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2.1 Strategic Vision and Development Strategy

This LAP is 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.

Vision

To develop the area's settlements as a network of attractive, liveable towns and villages with sustainable levels of population, employment activity and enhanced levels of amenity which encourage a high quality of life and well-being and support a sustainable synergy with the rural countryside.

A development strategy for each settlement appropriate to its size and infrastructure capacity has been developed with adequately zoned lands identified for future development uses. In line with this the promotion and consolidation of the towns and villages of the Plan through reuse, restoration and regeneration, and the creation of a vibrant urban form, results in settlements that are attractive places in which to live, work and visit is essential.

The regeneration of the urban core of towns and villages will set the framework for the creation of a sustainable economic base to facilitate integrated communities, while balancing future development with the conservation and enhancement of the natural and built environment of each settlement and surrounding area. The consolidation of MD settlements supports climate action policy, particularly in meeting emissions targets from transport and the built environment.

2.1.1 Planning Policy Context

The Kenmare MD LAP is part of a systematic hierarchy of land use and spatial plans including Project Ireland 2040 - NPF, RSES, and the KCDP. These plans provide a broad canvas to steer sustainable growth and prosperity of the region and county, through the formulation of public policy integrating land-use, transport, economic growth and investment. The Kenmare MD LAP is located at the lower end of the hierarchy of national, regional and county level plans. In order to develop policies and objectives that are appropriate to the needs and future potential of the settlements of the South Kerry area, this LAP has framed its overall development strategy within the context of this planning policy framework.

In line with the strategic vision of the NPF to address rural decline, a significant proportion of national population and economic growth will be targeted at building up the fabric of smaller towns, villages and rural areas with emphasis placed on redeveloping derelict and under-utilised lands inside these locations.

As part of this, a major emphasis will be placed on renewing and developing existing built-up areas rather than a continual expansion and sprawl of towns and villages into the countryside, with a target of at least 30% of new housing to be delivered with the existing built-up areas of the towns and villages on infill and/or brownfield sites.

The RSES focuses on strengthening the urban structure of the region. This strategy focuses on the growth of key settlements of the county, to improve accessibility and conserve energy, in compliance with the RSES strategy. The aim for the Plan area is generally to improve the quality of life for people by strengthening the key settlements identified in the Plan area. The growth of Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin, which are the main settlements in the Plan area, is critical in the settlement structure for realising balanced regional development, acting as a focus for strengthening their own rural hinterlands.

Three environmental assessments: an SEA, an AA and a SFR, have also informed the preparation of the Kenmare MD Plan through an ongoing iterative process through to the final adoption of the plan. All three environmental assessments also ensured the Plan was climate proofed i.e., that the Plan aligned with national climate action policy in mitigation and adaptation (see Appendix E for more detail).

2.1.2. Uíbh Ráthach Plan

The Action Plan for Rural Development (2017) proposed that a Task Force should be established for the Gaeltacht area of Uíbh Ráthach. The development of an integrated, cross sectoral plan for the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht to address the social and economic needs of the community was proposed. The Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht Interagency Taskforce published their ambitious regeneration plan for the region in July 2019. The areas of focus in the plan are employment and quality of life. Among the points included in the Plan are the creation of 145 full-time jobs and a 3% increase in population with a focus on developing innovations in alternative farm enterprises: the development of a digital hub, and an increase in tourist visitors. The report also targets a 5% increase in daily Irish speakers and the re-establishment of an Irish language summer college, in order to combat falling levels of spoken Irish in the area. This LAP supports the ambitions of the Uíbh Ráthach Task Force.

2.1.3 Rural Regeneration & Development Fund (RRDF) and Funding Streams

KCC in collaboration with other stakeholders have been successful in sourcing funding from many streams. These include:

- Valentia Cable Station, new Conservation Programme
- Gteic at Baile na Sceilg,
- Cahersiveen Town Centre Regeneration (Carnegie Building)
- Strategic Regeneration of Killorglin Town
- Skellig Centre for Research and Innovation under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- RDI Hub in Killorglin

This Plan actively supports the projects proposed under the RRDF subject to environmental assessment as appropriate'.

2.1.4 Strategic Aims

The key strategic Aims for the Kenmare MD Area are:

- Reinforcement of the social and economic strength of the area by building critical mass of population and jobs in the designated towns and villages;
- Broadening the economic base to ensure future prosperity and maximise the potential of the region.
- To sustainably strengthen the role of Killorglin as an economic driver, key settlement in the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle and Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) and build upon its inherent strengths as a centre of skills, innovation and enterprise growth.
- The need to sustainably strengthen the role of Kenmare as a centre of excellence in tourism, recreation and amenity sectors.
- To promote and strengthen Cahersiveen as a centre for economic growth and employment and as an attractive place to live and visit.

- Promotion of the sustainable development of the area's agricultural communities and other traditional rural based economic activity while simultaneously fostering sustainable economic diversification and development in rural areas.
- To build a sustainable tourism future that maximises and diversifies the tourism product to the highest standard particularly into non-traditional areas and extends the tourist season taking particular care of the natural and built environment.
- Increased connectivity of the area, both with strategic economic centres within the county and with the regional cities identified in the NPF through the development of critical infrastructure.
- Investment in key pieces of water infrastructure (including upgrade of the Kenmare WWTP and increased and appropriately sourced water supply for the Kenmare area and increased reservoir storage capacity at the mid Kerry Water Treatment Plant, Gearha, Beaufort) to realise the potential of the towns and villages of the plan area and to protect quality of the surrounding environment.
- The development of the technological capacity within the area through supporting the rollout of broadband and telecommunications infrastructure, facilitating the development of digital hubs and the establishment of start-up enterprise space in existing unoccupied buildings.
- The sustainable management of the land resource in the settlements, through targeting dereliction, vacant and under-utilised sites in towns and villages to ensure development is carried out in an integrated and consolidated manner and through regeneration stimulation opportunities, whilst avoiding inappropriate development.
- The creation of an age friendly environment that will cater for the needs of an ageing population
- To ensure that the Irish language will be preserved and promoted as the living community language of the

Gaeltacht and that Gaeltacht communities will be supported to strengthen and expand the social networks that nourish Irish as the community language.

2.1.5 Recent Policy Context

The Programme for Government 2020 committed to a '**Town Centre First**' policy approach, which was founded on the Town Centre Health Check research, to ensure that urban areas become vibrant places for living and working by bringing vacant and urban building stock back into use.

The Town Centre First approach recognises the town centre's role at the core of a vibrant community. The approach prioritises to the regeneration of our towns and villages, using the Town Centre Health Check (TCHC) framework to gather data and lead actions. Where appropriate, public services like education, health and government offices should be located in town centres, adding to the overall mix of facilities, amenities and activities which are on offer.

When considering advancing local authority initiatives, and submitted development proposals, the Council will adopt the Town Centre First Approach in a manner consistent with the principles of compact growth and mixed-use development.

KCC aims to achieve this through consolidation, active land management, and by prioritising development on infill and brownfield sites. The LAP aims to facilitate a suitable mix of housing and supporting amenities, co-ordinated investment in infrastructure to support economic competitiveness and create an attractive, high-quality living and working environment. A tailored approach to urban development will be applied and linked to the emerging objectives and actions of **Housing for All** and to investment through

the **National Rural and Urban Regeneration and Development Funds**, with a particular focus on:

- Tackling vacancy, dereliction, and underutilisation of properties/land
- Encouraging a balance between employment and population growth
- Reversing the stagnation or decline of many smaller settlements, by identifying and establishing new roles and functions and enhancement of local infrastructure and amenities
- Addressing the legacy of rapid unplanned growth/edge of town growth, by facilitating amenities and services catch-up

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 **Residential Zoned Land Tax (RZLT)**.

The aim of the RZLT 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 suitable lands without planning permission to commence the process of engagement with planning authorities.

The KCDP in tandem with this LAP includes several specific actions to promote regeneration of the urban centres in order to develop attractive, liveable, well designed, high-quality urban places for people to live in, work in and visit. In addition, a reduction in development contributions shall apply to these sites/areas identified as in need of regeneration in accordance with Kerry Development Contributions Scheme 2017.

Objectives have also been included throughout the Plan to improve movement through towns and villages. This will be achieved through

the enhancement of pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and the development of amenity spaces for residents and visitors.

2.1.6 Overall Development Strategy

The strategy for the Plan area is dependent on the growth of the towns and villages identified in the settlement hierarchy of section 3.10.2 of the KCDP. The growth of settlements is dependent on attracting people by creating conditions that facilitate employment opportunities for people to work locally, thereby strengthening their urban structure and creating a demand to support local services. The importance of developing attractive settlements is therefore critical to attracting inward migration to the area. This is a major challenge for parts of the Plan area, particularly as some rural areas outside of settlements have continued to attract a strong demand for one off rural type housing. The impact of population declines and low growth rates for the main towns and villages and the longer term social, economic physical and environmental implications for the area are considered in this LAP.

Developing and sustaining a critical population mass is vital to the sustainability of the settlements. It is the aim of the Core and Settlement strategy as set out in Chapter 3 of the KCDP 2022-2028 to support the sustainable development of the Regional Towns and District Towns to meet their population targets.

Kenmare MD LAP area will be a place where:

- Emphasis is on the growth of the main settlements of **Cahersiveen, Kenmare** and **Killorglin**, and to a lesser extent **Sneem** and **Waterville**, as the principal locations for future investment in housing, employment, infrastructure, social and community facilities. (Development in Kenmare is subject to the construction of upgraded wastewater treatment facilities) The development of other settlements including **Glenbeigh, Kilgarvan** and **Beaufort** is restricted due to absence of adequate water and wastewater infrastructure

and plans for capital investment. In established settlements such as these where suitable lands exist, these lands have been identified for long-term residential use (zoned R4).

- Lands will be identified for **future development** that will meet the planned requirements for each main settlement and offer a reasonable choice of location to those intending on carrying out development.
- The role of the town/village centre is promoted as the preferred location for future residential and retail development. In line with this, priority will be given to the **regeneration and renewal** of the plan's towns, villages and small village settlements, in order to support vibrant and strengthened communities, and drivers of economic growth.
- Opportunities for **residential development** will be provided to cater for all sectoral demands in the MD settlements through the development of healthy built environments and sustainable neighbourhoods in support of climate action targets.
- Small scale residential **cluster developments** served by individual wastewater treatment units will be permitted in designated villages and smaller village settlements as set out under Table 5.1 of the KCDP.
- The LAP's intrinsic qualities, including social, recreational, cultural and environmental assets, combined with high quality employment opportunities will provide a unique location and quality of life for the residents and visitors.
- Rural depopulation will be countered through the provision of a **network of viable settlements** providing the services necessary to sustain the rural population.
- Easy access to high quality broadband will be available in all areas facilitating homeworking & development of co-working Hubs.

