024. *Note: due to the reconfiguration of the Municipal Districts in 2019, certain settlements within the Tralee Municipal District LAP 2018-2024 will stay in effect until they are included within the Castleisland/Corca Dhuibhne MD LAP 2024-2030.*



Figure 1: Tralee Municipal District Area and Settlements

What is a Local Area Plan (LAP)?

A Local Area Plan consists of a written statement and maps, which set out the Local Authority's objectives for the Plan area. The Plan provides the land use framework that will guide development in the area. It is valid for six years from the date of adoption by the Municipal District. Local Area Plans must be compatible with national and regional policy documents and the core strategy and policies of the KCDP 2022-2028. It must respond to opportunities and challenges presented by the current economic climate and promote continued economic and social development. The LAP must achieve balance between the needs and aspirations of the community with the requirements of the Planning Authority and the expectations of stakeholders.

A Municipal District (MD) Plan should:

- Provide a Framework for Sustainable Development
- Promote Local Economic Development & Employment Growth
- Integrate Environmental Considerations
- Deliver High Quality Urban Design
- Encourage Active Travel Patterns
- Improve People's Quality of Life & Focus on Community Needs
- Protect the Built, Natural and Linguistic/Cultural Heritage of the Area

Vision & Aims of the Plan

The first stage of the process includes undertaking pre-draft consultation (by publishing an issues paper) to explore current issues and inviting all stakeholders and interested parties to identify the issues that they feel need to be addressed in the plan, and how the area should be developed. The Local Area Plan will be underpinned by a strategic vision which is intended to guide the future development of the area in a sustainable manner, in a way that reflects the existing character and amenities of the area and improves quality of life for the existing and future population.

What is the purpose of the Issues Paper?

The purpose of this Issues Paper is intended to get individuals and groups thinking about the type of land-use issues that might be addressed in the new Tralee MD Local Area Plan, and to encourage submissions on these issues, or any other planning issues that relate to how the Tralee MD area should develop into the future. Whether you are a younger or an older person, an individual or a community/sports group, a business, a resident, an entrepreneur or a voluntary organisation, your opinion matters.

Public participation (including the interests of children) is an essential element in the planning process, and in particular in the formation of planning policies which will shape the future development of the Tralee Municipal District.

Planning Context

The Tralee MD LAP must be consistent with the objectives of the higher order plans, including the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region and the National Planning Framework (NPF). Local Area Plans are located at the lower end of the hierarchy of national, regional and county level plans. In terms of the Local Area Plan process see below timescales in relation to the preparation and adoption of the Local Area Plan, including public consultation periods.

The Local Area Plan Process Timeline			
	Stage	Stage Description	Process Timeframe
	1	Pre-Draft Stage	Pre-draft Public Consultation Issues Paper – 9 th February to 10 th March 2023
	2	Draft Plan Stage	Public Display of Draft LAP (6 Weeks) Chief Executive's Report on Submissions Received (6 Weeks) Council Members Consider the Chief Executive's Report (6 Weeks)
	3	Amendments to Draft Plan	Adopt or Amend LAP (3 weeks) Amendments SEA/AA Screening of amendments commences Public Notice of Material Alterations and Screening Report, Full Environmental Report if Deemed Necessary and Available Subject to Section 20(3) (G). (3 Weeks) Public Display (4 Weeks) Preparation of Chief Executive's Report (4 Weeks) Chief Executive's Report (6 Weeks) Council Members Decision (6 Weeks)
	5	Adopted Plan	Adoption of Local Area Plan (This comes into effect 4 weeks from the date of adoption)
Note: Exact dates may change over the course of the process			

Table 1: The Local Area Plan Process Timeline

ISSUES PAPER TOPICS	Page
1. Tralee MD Settlements	6
2. Climate Change & Achieving a Sustainable Future 2.1 Energy & Energy Conservation	6-8
3. Core & Settlement Strategy	9
4. Settlements and Sustainable Compact Growth 4.1 Key Town – Tralee 4.2 District Towns – Ardfert and Fenit 4.3 Villages – Blennerville and The Spa	9-15
5. Sustainable Communities	15
6. Housing & Active Land Management	15-16
7. Culture & Heritage	16
8. Economic Development	17
9. Education	17-18
10. Tourism & Outdoor Recreation	18
11. Environment	19
12. Water & Waste Management	19-20
13. Digital Connectivity	20

1. Tralee MD Settlements

The main settlements within the Municipal District are listed in Table 2 and outlined on Figure 1. The Tralee Municipal District contains a key town, district towns and villages as identified in the Settlement Hierarchy Chapter 3 – Core & Settlement Strategy of the Kerry County Development Plan (KCDP) 2022-2028.

Settlements within Tralee Municipal District	
Key Town	Tralee
District Towns	Ardfert, Fenit
Villages	Blennerville, The Spa

Table 2: Settlements within Tralee Municipal District

Emphasis will be on the growth of the Key Town of Tralee, and within Ardfert and Fenit to a lesser extent, as the principal locations for future investment in housing, employment, infrastructure, social and community facilities.

Key challenges for these areas include wastewater infrastructure, population growth, regeneration of town/settlement centres, digital connectivity, provision of community and social facilities, local infrastructure, active travel linkages and sustainable tourism.

1. TRALEE MD SETTLEMENTS
<p>a) What policies or objectives should be included and prioritised in the Plan for the development of the overall Tralee MD area?</p> <p>b) What are the key strengths, opportunities and challenges of the Tralee MD area?</p> <p>c) How do you think the Local Area Plan can promote the sustainable development of the Tralee Municipal District to serve the needs of the local community and drive economic development?</p> <p>d) What are the key strengths, opportunities and challenges within your settlement?</p>

2.Climate Change & Achieving a Sustainable Future

The effects of climate change pose a serious threat to quality of life, communities, businesses, the environment and biodiversity. Kerry County Council has a Climate Change Adaption Strategy 2019-2024 addressing adaption (to minimise the effects of climate change, such as extreme weather events, greenhouse gas emissions) and mitigation (to seek ways to prevent climate change such as innovative green construction methods and materials) and will also have a new Climate Action Plan for the county in 2024. It will be necessary to make choices about how the Tralee MD balances growth with more sustainable approaches to development and land use and to examine how planning policy can help shape infrastructural decisions.