- The provision of **adequate water** and wastewater infrastructure will facilitate the sustainable development of settlements without adverse impact on the environment.
- The environment is adequately protected, including the landscape, ecology, water, air and soil qualities.
- The tourism product is fully nurtured and enabled to realise its **maximum potential**.
- Retail provision will be commensurate with the size of the settlement and the demand arising.
- The infrastructure, environment and the coordinated support of all actors for the creation of employment opportunities, particularly in indigenous creative and knowledge-based industries, will be a priority underpinning the future development of the area.
- The settlements of the area will act as the **focal point** for services serving their surrounding rural hinterland. The level of service provision will be commensurate with the size of settlement, infrastructural provision and demand from the rural hinterland served.
- The setting of the towns will be protected by preventing sprawling or sporadic development through maintaining areas of undeveloped lands on the edge of settlements.
- The rural policies of the KCDP will **strengthen rural communities** and preserve local cultural and social identity and heritage.

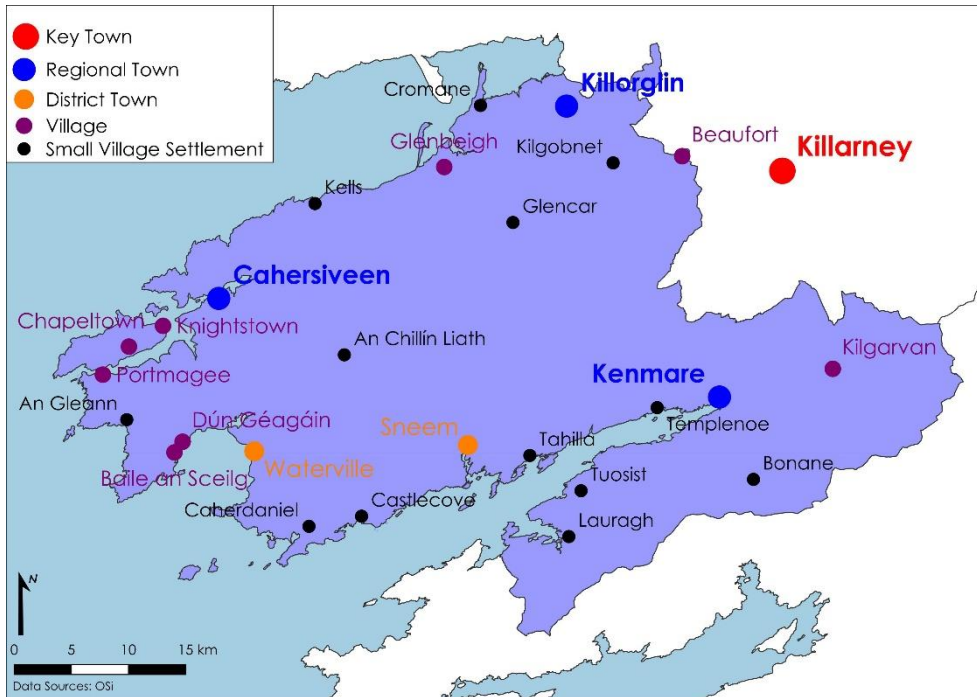


Figure 2.1: Kenmare MD Settlement Hierarchy

Overall Strategic Development Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 1	Provide an improved quality of life for all citizens of the Plan area by promoting the area's economic potential, protecting its natural and built environment and safeguarding its cultural heritage.
KENMD – 2	Support the strategic role of Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin as centres of economic growth and employment to act as catalysts for sustainable development within their hinterlands, in a manner which is in accordance with proper planning and sustainable development principles.
KENMD – 3	Prioritise the regeneration and renewal of the towns and villages in the Kenmare MD plan area to support vibrant and strengthened communities and drivers of economic growth. The renewal of underutilised buildings will be emphasised, while all new future residential and retail development in the towns/villages/small village settlements shall be on lands identified for such uses.

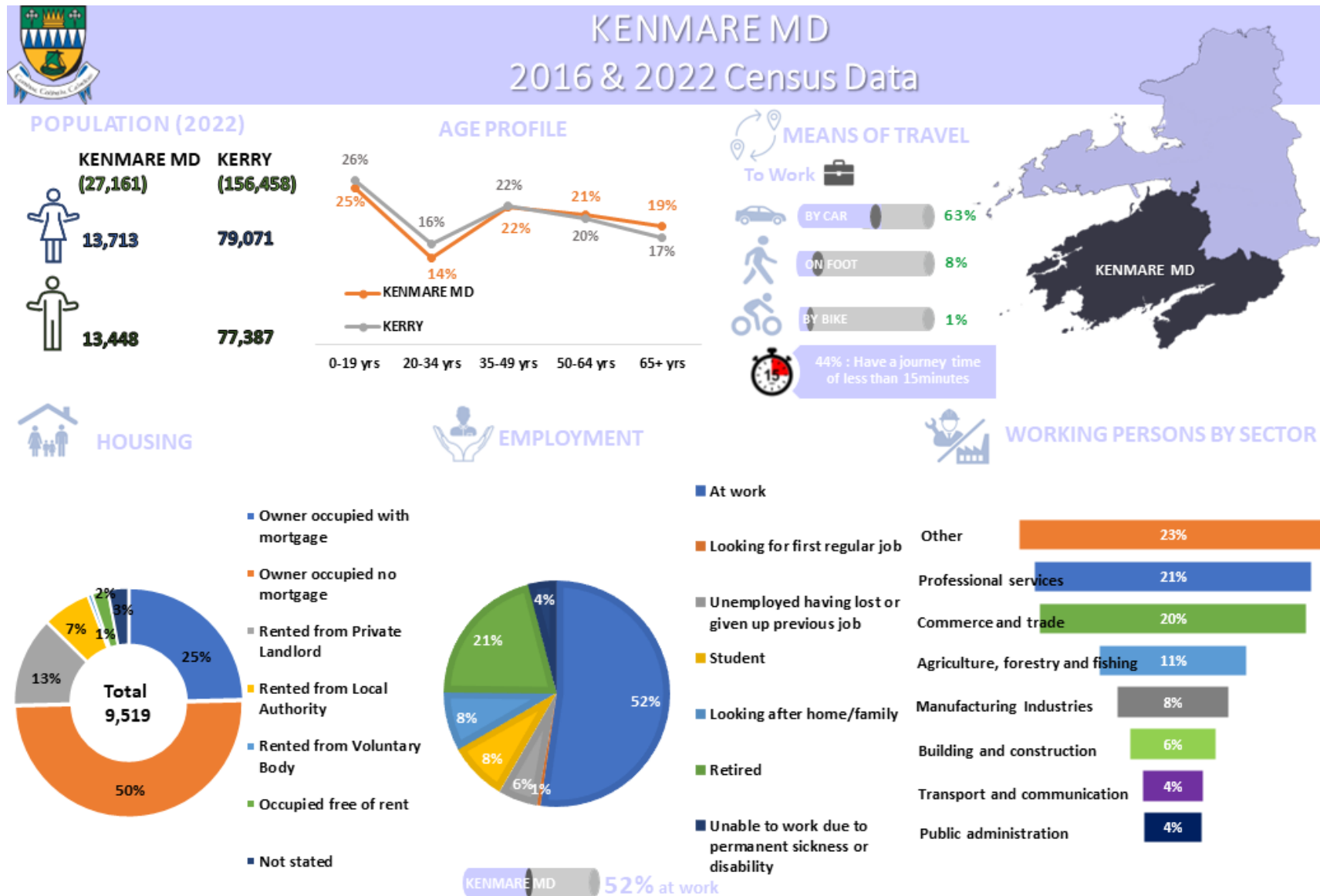


Figure 2.2: Kenmare MD- Key Statistics [Census 2016 & 2022]

2.2 Population

Census 2022 results indicate that the population of County Kerry has increased from 147,707 to 156,458, an increase of 5.9% and that the State recorded an overall increase of 8.1% over the same period. The population increase in Kerry indicates a positive trend compared to the previous intercensal period 2011-2016 where the population increased by 1.5%. However, the population increase is still one of the lowest population growths recorded in the state. The population increase between 2016 and 2022 is dispersed across the county. The more peripheral areas to the west and south-west of the county and parts of the north experienced population decline while the EDs adjacent to the towns of Tralee and Killarney, Kenmare and Killorglin experienced the highest levels of growth. Table 2.1 and Figure 2.4 highlight patterns of population change during the census periods.

The population of the Kenmare MD was recorded at 27,161 in 2022. This was a population increase of 8.4% on the 2016 figure which was recorded at 25,062. In comparison the Tralee MD saw the largest increase in population of all the MDs between 2016-2022, an increase of +8.7%. All MD's showed an increase in population over the census period (See Table 2.1).

MD	2011 Census	2016 Census	2022 Census	% Change 2016-2022
Kenmare	24,562	25,062	27,161	+8.4
Castleisland - Corca Dhuibhne	31,195	31,326	33,004	+5.4
Listowel	28,802	28,674	29,285	+2.1
Tralee	33,265	33,038	35,922	+8.7
Killarney	27,678	29,607	31,086	+5.0

Table 2.1: Population of MDs 2011-2022

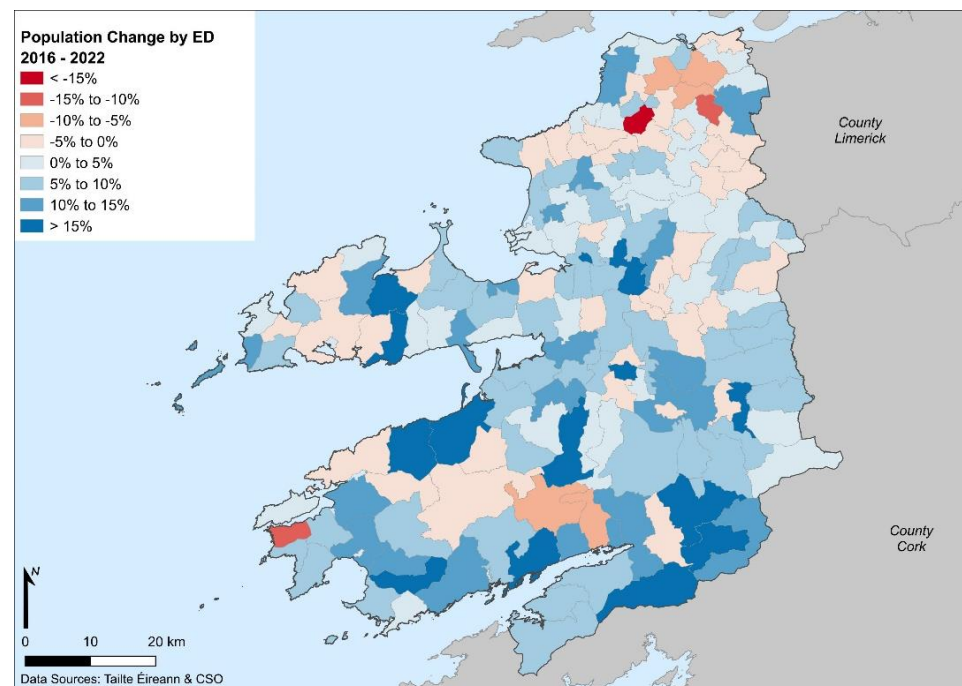


Figure 2.3: Population Change 2016-2022 (Census 2016 & 2022)

The 2022 census results recorded a usual resident population of 2,566 for Kenmare and 2,163 in Killorglin. The 2022 census recorded a population of 1,297 for Cahersiveen, making it the second smallest regional town in the County.

The regional towns provide important connections with adjoining regions and have the capacity and future growth potential to accommodate above average growth in tandem with the requisite investment in employment creation, services, amenities and sustainable transport. Outside the regional towns in the Plan area, the remaining settlements have small population bases.

There are significant differences between the populations of the regional towns of Kenmare, Killorglin and Cahersiveen and the

designated district towns of Sneem (population, 386) and Waterville (population, 555).

Settlement/Area	2011	2016	2022
Cahersiveen	1,168	1,041	1,297
Kenmare	2,175	2,376	2,566
Killorglin	2,082	2,199	2,163
Kenmare MD	24,562	25,062	27,161

Table 2.2: Population of Regional Towns/MD 2011-2022 (CSO)

ED (Electoral Division) with Key/Regional Town	2016	2022	2016-2022 Actual Change	2016-2022 % Change
Killorglin	4,355	4,670	315	7.2%
Kenmare	3,127	3,520	393	12.6%
Caher (Cahersiveen)	1,823	2,061	238	13.1%

Table 2.3 Population growth - Census 2022

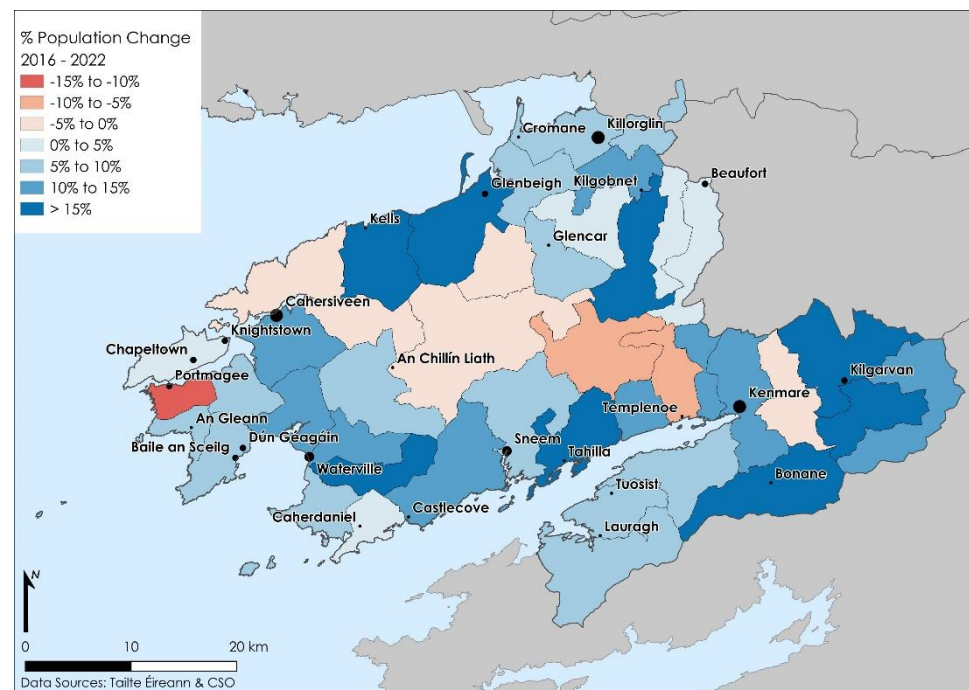


Figure 2.4: Population Change by Electoral Division 2016-2022

2.2.1 Housing Development 2012-2022

Comparative analysis of the GeoDirectory residential address database from 2012 - 2022 highlights the level of development in the Kenmare MD LAP area. The points shown on Figure 2.5 indicate the location of new residential development from 2012 – 2022. 914 additional points have been added in this 10-year period. The overwhelming majority 721 or 79% are located in the rural part of the plan area, that is, outside of the development boundary of the settlements. Therefore, a significant amount of rural development in the form of one-off rural housing has taken place within the Plan area.

2015-2022	Applications	Permitted Units	No. of Holiday Homes permitted change of use to permanent private residences.
Kenmare	34	53	29
Killorglin	8	172	
Cahersiveen	6	13	
Waterville	5	6	3
Knightstown	3	3	
Kilgarvan	2	9	
Sneem	2	8	
Beaufort	2	2	
Glenbeigh	2	2	
Portmagee	1	8	
Baile an Sceilg, Chapeltown, Dún Géagáin	0	0	
Small Village Settlements	5	5	
Rural	337	354	20
Total	407	635	52

Table 2.4 Residential units permitted 2015-2022

In the lifetime of the previous KCDP 2015-2021 (as extended), permission for 635 residential units have been granted in the plan area. Of these 280 units were granted in settlements, whilst 354 residential units were granted in the rural areas of the MD. Table 2.4 highlights the low number of residential units permitted in two of the designated regional towns - Kenmare and Cahersiveen. The absence of adequate wastewater in Kenmare has had a significant impact on the potential for development whilst issues such as population decline, and socio-economic conditions have impacted

development in Cahersiveen. Rural development outside of existing settlements will continue to weaken the attractiveness of these towns and villages to inward investment, future jobs and services. Unsustainable patterns of high rates of development in rural areas can also result in excessive car based commuting patterns in order to access employment, shops 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 variance with climate action policy which seeks to consolidate urban settlements. Consolidation will ensure protection of natural resources such as greenfield sites, water resources while allowing more combined public services like water & local transport initiatives.

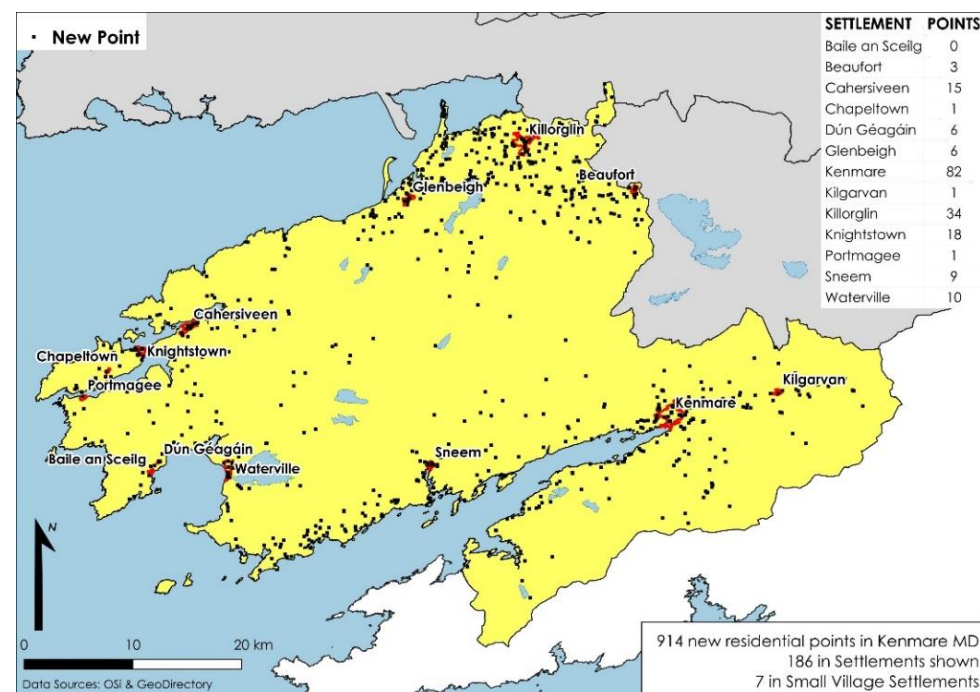


Figure 2.5: New Residential Geo-Directory Points 2012-2022

2.2.2 Population and Housing Targets

The population projections for County Kerry are set out in the Core and Settlement Strategy of the KCDP. The KCDP is aligned, in so far as is practicable, with the national and regional policy objectives set out in the NPF and RSES. The key towns of Tralee & Killarney are envisaged to be the focused engines of growth in County Kerry, supported by the regional towns of Listowel, Castleisland, Kenmare, Killorglin, Daingean Uí Chúis, Ballybunion, Cahersiveen and Milltown. Table 2.5 outlines the scale of growth predicated for individual settlements in Kenmare MD as provided for in the KCDP. Growth prediction for the villages is difficult due to their lower population base. Prescriptive growth figures can act at times as a barrier to development and often do not take account of historic obstacles to growth such as market inertia and lack of infrastructure.

Main Settlements	Housing Requirement
Cahersiveen	101
Kenmare	204
Killorglin	251
Sneem	21
Waterville	41

Table 2.5: KCDP 2022-2028 Core Strategy Table

2.3 Sustainable Land Use Development

2.3.1 Urban Renewal and Regeneration Areas

A principal focus of this Plan is to encourage re-development and renewal of town and village cores through various regeneration and renovation measures rather than continual expansion and sprawl of towns and villages out into the countryside. In line with this, the Plan has a target that at least 30% of new housing shall be delivered within the existing built-up fabric of Cahersiveen, Kenmare and Killorglin on infill and or brownfield sites.

The Plan identifies areas/streets and individual sites in need of renewal and regeneration. The main objective is to draw attention to opportunities that exist to redevelop key sites within the towns and villages where such sites have the potential to contribute to the rejuvenation of these settlements and act as a catalyst for other development.

Where regeneration areas/opportunity sites have been identified a reduction in development contribution levies will apply as per KCC Development Contributions Scheme 2017. Regeneration areas include derelict, vacant and underutilised buildings on streets, and brownfield sites and these have been identified in the relevant settlement chapters.

It is important to acknowledge that the redevelopment of brownfield sites is inherently more sustainable than the development of greenfield sites and should be encouraged. When discussing redevelopment proposals, it is important to address the potential of these sites for economic development and employment creation.

Vacancy and under-utilisation of urban building stock particularly affects Cahersiveen and Killorglin but is also a pervasive problem throughout the Plan area. Lack of occupancy results in unsustainable patterns of development and empty buildings run increased risk of dereliction and dilapidation. The Council will consider a reduction in open space and car parking standards in settlements for “living over the shop” accommodation proposals in designated Regeneration areas subject to protecting residential amenity, where considered appropriate by the Planning Authority.

2.3.2 Design Briefs

A number of Design Briefs have been prepared for undeveloped residential zoned, greenfield sites within the main settlements. These design briefs seek to provide a development framework for the sustainable, phased and integrated development of these residential and other zoned lands.