Spatial planning is a key player in climate change action - particularly mitigation and adaptation where more compact, less energy-intensive forms of urban development are crucial to reduce CO2 emissions specifically at a local level. These principles must inform the preparation of the LAP and help secure the implementation of the climate change objectives and policies as set out in the Kerry County Development plan 2022-2028. The LAP must also recognise the growing importance of biodiversity and nature conservation as a means to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

The principals of Smarter Travel, Active Travel and Sustainable Mobility are a main tenet of the County Development Plan. Green options for travel, transport and movement are critical to achieving national climate targets, healthier lifestyles, and for progressive economic development. Active Travel is travelling with a purpose (excluding leisure purposes) using your own energy including walking (including all users of footpaths) or cycling as part of a journey to school, to the shop or a commute to work. The location of residential communities and workspaces along with supporting transport infrastructure including roads, footpaths and cycleways, is fundamental for sustainable communities, climate action and quality of life considerations. It is essential that the new LAP promotes an integrated transport system in line with national transport policy to encourage a modal shift (reduction of car use) to more sustainable modes of transport such as walking, cycling and public transport.

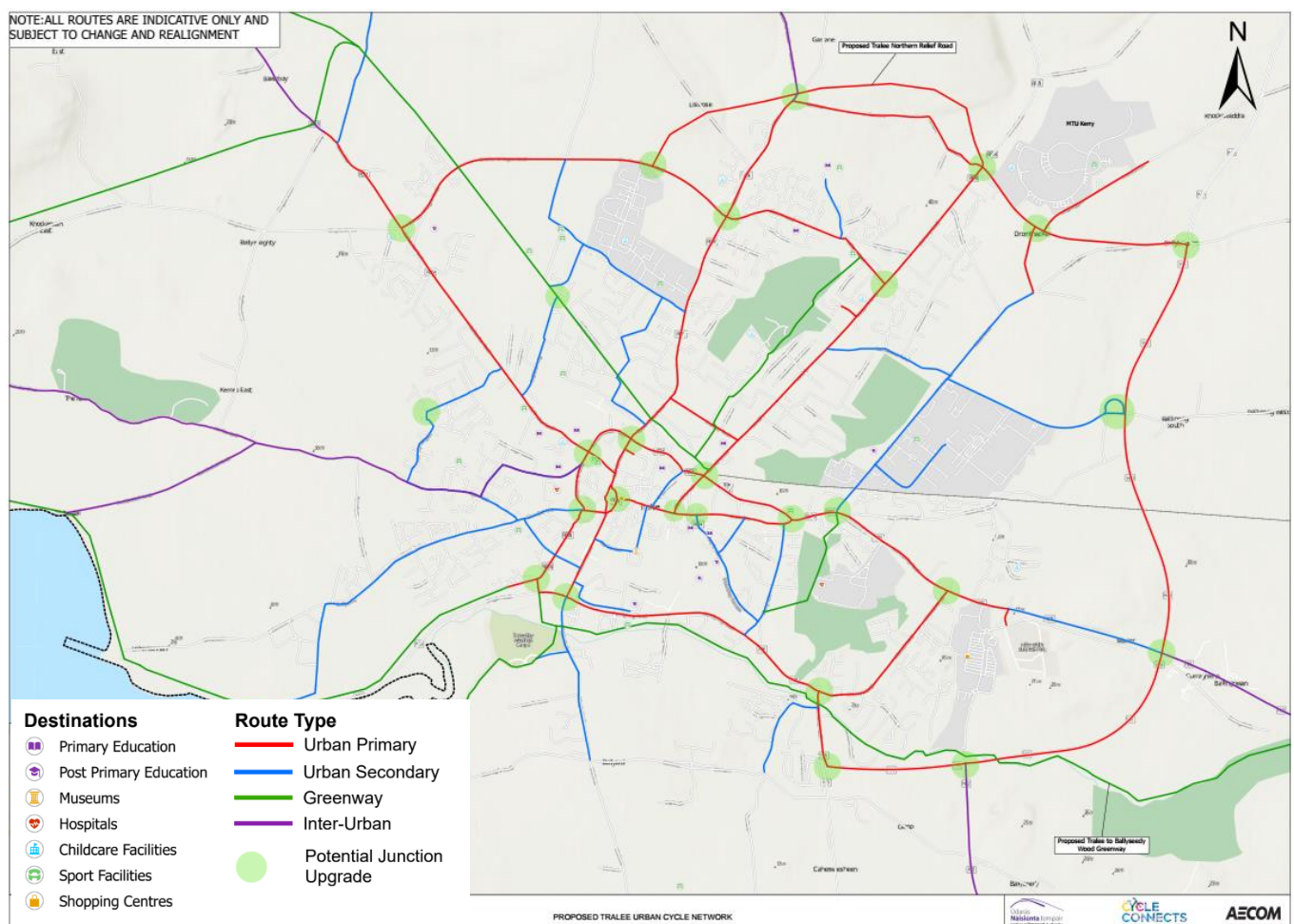


Figure 2: Draft Cycle Connects Strategy 2022 for Tralee Urban Area

(National Transport Authority)

Local Transport Plans (LTPs) will be prepared by the Council for the key towns of Tralee and Killarney, based on the Area Based Transport Assessment (ABTA) guidance produced by the NTA and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII). These plans aim to create an integrated network of cycle ways in our settlement centres, to ensure permeability within and between residential areas, linking to town/village centres, schools and places of work. This Plan will support sustainable mobility as part of the National Mitigation Plan 2017 and the Climate Action Plan 2021 and support the use of electric vehicles and smarter travel initiatives in the county. Greener infrastructure needs to be provided/upgraded in order to achieve sustainable goals of reducing dependency on the car. Figure 2 [below] is an extract from the Draft Cycle Connects Strategy (TII 2022).