The Briefs establish the broad development principles for the areas and set out the general distribution of land uses, circulation systems and key access points. The Briefs also indicate how future land uses should integrate with surrounding development and provide for the future phasing of development.

The Briefs seek to demonstrate, whilst having regard to the existing site context and character, the following:

- Overall layout and distribution of uses and open space on the subject lands;
- Principal road infrastructure and access;
- Principal pedestrian and cycle routes and access;
- Improvements to existing road infrastructure; and
- Incorporation of existing features of biodiversity value (e.g hedgerows, trees, watercourses) & enhancement of biodiversity.

The delivery of the above infrastructure/principles are set out in the accompanying maps. The proposals contained in these Briefs have regard to the policies, objectives and standards contained in the Kenmare MD LAP and KCDP. The Briefs will be used as a tool for the co-ordinated delivery of development over the coming years. It will ensure that development is integrated and designed appropriately in accordance with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area. The Design Briefs propose forms of

development that seeks to protect existing residential amenity, protects significant features and heritage designations and seeks to provide open space in accordance with the LAP/KCDP.

Development management guidelines/standards are contained in Volume 6 of the KCDP while, policies and objectives in respect of placemaking is detailed in Chapter 4 Towns & Villages of the KCDP.

2.4 Rural Areas

The NPF-Ireland 2040 states that the open countryside is and should continue to be a living and lived in landscape focusing on the requirements of rural economies and rural communities, based on agriculture, forestry, tourism and rural enterprise, while at the same time avoiding ribbon and over-spill development from urban areas and protecting environmental qualities.

The Plan area is served by the N70, N71 and N72 National Secondary routes, a number of regional roads and an extensive network of local roads. It is important that any development in the rural area is acceptable in terms of traffic safety and does not impact negatively on the carrying capacity and general safety of public roads in accordance with Section 14.4 of the KCDP.

2.4.1 Rural Area Types¹

The Rural Area types have been identified in Chapter 5 of the KCDP 2022-2028. The MD Area is generally characterised by both *rural areas under significant urban influence* and *rural areas under Urban Influence*. The environs and rural areas surrounding the regional towns are under urban influence. The current level and pattern of development in these rural areas is unsustainable. The cumulative impact of development in the countryside has the potential to reduce its value as a regional asset by damaging the landscape,

¹ See section 5.5 of Vol 1 of the Kerry County Development Plan for Rural Area Type definition.

water quality, biodiversity interests and creating additional and unnecessary problems for the supply of infrastructure and services and to increase car dependency and high energy use.

The Council will endeavour to accommodate genuine rural-generated housing in the area it arises and to accommodate urban-generated housing within the development boundary of all towns and villages, in accordance with Chapter 5, Settlement Strategy, of the KCDP.

2.5 Sustainable Communities

The Council recognises that the proper provision of community and social infrastructure of a high standard, in the most appropriate locations and in tandem with housing and other development is important for all ages and abilities in society and is an essential component of building sustainable and properly planned communities.

The Council is supportive of the strong interagency and community framework that exists in the County, including the Local Community Development Committee and the Public Participation Network. It is influenced by the broad policy areas already developed in relation to Healthy Ireland, the Age Friendly, Disability and Minority Group Programmes as well as the National Health & Educational policies.

The Healthy Kerry Framework 2021-2027 outlines a vision where everyone in the county can enjoy physical and mental health and wellbeing to their full potential, where wellbeing is valued and supported at every level of society and is everyone's responsibility. Three strategy pillars in the Healthy Kerry Plan 2019 have the potential to positively impact on the health and wellbeing of people in Kerry which includes the Community-led Healthy Towns and Villages initiative.

KCC will work in partnership with the education/health sector, communities and other agencies to implement the objectives of this

Plan and develop facilities in key locations in the Plan area, where possible. In identifying potential sites for such facilities, the following should be taken into account: - environmental constraints, active travel facilitation, settlement and community vibrancy. KCC assists people in the provision of suitable accommodation for those 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.

The Plan supports the (preparation of) Kerry Migrant Integration Strategy 2023 which aims at improving the quality of life of immigrants and supports the integration of immigrants into the community.

2.5.2 Children and Young People

The Council recognises the need to maximise opportunities for leisure and recreational facilities for children/youths at appropriate locations. Public realm improvements can result in town centres becoming attractive places to younger generations.

The KCDP supports policies to address the play and recreation needs of children and young people, with specific consideration given to the needs of children and young adults with disabilities.

Sustainable Communities Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD - 4	Support local sports groups, community groups and other groups in the development of facilities, at appropriate locations, throughout the Plan area.

KENMD - 5	Support the provision of multi-use/purpose Community Facilities which encourage sharing amongst community groups and are designed for multi-use activities and future sharing.
KENMD - 6	Support the (preparation of) the Kerry Migrant Integration Strategy 2023.
KENMD - 7	Facilitate the sustainable provision of a new burial ground at Churchtown, Beaufort and the extension of existing cemeteries as appropriate.
KENMD - 8	Facilitate the provision of playgrounds and other quality services at appropriate locations.
KENMD-9	Provide safe and welcoming “hangout” spaces for children and young people, at appropriate locations.
KENMD-10	Increase the participation of children and young people in service opportunities.
KENMD-11	Provide opportunities for children and young people to belong to and contribute within their communities of interest.
KENMD-12	Implement the recommendations of the Healthy Kerry Framework & Kerry Play and Leisure Policy in conjunction with all relevant agencies.

2.6 Gaeltacht Areas, Culture & Heritage

2.6.1 Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthach

Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthach covers an extensive area within the central part of the MD Area. This constitutes an important part of the linguistic, social, and cultural tradition of the county. Every effort must be made to preserve, maintain and promote Gaeltacht traditions. The cultural heritage of the Iveragh peninsula area is very strong. Its landscape, folklore, historic, archaeological, musical, linguistic and literary diversity gives the area a unique character and sense of identity. In particular, the area is identified with its linguistic heritage, being one of the remaining areas in the Country where the Irish language is spoken.

This LAP seeks to augment the use of the Irish language within the Gaeltacht area, and this is further supported by Objective KCDP 8-8 of the KCDP which states that a minimum of 66% of Housing Developments on R1 and R4 zoned lands within the Gaeltacht areas shall be reserved for Irish Speakers.



Figure 2.6: View of Derrynane Beach [Within Gaeltacht]

The extent of the Gaeltacht area is shown on Figure 2.7; however, the daily use of the language is declining. The protection of the Irish language is of national importance and crucial to our national identity. The main factors to be considered in its preservation (within the context of this land use plan) are demographics, economic factors, facilities, and infrastructure. It is critically important that people have opportunities available to them to use Irish daily in the community outside of the education system.

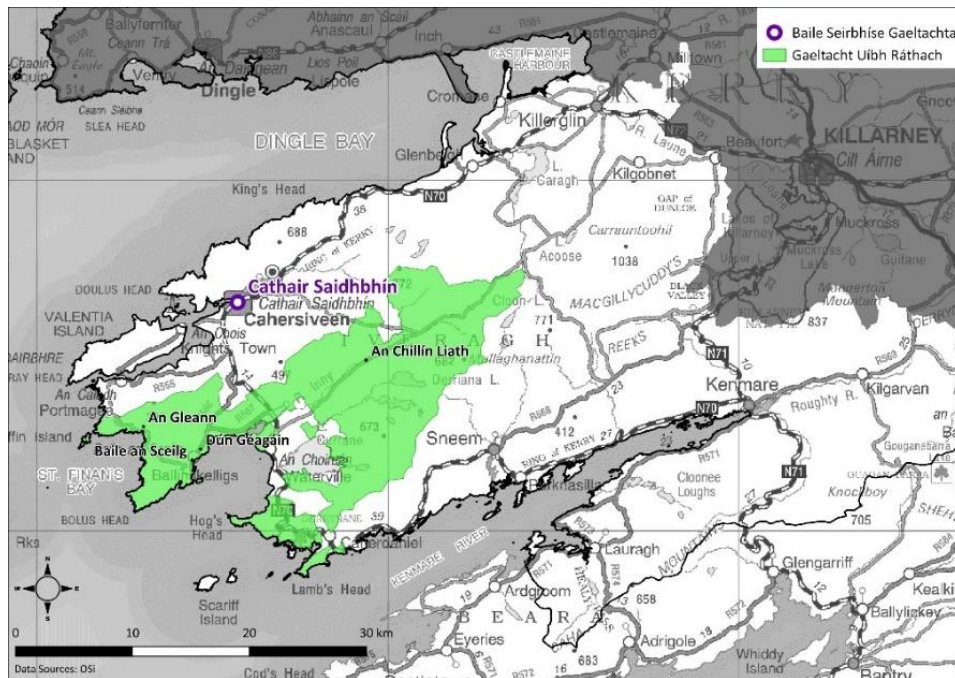


Figure 2.7: Gaeltacht Uíbh Ráthach

2.6.1.1 Language Planning

The importance of the language planning process, prescribed under Acht na Gaeltachta 2012, is emphasised in the NPF. KCC acknowledges the importance of the Irish language as the vernacular of the Gaeltacht, for the need to preserve and promote it as a living daily-use language and for the promotion of the

language outside the Gaeltacht. The development of a vibrant sustainable communities in Gaeltacht areas, based on its linguistic and cultural heritage, is of utmost importance. Gaeltacht communities will be supported in order to strengthen and expand the social networks that nourish Irish as the community language.

The Council therefore is committed to actively supporting and facilitating the implementation of language plans in Gaeltacht Language Planning Areas, and in Bailte Seirbhíse Gaeltachta (BSG). It is the policy of KCC to support and promote Brí Uíbh Ráthaigh–Plean Teanga Chiarraí Theas 2019-2026, (Language Plan for South Kerry). There are three Bailte Seirbhíse Gaeltachta (BSG) designated in the county, Cahersiveen has been designated as one of these, and a language plan was recently launched (June 2023) for the town. It is recognised that towns such as Cahersiveen situated adjacent to a Gaeltacht Language Planning Area have a significant role in providing public services, recreational, social, and commercial facilities for the Gaeltacht area. KCC will continue to promote the use of the language in everyday life and business while promoting traditional Irish signage on all shopfronts, advertising, housing estate names/plaques etc.

There are significant development pressures, both in relation to holiday homes and permanent homes in the plan area due to its high visual quality and amenity value. The pressures of such development and associated migration of non-Irish speakers have the potential to affect the viability of the Irish language. The Council through its rural housing policy supports those who speak the language with a housing need to reside in the Gaeltacht as set out in Chapter 5 of the KCDP. In addition, the Council will support and facilitate the sustainable provision of facilities for the teaching / learning of the Irish language and for the production of traditional entertainment and the presentation of culture through the medium of Irish.

The Council will support Coiste Forbartha na Sceilge & Údarás na Gaeltachta in the pilot project for the provision of sustainable accommodation in the Gaeltacht settlements of Baile an Sceilg, Dún Géagáin, An Gleann and Chillín Liath.

2.6.1.2 Uíbh Ráthach Task Force

The Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht Interagency Taskforce published an integrated cross sectoral regeneration plan for the region in July 2019 with the focus on employment and quality of life. The plan seeks to create 145 full-time jobs and a 3% increase in population with a focus on developing innovations in alternative farm enterprises, the development of a digital hub and an increase in tourist visitors. The report also targets a 5% increase in daily Irish speakers and the re-establishment of an Irish language summer college, in order to combat falling levels of spoken Irish in the area. This Plan supports the ambitions of the Uíbh Ráthach Task Force and any reports/plans/actions that they promote in keeping with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.

For further information also see the KCDP 2022-2028, specifically Chapter 8, which deals comprehensively with the Gaeltacht area.

Gaeltacht Areas Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 13	Promote and develop the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht as a centre of linguistic and cultural heritage in tandem with policies that will encourage sustainable economic development in order to ensure vibrant communities.
KENMD – 14	Facilitate and support Language Plans - Brí Uíbh Ráthaigh–Plean Teanga Chiarraí Theas 2019-2026,

	(Language Plan for South Kerry) and the language plan for Cahersiveen, a designated Baile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta, to achieve their target of increasing the number of daily Irish Speakers.
KENMD – 15	Encourage the sustainable provision of facilities for the teaching / learning of the Irish language and for the production of traditional entertainment and the presentation of culture through the medium of Irish.
KENMD – 16	Encourage the sustainable development of Irish Language schools/Coláiste Samhraidh in the area, at an appropriate location.
KENMD – 17	Support the development of Irish Language Tourism in the Uíbh Ráthach Gaeltacht.
KENMD – 18	Support the Uíbh Ráthach Task Force and any reports/plans/actions that they promote in keeping with the principles of proper planning and sustainable development.
KENMD-19	Support Údarás na Gaeltachta & Coiste Forbartha na Sceilge in relation to projects for the provision of sustainable accommodation projects with the Gaeltacht settlements of Baile an Sceilg and Dún Géagáin.

2.6.2 Culture & Heritage

The Plan area has a vibrant living culture that is engrained in the local community, this includes the Irish language, a wealth of heritage and traditional arts, design & crafts as well as contemporary arts practice, across disciplines. 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 Kenmare MD area in terms of employment, economic and local enterprise. The Council will ensure that this potential is maximised to ensure that arts/heritage will play a central role in the development of the town and villages of the area.

KCC will work in partnership with the education sector communities and other agencies to develop creativity and cultural hubs in key locations in the Kenmare MD plan area, where possible.

2.6.2.1 Heritage and Culturally Sensitive Areas [H & CSA]

The Planning Authority have identified two Heritage and culturally sensitive areas. These areas are indicated on maps Area 1 & 2 - see below). In the preparation of designations for these areas, the Planning Authority has had regard to the character and setting of the physical elements of the UNESCO Transatlantic Cable Project, protected buildings and ACA's, but also the level of existing development and the ability of the area to absorb further development without altering it to an unacceptable degree. The Council will seek to ensure that a balance is achieved between the protection of these sensitive areas and the appropriate socioeconomic development of these areas. Development is not precluded in these areas; however, development proposals will be required to demonstrate that they integrate and respect the built heritage of the areas.

Notwithstanding the designation of a site, where infrastructure is proposed by the Local Authority or another prescribed body, these works will be considered on their own merits on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the proper planning & development of the area.

For additional policies and objectives regarding the Valentia Transatlantic Cable UNESCO Project see Sections 3.4.7.4.

Culture & Heritage Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 20	Work in partnership with the education sector, communities and other agencies to sustainably develop creativity and cultural hubs in key locations in the plan area, where possible.
KENMD – 21	Work with local landowners, the OPW, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht & local development companies, to provide improved access and visitor facilities at appropriate sites, subject to environmental assessment.
KENMD – 22	Assist local communities in efforts to develop sustainable heritage-based tourism projects & provide access to and interpretation of important archaeological monuments & landscapes such as Cill Buaine and An Gleann.
KENMD – 23	Ensure that all development proposals located within Heritage and Culturally Sensitive Areas demonstrate that they integrate and respect the character and setting of the heritage of the area.



Figure 2.8: Area 01 Knightstown H & CSA

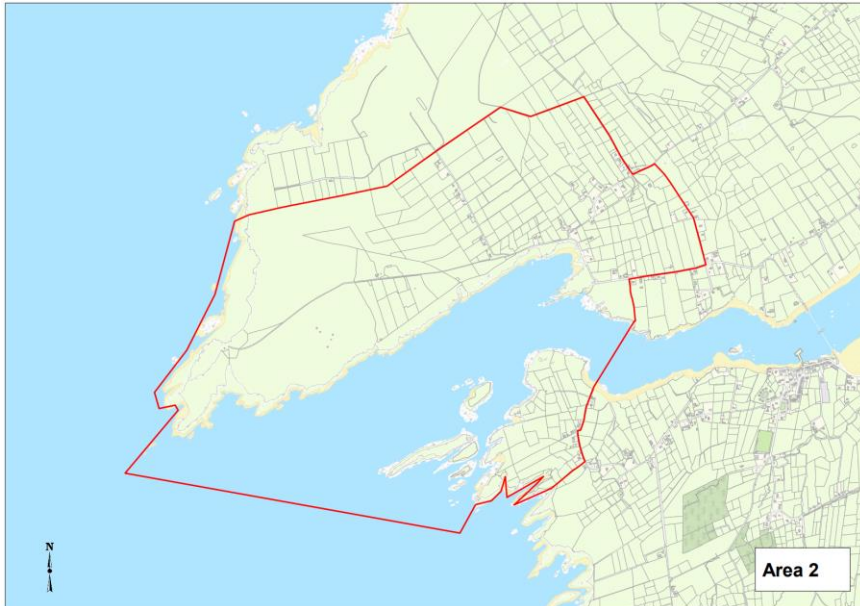


Figure 2.9: Area 02 Telegraph Field H & CSA

2.6.2.2 Built Heritage

The built heritage of the Plan area refers to the Record of Protected Structures (RPS) and ACAs. Where relevant, the special aspects of a settlement's built heritage have been highlighted in the LAP. There are seven ACAs in the Kenmare MD area. These are listed in Volume 3 of the KCDP.

2.6.2.3 Significant Heritage Projects

Valentia Transatlantic Cable UNESCO Project

Valentia Transatlantic Cable Foundation has sought UNESCO World Heritage site status for the cable station and associated buildings. It has been confirmed that the Valentia Transatlantic Cable project has been added to the World Heritage Tentative List for Ireland. This announcement is an important next step for the Cable Foundation. The application for UNESCO World Heritage status is fully supported by KCC, who will work closely with the Valentia Island Development Company, Valentia Island Trans-Atlantic Cable Foundation, and the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and other state agencies and institutions in Ireland and abroad to achieve this goal.

In addition, an ACA that includes the three main sites associated with the history of the Trans-Atlantic Cable has been included in the KCDP. This ACA seeks to preserve the character of the place that contributes to the appreciation of the protected structures. For 100 years, the Valentia Cable Station was the hub of transatlantic communication. The Cable Station and slate yard in Knightstown are of enormous national and international heritage value in terms of their industrial archaeology, history, and contribution to mankind's technological progress.

It is an objective of the Planning Authority (Objective KCDP 8-51 of Chapter 8) to support and encourage measures to secure the designation of Valentia cable station and associated features as a

UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also included as a project in the County Kerry Tourism Strategy and Action Plan 2016-2022.

Funding has been awarded to the Valentia Trans-Atlantic Cable Station as part of the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund. This project will restore the Valentia Trans-Atlantic Cable Station. A museum, 'Eighth Wonder' is a new interactive installation that has been developed on the history of the trans-Atlantic cable at the Valentia Cable Station. An Innovation Hub, led by Trinity College's Internet of Things testbed, 'Pervasive Nation' is proposed on the first floor, befitting Valentia's "first mover" role in global communications.

Bray Head Project

The Bray Head Project is a Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way. The site is occupied by a Napoleonic-era signal tower, constructed between 1804 and 1806 and is one of four such towers along the Co. Kerry coast. The area around the Signal Tower offers panoramic views of the Valentia Island Cliffs, the Skellig Islands (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the north-western part of the Iveragh Peninsula.

Planning consent has been granted to conserve the building and to develop a viewing area within the walled site of the signal tower. The development will involve the construction of a rooftop viewing area within the signal tower itself which will be accessed via an internal staircase. The rooftop viewing area will provide visitors with a 'watch-tower' experience. The development is supported by Fáilte Ireland and KCC.

2.6.2.4 Archaeological Heritage

The archaeological and architectural heritage of the Plan area is a unique and special resource, which forms a distinctive element of the landscape and local historical identity. The Plan areas' attractive streetscapes, built fabric, archaeological structures and monuments

contribute to the historic character and appeal of its settlements and rural areas.

2.6.2.4.1 Recorded Archaeological Monuments

Recorded archaeological monuments are those monuments and features listed in either the Record of Monuments & Places (RMP) or Sites & Monuments Record (SMR). All these monuments and their zones of archaeological potential/notification, as shown on the RMP and SMR constraints maps, are protected under the terms of the National Monuments Acts 1930-2004. These recorded monuments include a number that have been afforded special protection by being in the ownership or guardianship of the state. The details of these monuments are available at <https://www.archaeology.ie/sites/default/files/media/pdf/monuments-in-state-care-kerry.pdf>. The Plan area contains the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Sceilg Mhichíl and Staigue Fort, which is one of three monuments in the county included in the Western Stone Forts nomination on Ireland's 'Tentative Listing'.

Proposals to develop any lands within or adjacent to the zone of archaeological potential/notification as shown on the RMP or SMR will be subject to a full archaeological impact assessment which may include pre-development archaeological testing and may lead to further mitigation/assessment including further test excavations, full excavation, buffer zones or a re-design.

Where appropriate, it is the intention of the KCC to work with local landowners, the OPW, Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht and local development companies, to provide improved access and visitor facilities at National Monument sites. Improved access will not be facilitated where undue impact on (built, cultural or natural) heritage could result.

2.6.2.4.2 Archaeological Landscapes

Given the richness of the archaeological heritage of the county it is of little surprise that there are many very significant archaeological landscapes around the county. The Kenmare MD is extraordinarily rich in upstanding, extant remains, particularly relating to the Bronze Age and Early Medieval period.

Nine Archaeological Landscapes as contained in the KCDP are found in the Plan area (see full details in Vol 3 of the KCDP). These landscapes are of regional, national and in some cases international significance, and every effort should be made to ensure their protection and preservation but also their visual aspect and monument inter-visibility.