2.1 Energy & Energy Conservation

Kerry County Council uses an Energy Management System to monitor usage and to improve energy performance (including energy efficiency & consumption). To date, Kerry County Council has reported 41% energy efficiency and is well on track to reach the 2030 target of 50% energy savings. One of the aims of the County Development Plan is to focus on alternative energy sources (renewable) and energy conservation. The Council has taken a proactive approach in this regard with several schemes in place and others forthcoming including the use of renewable energy to cater for housing needs. The Council will also facilitate the National Public Lighting Energy Efficiency Project (PLEEP) which involves the retrofit of all public lights in the County with energy efficient LED lanterns commencing in Q1 2023.

The Irish government has through Project Ireland 2040, the Climate Action Plan and most recently the Marine Planning and Development Management Bill, set ambitious plans for offshore renewable energy resource development in Ireland. KCC will progress in developing Designated Maritime Area Plans (DMPAs) for the coastal area of the county which will align with all relevant plans. There are significant opportunities to grow offshore wave and wind renewable energy in the Tralee MD Area reflecting the key natural assets of wave and wind energy.

2. CLIMATE CHANGE & ACHIEVING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

- a) How can the Plan support our transition to a low carbon climate resilient and environmentally sustainable economy? How can we increase awareness of climate change in the Plan area?
- b) What methods should be encouraged to maximise renewable energy provision for commercial/industrial and residential developments?
- c) How can the concepts of Active Travel & Smarter Travel be incorporated into the Plan?
- d) How do we best accommodate a shift towards Active Travel modes of transport and reduce car dependency?
- e) Have you any specific suggestions to encourage the use of public transport, cycling and walking?
- f) How do you think the Plan can provide for good connectivity for recreational walking and cycling purposes including the Tralee - Fenit Greenway?
- g) Are there areas where new or improved footpaths, cycle ways, parking, roadways and links to public transport services should be provided?
- h) How do we reallocate road space to be prioritised for active travel users?
- i) How can rural transport and accessibility be improved?
- j) How can the Plan improve transport and connectivity for older and less-abled people and children?
- k) How can transport and accessibility be improved outside of urban areas?
- l) How can greater emphasis be put on emerging technology solutions, e.g., electric vehicles?
- m) What are the key movement and active travel issues affecting residents, workers, and visitors?
- n) How do we establish pedestrian and cyclist connectivity between existing and new residential areas?
- o) How can the Plan promote renewable energy while protecting the landscape, residential amenity & ecology of the area?
- p) How do we encourage and promote energy conservation and minimise usage?
- q) How can we further expand our energy efficient low carbon initiatives in Tralee?
- r) How can Fenits potential for the provision of offshore renewable energy be maximised?



3. Core & Settlement Strategy

The Core Strategy of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 provides for a population allocation of 9,363 persons for over the 6-year plan period, which equates to approximately 7,000 new houses. Kerry County Council are required to identify and reserve an appropriate amount of land in the correct locations to meet housing and population targets. The table below indicates the housing unit target for the main settlements over a 6 year period.

	2016 Population	Housing Unit target
Kerry	147,707	7,000
Tralee	23,691	2,087
Ardfert	749	61
Fenit	538	102

Table 2: Housing Unit Targets as per the KCDP

Future housing supply in the Tralee MD Area must be provided in a sustainable manner and demonstrate consistency with the policies and objectives, including the Core Strategy, of the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028. Development should be within the footprint of existing settlements maximising the use of brownfield sites, infill sites and re-use of existing housing stock/vacant buildings.

3. CORE & SETTLEMENT STRATEGY

- a) How can we encourage efficient use of zoned and serviced land and where are the key opportunity sites in your area that are suitable for (re)development?
- b) Given the amount of undeveloped residential zoned land, how do you think development can be reconciled and managed having regard to the target population?
- c) What do you think are the priorities for housing in terms of size & type of housing? Are more town centre apartments needed, family housing or specialist housing (for example for older people)?

4. Settlements and Sustainable Compact Growth

The towns and villages in the Tralee MD area all have their own unique strengths and character and each settlement plays a critical role in the overall quality of life of citizens and visitors alike. The policies of the Local Area Plan must consider the cumulative impacts of regeneration and redevelopment of major sites and ensure that appropriate social, community and cultural facilities are provided to both facilitate and address projected population growth. Housing delivery in our towns, villages and rural areas needs to be carefully balanced so as not to undermine the long-term viability of the individual towns and villages ensuring in particular that key local community facilities are retained and continue to be viable. If development outside of existing settlements continues it will weaken the attractiveness of towns and villages to inward investment, future jobs and services.

The Planning Authority recognises that towns and villages have faced considerable challenges in recent years and town centre/village renewal is key to ensuring the long-term sustainability of many of the settlements in terms of sustainable jobs growth, the retention of services and retail offering. Conversely unsustainable patterns of high rates of development in rural areas can result in excessive car based commuting patterns in order to access employment, retail and other services and places greater demands on uneconomical infrastructure development and the need for other services outside of the main settlement areas. In addition, this settlement pattern is at odds with climate action policy which seeks to reduce car dependency, journey frequency and seeks to encourage active modes of transport (walking & cycling).

Typical housing patterns seen in recent times in many Irish towns have consisted of individual housing areas which has often led to poor connectivity between these residential areas and key community facilities such as schools, shops, leisure, and healthcare facilities and with an overreliance on private vehicles, with little attention paid to pedestrian and cycle accessibility, or access to the public transport network.

It is a policy of the Council to promote active travel and the 10 Minute Town Concept. This Concept seeks to have all community facilities and services accessible within a 10-minute walk or cycle from homes or are accessible by public transport services connecting people to larger scaled settlements.

A high-quality public realm enhances the character of any place, urban design in towns and villages is an important element which contributes to placemaking (buildings, uses, streets, footpaths, open spaces) and ensures that those elements create an attractive and distinct environment for people to enjoy.

The Council seeks to provide new or improved footpaths, cycle ways and links to public transport services where needed. The Council will seek to promote Tralee as an “Accessible Town”, making it cycling/pedestrian friendly, thereby increasing connectivity for everyone including children, older and less-abled people and improve accessibility throughout settlements in the Tralee MD.