In addition to the objectives set out in this Plan, objectives in relation to built and archaeological heritage as set out in Chapter 8 of the KCDP should be referred to when considering development proposals which may have the potential to impact on the integrity of such heritage.

2.6.2.4.3 Stone Walls

Stone walls are part of our tangible and intangible cultural heritage. They are a link to the past and contribute to an area's built, natural and geological heritage. They embody vernacular craft and traditional building skills, and their visual impact contributes positively to the character of our landscape. They include farm walls, landed estate walls, historic enclosures and graveyards. They form the edges to our country roads and define approaches to towns and villages. In recognition of their contribution to our quality of life, as well as their embodied energy, the Council aims to protect these walls and support owners in their retention and preservation.

Built Heritage Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 24	Facilitate the sustainable development of Bray Head Tower as a Discovery Point on the Wild Atlantic Way.
KENMD – 25	Support the designation of the Valentia Cable Sites as an UNESCO World Heritage Site.
KENMD – 26	Facilitate and support the conservation and presentation of the key cable sites at the old Slate Yard and 'First Message' & 'Telegraph Field' sites in accordance with Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht and UNESCO guidance.
KENMD-27	Protect, preserve and promote the archaeological value of underwater sites in Kenmare's riverine, intertidal and subtidal environments.

2.7 Economic Development

2.7.1 Knowledge Economy

The Council recognises the importance of the link between industry and higher education in providing for the economic and social wellbeing of the county's population.

The **Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle** is partly located within the Kenmare MD LAP area. The Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle is recognised as an innovative economic hub within the established network of Killorglin, Tralee, Killarney and the AEC. The RSES recognises the important economic role of Killorglin in this network and its strong association with Tralee, Killarney and third level institutions. It is an objective of the Council, as set out in Chapter 9 of the KCDDP, to support the further development of the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle and its potential to create substantial economic benefit to the County.

The development of a knowledge-based economy is dependent on a large number of sectors interacting in a focused manner to achieve the conditions for growth. The knowledge-based industries located within the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle are extensive and include computer technology, life sciences, research and development, high-tech manufacturing, communications, business, finance, insurance and other market services. High skilled individuals are attracted together, as firms' 'agglomerate' in the larger skilled labour markets found in the Kerry Hub and Knowledge Triangle (Tralee, Killarney and Killorglin).

The **Skellig Centre for Research and Innovation (Skellig CRI)** is a unique higher education and community development partnership between KCC, University College Cork (UCC), South Kerry Development Partnership (SKDP) and the local community. The Centre is based locally in Cahersiveen Library and facilitates the delivery of higher education programmes, research and practice locally in the Skellig Coast region. It promotes local level collaboration with national and international research communities, emulating, in a local context, the impact of a third level institution on a community.

2.7.2 Economic Profile

Table 2.6 shows the percentage of the workforce living in the LAP area by employment sector compared to the county and MDs. There are a total of 10,561 jobs within the MD with the primary locations of employments being Kenmare, Killorglin and Cahersiveen.

	Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing	Building & Construction	Manufacturing Industries	Commerce & Trade	Transport & Communications	Public Administration	Professional Services	Other	Total
Kerry	4,913	3,439	6,643	12,527	2,761	2,951	13,845	14,143	61,222
Kenmare MD	1,192	682	886	2,152	474	467	2,232	2,476	10,561
Kenmare	20	48	64	204	53	43	197	386	1,015
Killorglin	30	56	99	266	49	37	183	218	938
Cahersiveen	17	24	45	88	15	23	94	94	400
Waterville	5	12	10	35	9	6	25	79	181
Glenbeigh	4	5	12	32	7	6	29	32	127
Sneem	6	3	5	19	11	1	23	57	125
Beaufort	2	4	9	32	5	9	30	23	114
Knightstown	1	4	13	15	11	11	30	13	98
Kilgarvan	9	8	4	15	5	6	21	19	87
Portmagee	5	0	4	11	2	1	11	17	51
Remaining MD Area	1,093	518	621	1,435	307	324	1,589		7,425

Table 2.6 Key Sectors of Employment

2.7.3 Agriculture, Forestry & Fishing Industries

KCC recognises the important employment role played by agriculture, forestry and fishing within the Kenmare MD, with 1,082 jobs employed in these sectors. Kenmare MD has a higher percentage of people working in both the traditional sectors of agricultural/forestry/fishing (11%) compared to the county average of 8%. KCC is committed to supporting the growth and sustainable development of these employment sectors. It is the policy of the Council to support and promote the sustainable development of the marine/aquaculture sector in order to maximise its contribution to employment and growth in coastal communities and the economic wellbeing of the area.

2.7.4 Extractive Industry

KCC recognises the importance of the existing extractive industry as a key component of the local economy through employment provision and provision of raw materials. Chapter 9 of the KCDP sets out the appropriate policies and objectives that support the sustainable development of the extractive industry.

Economic development objectives as set out in Chapter 9 of the KCDP 2022-2028 should be referred to when considering development proposals in this Plan area.

2.8 Tourism & Outdoor Recreation

The Plan area has attractive towns, a fantastic natural environment and is an outdoor enthusiast's paradise. Its famous attractions include the internationally renowned Ring of Kerry driving route, Gap of Dunloe, Killarney National Park, Valentia Island and Sceilg Mhichíl which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Derrynane House and National Historic Park, the birthplace of Daniel O'Connell, are located outside Caherdaniel. There are also superb beaches with Kells, White Strand, Ballinskelligs, Derrynane and Rossbeigh all having Blue Flags. The internationally renowned championship Waterville golf course is a huge draw for international golfers.

The Plan area is host to spectacular mountain ranges including the MacGillycuddy's Reeks and boasts the Country's highest mountain peak at Carrauntoohil, which attracts mountaineers from all over. The plan area has several designated walking and cycling routes including *The Kerry Way* with a variety of agencies involved in developing additional routes.

Water based sports such as kayaking, and canoeing are popular in the area. Cappanalea, a public outdoor Education and Training centre is based outside Killorglin. Given the association of the sea and lakes with the area, there is the potential to develop Blueways in the area. Blueways are a network of multi-activity recreational trails, based on or alongside idyllic lakes, canals and rivers in Ireland. They provide scenic routes into the heart of rural Ireland by canoe, bike or on foot.

Continued investments over recent years in infrastructure, people and attractions have added to the competitiveness of the region internationally for tourists. Future major infrastructural projects committed to by the Local Authority include the impending development of the approved recreational greenway between Cahersiveen and Glenbeigh, which when completed will bring significant year-round benefits to the area. Section 2.8.5 outlines in more detail the South Kerry Greenway, which will be a very important asset to the area when developed.

Locations with specific niche products can establish and position themselves, as niche tourism destinations such as adventure tourism based on the natural environment or fishing/angling on the River Laune and in Waterville for example. Inland freshwater fisheries and sea angling provides a valuable natural tourism and amenity resource in the area. Angling is uniquely placed to provide benefit across economically challenged areas because of its comprehensive geography and seasonal coverage. Further investment in sustainable future fisheries development has the

potential to significantly contribute to increased tourism days and spend in the area. Hiking, walking, cycling, wildlife and water-based leisure as recreational activities continue to grow and are developing as an important part of Kerry’s tourism product. The Kenmare MD area is well placed to take advantage of this tourist market.

The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland’s first long distance driving tourist route and stretches for almost 2,500km from Donegal to West Cork. It follows the coastline and showcases the best views and experiences that Ireland’s Atlantic coast has to offer (See Section 2.8.2 for more details).

Seasonality, access, visitor experience and price remain key considerations. The importance of building a sustainable tourism future that emphasises the significance of taking particular care of the natural and built environment and one that also supports and nurtures the cultural and linguistic heritage in such a way that these elements continue to prosper in a sustainable manner is enshrined in the Kerry County Tourism Strategy ‘*Tourism Strategy and Action Plan*’ adopted by the Local Authority in 2016. Kenmare MD needs to attract visitors throughout the year and disperse them geographically around the area.

KCC supports the designation of the Greater Skellig Coast as Ireland’s first ‘Hope Spot’. Hope Spots are places that are scientifically identified as critical to the health of the ocean. <https://fairseas.ie/2023/01/30/the-greater-skellig-coast-hope-spot/>



Figure 2.10: Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Plan

Tourism & Outdoor Recreation Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 28	Facilitate where appropriate the development of projects listed in the ‘Skellig Coast Visitor Experience Development Plan’.

Tourism objectives as set out in Chapter 10 of the KCDP 2022-2028 should be referred to when considering development proposals in this Plan area.

2.8.1 Holiday Homes/Second Homes

The Kenmare MD, with its rugged coastline and internationally renowned scenery, is a popular tourist destination with both domestic and international visitors. Many Electoral Districts in Kenmare M.D. particularly in coastal areas including Valentia, Baile an Sceilg, Waterville, Castlecove, Rossbeigh/Glenbeigh and Cromane contain significant numbers of holiday homes/second homes. In some of these areas over 50% of the residential stock comprises holiday homes/second homes. The issue of holiday homes is an issue for both the rural areas and settlements, particularly Kenmare, Sneem, Glenbeigh and Knightstown.

It is clear from the 2022 Census that the level of holiday homes in some areas far exceeds the local indigenous population. The overall result of this sporadic one-off development is an incremental deterioration of the visual landscape and in some cases, wider environmental qualities. Holiday homes can, at times, have a negative impact on the vitality of a community and on housing options for local people.

Figure 2.11 indicates the high level of holiday homes as a percentage of the housing stock that exists in the Plan area. In order to underpin the basis for sustainable long-term economic development of the county, particularly in the rural areas, holiday home developments shall be concentrated in existing towns, villages and settlements, where appropriate. Holiday homes however will not be permitted on any residential zoned lands.

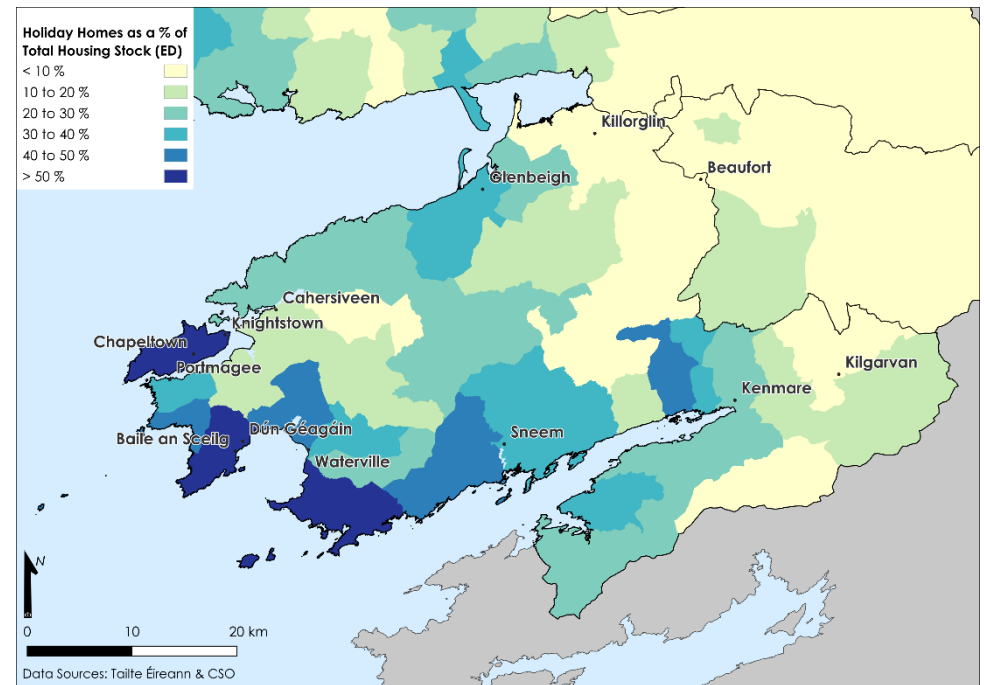


Figure 2.11: Holiday Homes as a % of Total Housing Stock [CSO 2016]

2.8.2 Wild Atlantic Way [WAW]

The Wild Atlantic Way is Ireland's first long-distance touring route, stretching along the Atlantic coast from Donegal to West Cork. The overall aim of the project is to develop a long-distance touring route that will achieve greater visibility for the west coast of Ireland in overseas tourist markets. It is an over-arching brand which individual destinations and businesses can trade collectively with much greater potential visibility and clarity of message in the international marketplace.

Over 450km of the 2,500km route (20%) is located in County Kerry. Of this, a significant section of the route in Kerry is within the Kenmare MD, making the WAW an important tourism asset to the area. Along

the route a number of Discovery Points have been identified, consisting of viewing points and lay-bys. These are as follows:

- Rossbeigh Beach
- Killmakillage
- Geokaun Mountain
- Bray Head
- Kerry Cliffs
- Coomanaspic
- Bá na Scealg
- Com an Chiste
- Teach Dhoire Fhíonáin
- Sceilig Mhichíl (Signature Discovery Point)

As such, they are intended to simply provide visitors with a viewing opportunity as they travel along the route, and also as a device to entice visitors to the more remote and peripheral areas of the coast, thus potentially increasing overnight stays. The coastal component of the internationally renowned Ring of Kerry forms part of the WAW. The Council will seek to develop additional viewing points at suitable locations along the route.

Recreational and amenity facilities must be developed and managed in a sustainable manner to ensure the quality of the underlying environment is not unduly compromised. This includes the protection of the natural environment. Issues to be considered include the potential for wildlife disturbance (light, noise etc), trampling and erosion of sensitive vegetation / soils and the potential for the introduction / spread of invasive introduced species. As noted earlier, biodiversity loss is a rapidly growing trend. This plan aims to support the protection and/or enhancement of local biodiversity features within both urban and rural areas.

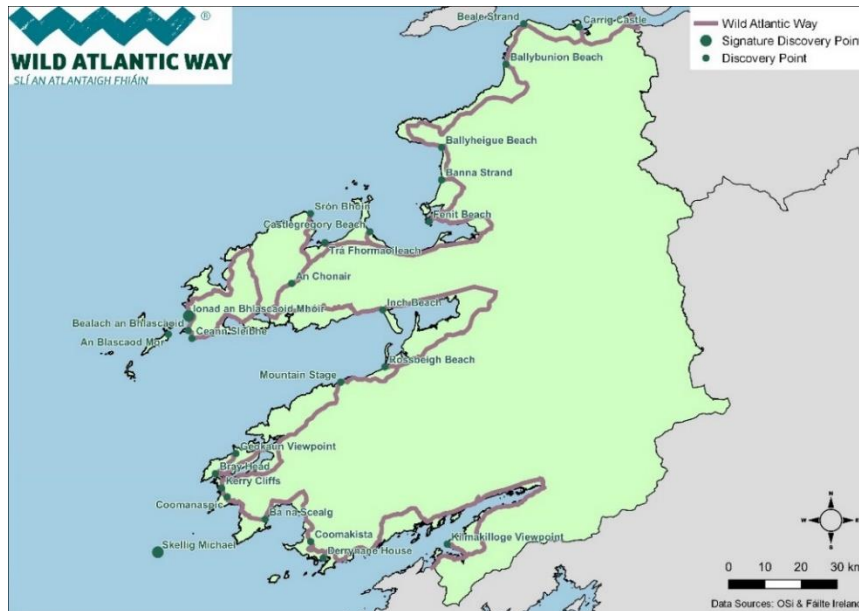


Figure 2.12: Wild Atlantic Way

Wild Atlantic Way [WAW] Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 29	Work with Fáilte Ireland, for the sustainable further enhancement and promotion of the Wild Atlantic Way touring route.
KENMD – 30	Facilitate the sustainable development of viewing points and other facilities along the Wild Atlantic Way at appropriate locations.

2.8.3 Dark Skies & Astro-Tourism

International Dark Sky Reserves (www.darksky.org) are areas recognised as possessing an exceptional or distinguished quality of stary nights and nocturnal environment specifically protected for scientific, natural, educational, cultural, heritage or public enjoyment. The Kerry International Dark-Sky Reserve measures approximately 700 km² and includes Kells, Cahersiveen, Portmagee, Valentia Island, The Glen, Ballinskelligs, Waterville and Caherdaniel.

Dark Skies & Astro-Tourism Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 31	(a) Support Astro tourism and archaeo-astronomy initiatives to leverage the economic benefits of the International Gold Tier Dark Sky Reserve Designation for the region. (b) Require that all new external lights within the International Dark Sky Reserve should be dark sky compliant e.g. LED lamps at the red end of the spectrum (2,700-3,500K) classed as 'warm white light'. In Bat sensitive areas, regard should also be had to the Bat Conservation Trust 2018 Guideline Note 08/18.
KENMD – 32	Facilitate the sustainable development of the Kerry Mobile Observatory, including making provision for its siting in designated car parks and lay-bys, as a shared community tourism and educational resource in the Dark Sky Reserve in the short term and a permanent planetarium in Cahersiveen in the longer term & encourage the establishment of other observatories across the area.
KENMD – 33	Facilitate and support the sustainable development of an Observatory at Kerry College's Cappanalea Centre subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites.
KENMD – 34	Seek the doubling in size of the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve from Blackwater Bridge, Glencar to Rossbeigh.

It therefore includes a significant area of the Plan area and offers new economic opportunities in astro-tourism. The Council will seek the doubling in size of the Kerry International Dark Sky Reserve from Blackwater Bridge, Glencar to Rossbeigh. Recent sky quality monitoring indicate that these areas possess superior quality dark skies that would merit inclusion in the international reserve.

KCC supports this project and where resources allow intends to replace the public lighting system throughout Kerry with a more energy efficient, cost beneficial, dark-sky compliant lighting system. The Council has enlisted the support of UCC, MTU and Blackrock Observatory to provide accredited astronomy and stargazing training courses for local guides and will continue to work closely with Fáilte Ireland to promote the area for star gazing and Astro tourism. It is an objective of this Plan to support Astro tourism and archaeo-astronomy initiatives to leverage the economic benefits of the International Gold Tier Dark Sky Reserve Designation for the region. In addition, KCC is currently engaged with partners in the Skellig Coast Tourism Network, Fáilte Ireland, other State Agencies, Third Level Institutions, the Irish Astronomical Society, European Space Agency, and NASA to progress the development of an innovative high-tech Mobile Observatory. The development of the Kerry Mobile Observatory as a shared community tourism and educational resource in the Dark Sky Reserve and a permanent planetarium in Cahersiveen, are supported by this Plan along with encouragement for the establishment of other observatories (including commercial sites) to enable night sky viewing across the region.

Policies and objectives in respect of Dark Sky Reserve are outlined in Chapter 10 & 11 of the KCDP 2022-2028.

2.8.4 Valentia Island

Valentia Island is located off the western coast of the Iveragh peninsula. It is the largest island off the County Kerry coast and is directly connected to the mainland by a bridge to Portmagee and by ferry to Renard during the summer months. The island is approximately 11 kilometres long by almost 3 kilometres wide. Valentia Island contains two main settlements at Knightstown and Chapeltown. The settlements provide a range of services to their rural catchment area. Many of the residential units on the island are holiday homes.

Tourism is an important element of the economy of Valentia Island. The existing tourism product needs to be protected, with greater value being derived from it. In addition, efforts need to be made to lengthen the tourism season. Tourism needs to focus on the strengths of the area, namely the untouched rural landscape, birdlife, marine environment, built heritage and the areas interesting geology and history which includes the Trans-Atlantic Cable, the Skellig Experience, the Observatory, the Slate Quarry, Valentia Lighthouse and the fossilised tetrapod trackway. The area offers scope for outdoor pursuits such as birdwatching, walking, hill and mountain/rock climbing, geological appreciation, astro-tourism and marine leisure where compatible with nature conservation designations. There are a number of very significant heritage/tourism projects currently under preparation on Valentia Island. This includes the objective to achieve UNESCO world heritage status for the Trans-Atlantic Cable and the permitted upgrade to the Wild Atlantic Way Discovery Point at Bray Head. Details in relation to these projects are found under Section 2.6.2.3 of this Plan.



Figure 2.13: View from Valentia Island

Building on the strengths of the Island, it is a policy of this plan to facilitate the development of green routes throughout the Island. The island also has a unique opportunity to develop astro-tourism initiatives due to its dark and unpolluted skies. Other significant tourism sites on the island include Glanleam House & Gardens, Valentia Lighthouse and the Tetrapod Trackway. The Local Authority recognises the importance of safeguarding and improving access and connectivity between Valentia Island and the wider Iveragh Peninsula. In this regard, the Council fully supports the operation of the Renard to Knightstown ferry service and the sustainable upgrade of enabling infrastructure.

Valentia Island Development Company is a not-for-profit company dedicated to ensuring a sustainable future for the community on Valentia Island by promoting employment and enterprise on the Island. The Valentia Island Socio-Economic Plan 2023-2028 is currently being prepared. The Council will support all stakeholders in the sustainable development of the island and will facilitate, where

appropriate the implementation of the priority objectives as contained within the Plan.

Valentia Island Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 35	Ensure that the high-quality natural setting of the island is maintained and protected from inappropriate development.
KENMD – 36	Facilitate the sustainable development of appropriately located green routes throughout the Island.
KENMD – 37	Support the operation of the Renard to Knightstown ferry service, including the sustainable upgrade of enabling infrastructure.
KENMD – 38	Support the sub-priorities of the Valentia Island Socio-economic plan 2023-2028, subject to environmental assessment as appropriate.