Greenways have become increasingly important in improving connectivity and tourism potential between Kerry’s towns and villages and also as inter county connections. The Council will avail of any funding opportunities to enhance these active travel routes and will continue to protect the routes of potential greenways through the policies of this Plan.

4. SETTLEMENTS AND SUSTAINABLE COMPACT GROWTH

- a) How can we increase residential living in the settlement core?
- b) How can we encourage the reuse of vacant properties and address dereliction to revitalise village/town centres so that they are vibrant, welcoming, attractive places to live and work in, visit and shop?
- c) How can alternative options to rural housing be provided within smaller towns and villages?
- d) What public realm and town/village regeneration projects are needed to enhance the overall vibrancy in your town or village?
- e) How can we provide better infrastructure to incentivise compact growth and Access for All?
- f) What needs to be implemented in order to achieve the 10 minute town concept?

4.1 Key Town - Tralee

Tralee is designated as a Key Town in the settlement hierarchy of the KCDP as well as being a University Town, with MTU having six campuses across the South-West region in Cork and Kerry and a student body of 18,000. Tralee is the capital town and main administrative, retail, health, education and service centre for County Kerry and provides a large portion of the county’s recreational facilities, culture, archaeological, architectural heritage and linguistic/cultural heritage.

The long-term vision for Tralee is to enhance its position as a regional economic driver and a ‘**Destination Town**’ that is competitive nationally and internationally in attracting investment, talent, enterprise and visitors. Tralee’s pathway to transition and regeneration will enhance its competitiveness in attracting new residents, visitors and national and international investment. This will be achieved through increased high-quality employment spaces,

residential opportunities and the development of a very high quality environment, by means of strategic investment in office development, public realm improvements, leisure and amenity areas and strengthening Tralee's sense of place and identity. The new Tralee LAP will inform the upcoming Tralee Town Centre Regeneration Plan aligning with government policy, *'Town Centre First – A Policy Approach for Irish Towns'*. This Plan will assist in the regeneration of brownfield sites within the town centre.

Kerry County Council has been very pro-active in developing and advancing a number of projects and plans for Tralee. These include:

- Positioning Tralee as a Regional Economic Driver and Destination Town
- Tralee Town Centre Public Realm Improvements Strategy
- Regeneration Neighbourhoods
- The Island of Geese Regeneration
- Mitchel's Regeneration
- Shopfront Enhancement Grant Scheme

Kerry County Council has been successful in securing in excess of €15m for 'Destination Town' Tralee under the Urban Regeneration Development Fund (URDF) 2020. This funding goes towards the regeneration of key town centre areas including the Market Quarter, John Joe Sheehy Masterplan and the Railway and Austin Stack Plazas. These key projects will enable the town to achieve its overall aims of reducing vacancy, tackling dereliction, increasing community space and building upon its potential as a Regional Economic Driver.

In a wider context significant investment is underway in Tralee including projects such as the Northern Relief Road, Clash/Ballymullen link road, Cockleshell to The Spa route, the Dingle Way link and enhanced public realm amenities in the town.

There are also a number of large opportunity sites located within the Tralee MD and the development of these are of prime importance to the economic regeneration and urban fabric enhancement of the town. These sites include The Island of Geese Site, Balloonagh Convent, John Joe Sheehy Road, lands adjacent to Dan Spring Road, lands adjacent to Ballymullen Roundabout and lands adjacent to Clash Road.

Kerry County Council have been proactive in terms of housing supply having recently delivered in excess of 120 housing units on various sites including Lohercannon, Ragoonane and Ballyrickard.

Tralee Town Centre Public Realm Improvements

Phases 1-3 Funded by Kerry County Council and the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), the Tralee Pavements has involved the development of pedestrian priority 'shared space' enabling pedestrians to move freely while reducing the priority of vehicles.



Island of Geese

The Island of Geese project represents a significant transformation to the town centre of Tralee and is funded by the ERDF. The area is undergoing a €3m transformation from the derelict old Denny Bacon factory site encompassing a recently completed architecturally designed urban linear public realm space. It is Kerry County Council's aspiration to develop a new urban mixed-use quarter for Tralee Town Centre in a socially inclusive and sustainable manner. The Court Services intend to develop a new courts complex on this site.



Mitchel's Regeneration

This major ongoing transformative regeneration project with €45m expenditure to date has and will continue to define a standard for best practice in regeneration. To date the regeneration project has delivered a suite of community, social and residential property solutions, through new build, refurbishment and energy upgrades.

The Masterplan for the area includes the following major elements which are to be delivered:

- Secondary Gaelscoil 600 pupils (under construction)
- Ballymullen to Clash Inner Relief Road (under construction)
- Voluntary Housing Projects (Cluid Project)
- Community & Enterprise Building
- Sporting facilities (Boxing Club)
- Public Realm upgrade (ongoing)
- Parks & Open Space enhancement

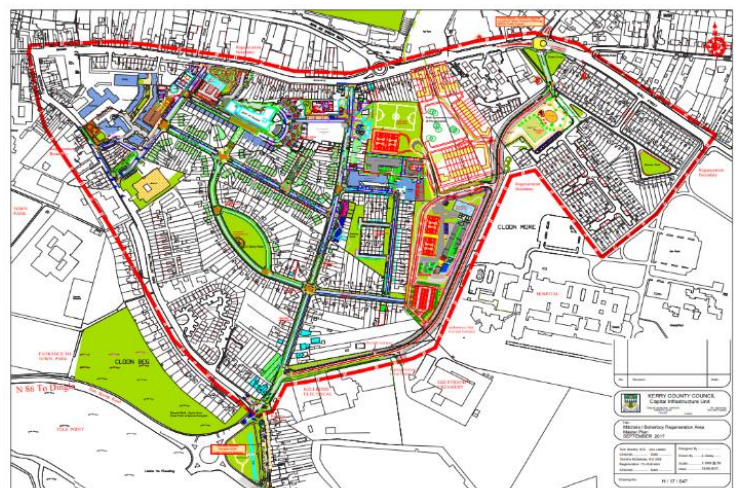


Figure 3: Mitchel's Regeneration Masterplan Area

Masterplan

The John Joe Sheehy Road area contains a number of backland areas, vacant sites and former industrial/transportation lands. This area contains the major transport hub of the town with the train and bus station located at its western end. In addition, the area will also function as a major greenway hub once the Tralee - Fenit and Big River – MTU Greenways are completed. Consultants are currently being appointed to prepare a masterplan to guide and facilitate the regeneration and development of the John Joe Sheehy Road area in a co-ordinated manner to provide a new residential urban quarter that prioritises walking, cycling and permeability between Boherbue, the Listowel Road and the Town centre maximising the existing public transport hub, planned cycleways and new civic spaces. John Joe Sheehy Road is also outlined as an Opportunity Site.

Development Frameworks / Design Briefs

There are some large greenfield and brownfield sites, both privately and publicly owned, within Tralee and a development framework will be prepared to guide the future development of the sites listed below. These should be developed within a strategic framework and their development should be in line with adjoining lands to avoid field by field development and landownership issues. The frameworks will establish the broad development principles for the sites and will set out in broad terms the general distribution of land uses, circulation systems and key access points. They will also indicate how future land uses will integrate with surrounding developments.

1. Lohercannon/Ballyvelly
2. Oakview (off Brewery Rd)
3. Clash/Muing

Opportunity Sites

There are a number of existing brownfield and infill sites e.g., Balloonagh Convent, Pembroke Street, Godfrey Place, which present development opportunities of a residential/ mixed use nature which would reinvigorate the town core area. There are incentives in place to assist in the development of these sites including reduced development contributions.

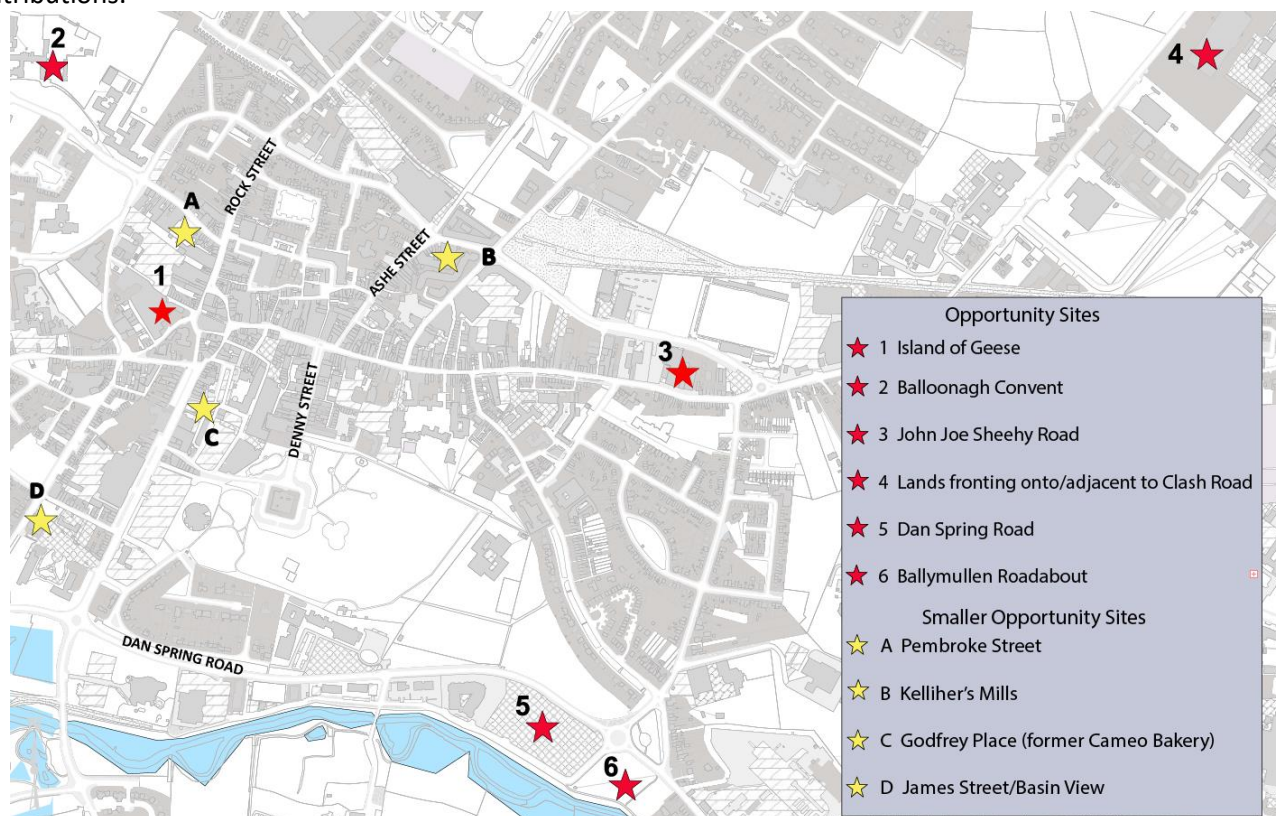


Figure 4: Opportunity Sites within Tralee Town

4.1. KEY TOWN - TRALEE

- a) How can we promote appropriate development within the town?
- b) What facilities are required to encourage people to live in the town?
- c) How can we facilitate compact growth patterns and the concept of making Tralee a 10-minute town?
- d) How can we facilitate and promote "living over the shop" and other town centre residential initiatives?
- e) How can the URDF funding secured for Tralee's 'Destination Town' Project and the Strategic Regeneration of Tralee Town be maximised?
- f) How do we create a sense of place through the delivery of an attractive, cohesive and sustainable urban destination?
- g) How do we promote Tralee as a 'Destination Town'/University Town?
- h) How can the lands at Lohercannon, John Joe Sheehy Road & large residentially zoned infill sites be sustainably developed?
- i) How do you envisage the opportunity sites outlined in Figure 4 being sustainably developed?

4.2 District Towns

The District Towns of the Tralee Municipal District are identified as **Ardfert & Fenit**, which are strong, active and vibrant towns. It is a strategic aim of the settlement strategy to support the sustainable development and growth of these settlements to meet population targets as set out in the County Development Plan at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of each town, so they can act as adequate service and employment centres for the surrounding hinterlands. These towns generally provide a wide range of facilities including national primary schools, health facilities, and many other diverse community services. The settlements in the Tralee MD area function as local drivers for their surrounding areas through well-established social functions. They support clusters of services and have a significant share of homes and jobs.

Ardfert

It is a strategic aim of the settlement strategy to support the sustainable development of Ardfert to meet population targets as set out in the KCDP at a scale, layout and design that reflects the character of the town, so that it can function as an adequate service and employment centre for the surrounding hinterland. New social housing units [over 50 units] have been constructed at Farranwilliam and Lawlor's Hill which are within walking distance of amenities and services and adds to the vibrancy and vitality of the town. Kerry County Council also played a critical role in the provision of the new sports complex, located adjacent to the new housing, whereby several local groups joined forces and are now centrally located in the settlement. Ardfert has also benefitted from the construction of new public conveniences adjacent to the playground. It is anticipated that this settlement will continue to play a vital role in providing accommodation for a proportion of the Municipal District's existing and future population. It is also important that Ardfert harnesses and maximises its economic potential through broadening its commercial base.

Fenit

Fenit has benefitted from the implementation of the Fenit - Tralee greenway and this has the potential to have a transformative effect on the settlement and its surrounding areas. The greenway has had other transformative improvement for the area including new and improved car park layout at the greenway terminus. Further planned investment includes provision of a new spine road through the village, new public conveniences, upgrade to the waste water treatment plant and new housing units. Provision has been made under the Core Strategy of the County Plan for an increase in the population within the settlement, however this is subject to the upgrading of the wastewater treatment system. Once this has been completed it increases the potential for future housing growth.

Fenit has the potential to expand its commercial importance further given its relationship with Liebherr and the existence of Fenit's deep water port which is a major economic and transportation asset to the County. Over 2.55 million euro of funding has been allocated to dredging in Fenit under the Brexit Adjustment Marine infrastructure Scheme. The marina also offers significant amenity and leisure facilities with its natural harbour setting and beach which support a number of recreational activities and are continuing to attract more domestic and international visitors each season. This is further enhanced with the opening of the Tralee-Fenit greenway which offers significant economic and recreational potential for the area.

The Fenit Village Design Masterplan was published in 2022 and will act as a catalyst for further development as it sets out proposals for the redevelopment of the core of the village, primarily from the central green area to the beachfront. The Masterplan provides for the development of two key sites in the village: the greenfield site including O' Sullivan's Bar (the Central Core) and the seafront public realm centred on the playground, greenway terminus and entrance to the beach (the Terminus).

4.3 Villages

Blennerville

Blennerville is located at the mouth of the River Lee, in a very scenic setting, particularly on approach from Tralee, against the backdrop of the Slieve Mish mountains. Blennerville has a unique character which is to be retained and strengthened, it is important that the individual character and identity of Blennerville is separate to that of Tralee town. The settlement contains several local services and amenities which also serve the surrounding hinterland. The streetscape gives a distinctive character and ambience to the village centre. The significance of the village's built heritage is recognised by the designation of a number of Architectural Conservation Areas. There is scope to

accommodate additional residential population in small sites, infill development and through regeneration and reuse of existing buildings.

The village has a broad range of tourist attractions including its unique architectural heritage, restored windmill complex, maritime and natural heritage, harbour frontage, cultural facilities and access to various recreational activities and walkways. A new partnership has been formed with the ETB to provide a cookery school within the windmill complex which adds an economic and educational dimension. There is also further scope to expand on the windmill complex contribution to tourism.

The Cockleshell Road to Spa pathway secured funding under the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme and it is anticipated that works will commence in 2023. The pathway once completed will link up with the Tralee - Fenit Greenway at the Spa. Funding has been secured under Our Rural Future to support and improve 41 walking trails across Kerry including the Dingle Way. Furthermore, a new walkway/cycleway will be developed from the Wetlands near the old railway line out to Blennerville in the future.

The Spa

The seaside village of The Spa is an attractive residential location. The village and its vicinity act as a local service centre with educational and sporting facilities for the surrounding hinterland. The area displays a dispersed residential character, and it is anticipated that its existing character and function will remain as primarily residential loose clusters of housing. The popular coastal walk between The Spa to Blennerville link, in conjunction with the Tralee-Fenit greenway, offers significant economic and recreational potential for the area. Recent public realm works have been completed which improve pedestrian and cyclist connectivity and safety within the settlement.

4.2 AND 4.3 DEVELOPMENT OF DISTRICT TOWNS AND VILLAGES

- a)** How do we promote appropriate development, a sense of place and still retain the unique identity of your settlement?
- b)** How do we increase residential living in villages and what facilities are required to encourage people to live in villages?
- c)** Is there adequate provision of street furniture in the villages/settlements? e.g. public seating, planters?
- d)** What public realm and town/village regeneration projects are needed to enhance the overall vibrancy in your settlement?
- e)** How can cluster developments provide alternative options to rural housing smaller towns and villages?

5.Sustainable Communities

Community infrastructure plays a vital role in contributing to quality of life for all. The physical environment should develop in such a way that it facilitates the healthy functioning of sustainable community and cultural life. Services and amenities including crèches, schools, amenities, recreation and other community facilities should be provided in tandem with residential development. The provision of an adequate level and distribution of community facilities and amenities that meet the current and future needs of the local community will be a priority.

5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

- a)** What type of community facilities and local services are currently needed in your area and in new residential communities?
- b)** How can the Plan utilise and enhance existing amenity areas in the towns and villages and provide for adequate open space and recreational facilities for both passive and active recreation?
- c)** What community infrastructure, childcare services and sports facilities are lacking and where should these be located?
- d)** Are there enough facilities in your area for younger and older residents and people with a disability?
- e)** What natural features/routes can be developed as interconnecting walking routes and cycleways?

6. Housing & Active Land Management

The KCDP provides for the implementation of the objectives of Housing for All – A New Housing Plan for Ireland. It seeks to deliver on the vision of both the NPF and RSES in relation to compact growth, and the implementation of active land management measures.

The KCDP and forthcoming LAPs work in conjunction to seek to deliver a new approach to active land management. The achievement of compact growth targets 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 serviced greenfield sites that support the principles of consolidated growth.

The programme of active land management to tackle dereliction, vacancy and underutilisation of lands will be implemented through a series of initiatives including compulsory acquisitions and the emerging Residential Zoned Land Tax. The aim of the Residential Zoned Land Tax is to activate and bring forward the development of housing on lands that are suitably zoned and serviced, by encouraging activation of existing planning permissions on lands and to incentivise the development of suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with planning authorities.

Furthermore, KCC assists people in the provision of suitable accommodation for those who are unable to provide their own by utilising the various social housing options and facilitating the development of sustainable communities. Given the current conflict in Eastern Europe, KCC is playing an active role in supporting and hosting families who require our assistance in securing accommodation and getting access to other supports.

8. HOUSING & ACTIVE LAND MANAGEMENT

- a) How can we encourage efficient use of zoned and serviced land?
- b) How can we best meet the housing needs of all sectors of our community?
- c) Would you like to see a more varied type/mix of housing in the settlements?
- d) How can we assist in the hosting and integration of displaced families into our communities?

7. Culture & Heritage

The Plan area has a vibrant living culture that is engrained in local communities, including a wealth of heritage and traditional arts, design & crafts as well as contemporary arts practice. The Plan area continues to attract creative people as a place to live and create work, who are inspired by the landscape, seascape and living culture of the area. Importantly, this creative culture enhances the visitor offerings for those visiting the area and contributes to the Tralee MD area in terms of employment, economic and local enterprise. It is important that the natural and built heritage of the towns and villages and surrounding areas are safeguarded against inappropriate development.

Trá Lí is a designated Bailte Seirbhísi Gaeltacht (Gaeltacht Service Town) which will be acknowledged in the LAP to ensure that the Irish language will be preserved and promoted as a living community language and that Gaeltacht communities will be supported to strengthen and expand the social networks that nourish Irish as the community language.



7. CULTURE & HERITAGE

- a) What aspects of the built and natural heritage do you consider important and should be protected from inappropriate development?

- b)** How can the landscape, and built heritage be suitably protected, conserved and enhanced while accommodating the development needs of the area?
- c)** How can the LAP encourage the reuse, integration and regeneration of protected structures and older vacant structures located in town and village centre areas?
- d)** How can public realm projects help to enhance the heritage of the Tralee MD area?
- e)** How do we conserve and animate Tralee MD's Rich Heritage?
- f)** How can Trá Lí's role as a Bailte Seirbhísí Gaeltacht (Gaeltacht Service Town) be used to enhance the use of the Irish language?

8. Economic Development

Economic development provides the backbone for progress and sustainability for the many settlements in the Tralee MD area. A key focus of the new Local Area Plan will be to ensure that the conditions for the creation of enterprise and innovation are embraced and developed while encouraging and facilitating a diversity of employment opportunities and promoting inward investment. While many residents will continue to commute to other centres for employment, it is important that all towns and small villages retain and further develop their social and economic infrastructure, at an appropriate scale, to function as sustainable communities.

The Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle is recognised as an innovative economic hub within the established network of Tralee, Killarney, Killorglin and the Atlantic Economic Corridor. The RSES recognises the important economic role of this network and its strong association with third level institutions. The KCDP and this forthcoming LAP will support the further development of the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle and its potential to contribute substantial economic benefits to the County. The LAP will also facilitate the County's economic recovery through the sustainable implementation of County Kerry's COVID19 Economic Recovery Plan and the Kerry Local Economic and Community Plan, focusing on a transition to a low carbon and digital economy and through sustainably expanding the county's economic sectors.

The Kerry Technology Park is a strategic component of the economic growth of the County. The Park is a combination of a high-quality business estate with leading edge communications and a local research and education centre. It encompasses the Business Innovation Centre, 50 acres of enterprise space, a range of office suites and business units and a powerful enterprise culture.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- a)** How do you think the Plan can promote the development of the MD to drive economic development?
- b)** What development should happen in your area to attract further investment, create local jobs and foster local economic development and entrepreneurship?
- c)** What supports/services are required to sustain and grow employment and employment potential?
- d)** How can we promote new and micro enterprise?
- e)** How can the Plan best support new and evolving work patterns?
- f)** How can a range of employment opportunities be provided locally so as to reduce unemployment and reduce dependency on the private car?
- g)** How can the Plan enhance the appeal of the area to prospective investors and employees/talent?
- h)** How can we compete nationally & internationally for investment and "talent" i.e. students, skilled workers?

9. Education

Munster Technological University

The designation of the Munster Technological University (MTU) was a key development for Tralee. MTU is a catalyst for the development and growth of the town and has the potential to deliver significant economic benefits to students in the county and wider region, and to the broader local economy and society. By creating institutions of scale and strength, multi-campus technological universities bring greater social and economic benefits to their regions through a strengthened role in



research and innovation and the delivery of a broad range of high-quality education and training in each of their campuses.

A further enhancement of the MTU campus is the construction of a new Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) Building commencing in Q1 2023. This new facility will further enhance the University, building on its national and international reputation.

Kerry ETB

Kerry ETB delivers its Education and Training Programmes from 37 Schools/Centres and over 100 Outreach centres across the county. The ETB has an annual budget of circa €52 million



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employing over 1,000 staff with approximately 15,000 students/learners annually. The ETB has a strong presence in Tralee with offices on John Joe Sheehy Road, a campus in Monavalley, Clash and Denny Street. Kerry County Council recognises the important role played by the ETB in the county and supports its further development and main aims which are creating and promoting the development of a lifelong learning society in Kerry, so that all who live there have access to the education and training required to fulfil their potential and meet their personal, social, cultural, economic and civic needs.

9. EDUCATION

- a)** How can the MTU build on its success as a university campus for higher education, research and development?
- b)** How can the community capitalise on and utilise the expanded MTU offering i.e. STEM building?
- c)** How can the Kerry ETB be further strengthened and enhanced within the county?
- d)** Is there a need to zone additional lands for educational purposes within your town/village?

10. Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

The Tralee MD area has attractive towns, a fantastic natural environment and its attractions are internationally renowned. There are also superb activity amenities and beaches including the Blue Flags beaches of Banna and Fenit. The internationally renowned championship Tralee golf course is a huge draw for international golfers. Continued investments over recent years in infrastructure, people and attractions have added to the competitiveness of the region for tourists. Infrastructural projects implemented by the Local Authority including the recent opening of the Tralee to Fenit greenway, which will bring significant year-round benefits to the wider area. This will be further augmented and capitalised upon by the forthcoming Listowel to Tralee greenway.

The coastal and maritime areas offer significant tourism potential. The Wild Atlantic Way corridor & the North Kerry Way, along with the Tralee to Dingle route, Ballymullen to Ballyseedy, Cockleshell to the Spa and the River Lee Walkway, should be fully exploited in a sustainable manner.

The forthcoming Failte Ireland Cliff Coast Destination & Experience Development Plan (DEDP) which covers North Kerry and West Clare will highlight and build upon the tourism assets in the area. The Plan will look at how to build a sustainable tourism future that maximises and diversifies the tourism product to the highest standard and to extend the tourist season taking particular care of the natural and built environment.

10. TOURISM & OUTDOOR RECREATION

- a)** In addition to current provision, what are the opportunities for developing additional sustainable tourism and recreational assets in your area?
- b)** Are there areas that have the potential to be developed for tourism and recreational purposes?
- c)** Are there specific areas of tourism that should be targeted e.g. heritage, leisure, activity tourism, and how can the Local Area Plan facilitate these?
- d)** How can the Tralee-Fenit Greenway, and the forthcoming Tralee-Listowel Greenway, help to maximise economic opportunities along the route?

- e) What additional facilities, amenities or improvements would enhance the appeal and value of our public open spaces and/or our other amenities?
- f) What additional supporting infrastructure/enhancements should be provided to maximise the potential of our existing amenities?
- g) How do you think the Plan can provide for good connectivity for recreational walking and cycling purposes? Is there any specific location that you feel this Plan can address?

11.Environment

The Tralee MD Plan area has many designated nature conservation sites with International, European and National protection status. The Plan area contains a wealth of coastal habitats, that make an essential contribution to the environmental quality and ecological biodiversity of the area. High-quality open spaces and amenity areas are essential for a good quality of life and are key components of sustainable communities.

Green infrastructure forms an important part of our environment including nature conservation areas, parks, open spaces, rivers, floodplains, wetlands, woodlands, farmland and town greenways which support and improve environmental conditions in a way that facilitates environmental, economic and societal benefits. Good examples of green infrastructure within the Municipal District include: Tralee Town Park, Fenit to Tralee Greenway, Tralee Bay Wetlands, Ballyseedy Woods, numerous beaches and river walkways.

Flood risk is a key consideration in preparing a Local Area Plan. The Council seeks to avoid flood risk, substitute less vulnerable uses, when avoidance is not possible, and mitigate/manage the risk where avoidance and substitution are not possible.

11. ENVIRONMENT

- a) What do you think are the big environmental issues facing the Plan area?
- b) How best can we integrate a Green Infrastructure approach to the area incorporating the themes of open space, biodiversity, landscape, water and archaeology?
- c) Are there local parks or green areas which you feel could benefit from enhancement or works to improve their biodiversity?
- d) How can the Plan encourage the protection and enhancement of species and habitats?
- e) How can the Plan address flood risk and build resilience to better cope with the increasing frequency of extreme weather events?
- f) How can we manage areas at risk of flooding and coastal erosion?
- g) What facilities would enhance the amenity value of our Blue Flag Beaches?
- h) How can we better promote and designate biodiversity and pollinator areas?



12. Water & Waste Management

The provision and maintenance of high-quality infrastructure is vital to attracting and retaining economic development and improving the quality of life for those who live in the area. These include water supply and drainage, waste management, pollution management (air, noise, light, water, litter, major hazards), utility supply, broadband/ telecommunications services and roads. There is a need to plan for all of these infrastructural elements so as to ensure the future sustainable development of the plan area. Investment in new or additional capacity in water services will be informed by national, regional and local planning policy and addressed through Irish Water's Capital Investment Plans. The development of the Fenit wastewater treatment unit is contained in the Irish Water Investment programme.

There is a drainage plan being carried out for Tralee, Killarney and Listowel which will map the storm and drains network. The plan will address current issues and set out a coherent drainage plan for each of the settlements.

12. WATER & WASTE MANAGEMENT

- a) What measures can be introduced to protect & safeguard the quality of our rivers and groundwater?
- b) Are there any concerns with regard to water and sewerage or other infrastructural matters, which you feel the Plan could address?
- c) Are there adequate recycling facilities in your area and if not, where should they be located?

13. Digital Connectivity

KCC recognises the importance of a modern, efficient telecommunications sector for the future development of the Tralee MD area. It recognises that high speed broadband is essential in a knowledge-based economy and that the IT sector has huge potential for employment creation in the Tralee MD area. It is an objective of the Planning Authority as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan to facilitate and support community innovation hubs, digital hubs, food hubs, start-ups and centres of excellence (with particular opportunities for innovation in agri-food, agri-tech, marine research, creative industries, knowledge economy etc.) as local drivers for growth.

The KCDP also supports a more integrated approach to settlement growth and promotes the location of employment, including digital hubs, close to residential areas and services such as schools and shops.

Kerry County Council has been proactively involved in supporting the growth of smart towns and villages and the provision of digital hubs in the county. The forthcoming Digital Strategy for the county will drive and support 'live-work' communities and promote social cohesion to create a healthy digital society.

13. DIGITAL CONNECTIVITY

- a) How can the plan support the provision of telecommunications & broadband network?
- b) How can the plan support the creation of 'live-work' communities?

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