2.8.5 South Kerry Greenway

The development of the South Kerry Greenway is an objective of KCDP. The greenway follows the line of the abandoned railway line from Renard to Glenbeigh. The entire route is approximately 32km in length and traverses a mixed variety of land and seascapes affording safe recreation and presenting iconic views of the area. Permission has been obtained for the section from Glenbeigh to Cahersiveen, the route is shown on Figure 2.14. The redevelopment of the railway corridor as a greenway will see it once again act as an enabler of rural economic regeneration in order to sustain the local economy. An outcome of the development of the South Kerry

Greenway will be to extend the tourism season and visitor dwell time and will broaden the visitor experience and offering in the South Kerry area. Preliminary construction work has commenced.

For further information also see the KCDP 2022-2028, specifically Chapters 10.4 & 14.3, which deals comprehensively with greenways.

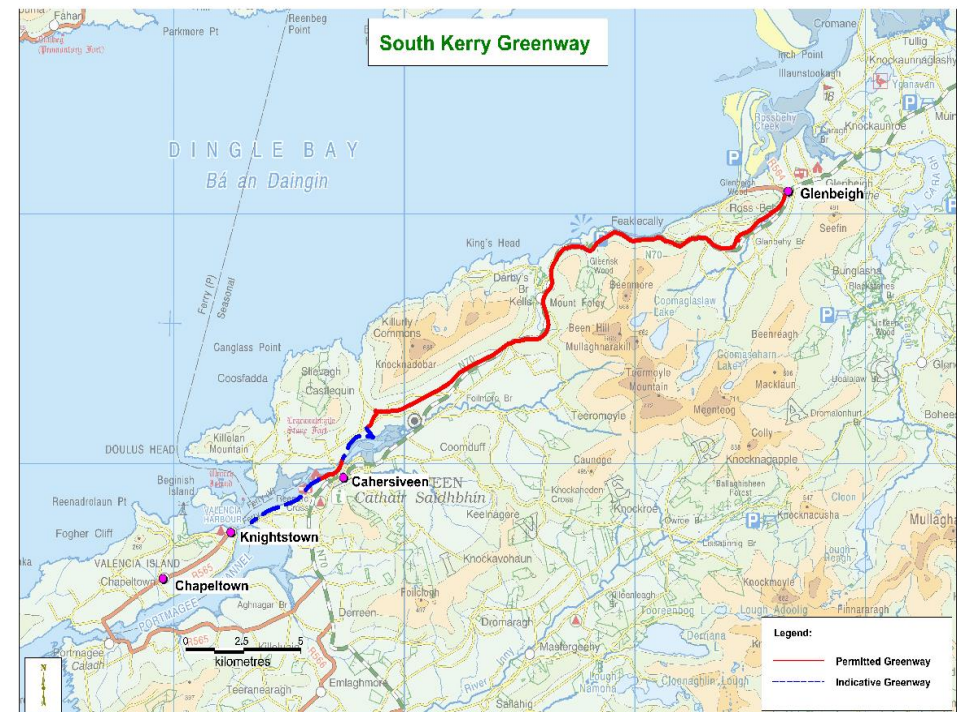


Figure 2.14: Route of permitted King South Kerry Greenway

Greenway Objective	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 39	Ensure the sustainable development of the South Kerry Greenway route in its entirety, along or near the route of the railway corridor from Glenbeigh through to Renard pier, by linking with its permitted sections.

2.8.6 Marine Activity and Recreational Fisheries

The Local Authority recognises that the maritime sector is a growth sector and selling point for the area. KCC is committed to supporting and facilitating the sustainable development of a vibrant and successful marine leisure and tourism sector. KCC acknowledges the local economic benefit arising from recreational angling tourism to Killorglin, Beaufort and Waterville and the wider area. With up to several thousand anglers visiting the county per year, the aggregate economic contribution is relatively substantial within the wider community and economy.

Marine Activity and Recreational Fisheries Objective	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 40	Support and facilitate sustainable fisheries development where appropriate in the Plan area.

2.9 Environment

2.9.1 Natural Environment

The Iveragh and Beara Peninsula's which are located within the Kenmare Municipal District are significant for biodiversity and nature conservation. As part of this the area contains qualifying interest habitat types on international importance, ranging from the highest uplands in the County to the estuaries and marine environments of Castlemaine Harbour and Kenmare Bay. Much of the plan areas biodiversity is found in farmland, be it within High Nature Value (HNV) farmland or within hedgerows and watercourses located in more intensively farmed areas. Hedgerows, wetlands, watercourses, patches of woodland or semi-natural grasslands all act as stepping-stones within the broader landscape and form an integral part of areas famed landscape. The biodiversity value of farmland is dependent on appropriate agricultural management. Intensification of farming practices but also abandonment of high nature value farmlands are threats to some of the most valued habitats and species in the plan area.

Some of the Plan areas most natural habitats require active management to maintain or restore their conservation interest, for example Rhododendron management. Agri-environmental and National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) schemes such as ACRES CO, the Freshwater Pearl Mussel Project and the Nattarjack Toad Scheme positively impact on biodiversity in the plan area.

The plan area also contains some of the Country's most important freshwater loughs and rivers, including the River Laune, River Inny, Caragh Lake and Lough Currane, famed for aquatic riches such as Atlantic Salmon and Sea Trout. Waterways in the plan area, including the River Caragh and Blackwater contain some of the most important populations of the endangered Freshwater Pearl Mussels in the world. The indented nature of the coastline provides high quality habitat for Otters, which the estuaries, saltmarshes and mudflats are important winter foraging grounds for waterbirds.

Agricultural grasslands and heaths along the coastline support an important population of Chough while the many sea cliffs and offshore islands support breeding seabirds. Sand dune habitats found for example at Rossbeigh, Ballinskelligs Bay and Derrynane exhibit examples of priority annexed habitat, now rare across Europe. They also support rare plants of special conservation interest.

Valentia Harbour/Portmagee Channel SAC contains a very vulnerable *Edwardsia delapiae*-associated (large shallow inlet and bays) type habitat. The plan area also supports one of the most internationally important populations of Lesser Horseshoe Bat, a species vulnerable to habitat loss and fragmentation. The plan area further supports an interesting collection of Mediterranean species native to Kerry but absent from much of the rest of the Country. These are collectively known as Lusitanian flora and fauna and include the Kerry Lily, Kerry Slug and the Nattarjack Toad. The reintroduced white-tailed eagle is also found in the plan area.

2.9.1.1 Biodiversity guidance, pressures, and opportunities

The Plan area has many natural attractions that are very popular with domestic and international visitors. The importance of the natural environment, which includes blue flag beaches, lakes, rivers and uplands as a tourist and recreation asset for the region is acknowledged. As part of this, the McGillicuddy Reeks attracts on average 200,000 recreational users annually. It is important that nature-based tourism and recreational projects/activities are carried out in a manner which does not unduly harm sensitive species or habitats. In certain areas extra care will need to be taken to ensure developments are compatible with nature conservation objectives for designated sites.

The Plan supports measures and initiatives to both protect and sustainably develop these resources. It is also important that necessary improvements to community facilities, public infrastructure and other facilities are appropriately facilitated to

ensure these places meet their potential and serve both the visitors & locals residing in these areas in a manner compatible with wider environment protection objectives.

As outlined, the Plan area is a stronghold for Irish Nattarjack Toad populations, as it contains 5 of Ireland's 13 recorded breeding locations. These populations are located in the Glenbeigh, Dooks, Lough Yganavan, Lough Nambrackdarrig and Caherdaniel areas. Development can directly and indirectly harm toad populations. Direct impacts can result from habitat loss / fragmentation while indirect impacts can result from the lowering of water tables. Maintenance of suitable habitat is considered to be an important factor in safeguarding the viability of toad populations. Dry stone walls / rocky areas / sandy soils are used by toads for hibernation purposes, ponds are used for breeding purposes while rough grasslands are used for foraging purposes. Development proposals which provide for the retention or provision of such habitats are less likely to be harmful to toad populations.

It is also important that projects and activities in the plan area play a role in protecting or restoring water quality, as required by the Water Framework Directive (WFD). Citizens, nature and industry all need healthy rivers and lakes, groundwater and bathing waters. The WFD focuses on reducing and removing pollution and on ensuring that there is enough water to support wildlife at the same time as human needs.

The guidance, policies, objectives and development management standards as set out in the Kerry County Development Plan 2022-2028 (CDP) are also of relevance, including the following: -

- The Kerry Biodiversity Action Plan as contained in Volume 6 of the Kerry CDP.
- Nature-based Sustainable Urban Drainage system requirements: urban realm (Volume 1, S4.2.7), landscaping (Volume 6, S.1.5.4.5) and storm water management (Volume 1, S13.2.4).
- Landscape level protection (Volume 6, S1.3.2).
- Fine Sediment Control (Volume 6, S1.3.6).

2.9.1.1 MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Project

The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum was established in 2014 to implement an action plan to protect and sustainably manage the MacGillycuddy's Reeks upland area.

This mountain access project is an initiative of Comhairle na Tuaithe, through the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DoHLGH), where a permissive access model is being piloted, based on awareness of and respect for private land. The forum is made up of key partners such as landowners, local and statutory agencies, KCC, the National Parks and Wildlife Service, South Kerry Development Partnership, Fáilte Ireland and local business and recreational interest groups.

An upland trail audit report conducted in 2015 on the condition of paths in the MacGillycuddy Reeks found that the overall network (c.15.7km) was within the early stages of decline in condition due to path erosion. Since then, considerable remedial repair works have taken place, however the condition of the path network as a whole has declined, partly due to the increased popularity of upland recreation coupled with increasingly extreme weather events exacerbated by climate change.

The MacGillycuddy Reeks also forms part of a recent upland Agri Environmental European Innovation Partnership project, which supported sustainable agriculture practices in the area.

KCC will continue to support these and similar initiatives, which seeks to support sustainable agricultural practices, appropriate recreational access and to sustainably protect and manage the sensitive landscape of the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain range.

Environment Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 41	Facilitate the sustainable improvement and enhancement of beach access and beach infrastructure, at appropriate locations and subject to environmental assessment. As part of this proposals should not adversely impact Natura 2000 sites.
KENMD – 42	Support the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum, to sustainably protect and manage the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain range.

KENMD – 43	Support the sustainable repair, upgrading and maintenance of established upland mountain trails and other sustainable initiatives, in conjunction with landowners and interest groups, including the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum.
KENMD – 44	Support proposals which would facilitate high nature value farming in the Plan area, which may include provision of agricultural facilities and improved access arrangements at appropriate locations.
KENMD – 45	Support biodiversity protection and enhancement measures within the Plan area and ensure development proposals are compatible with the conservation objectives and biodiversity interests of European sites (SACs and SPAs) and National / proposed National designations (NHAs and pNHAs).

2.9.2 Land Use & Flood Risk Management

The frequency, pattern and severity of flooding are expected to increase as a result of climate change, potentially having a very significant effect in the longer term. Higher sea-levels and wetter winters, with more intense summer rainstorms, together with possible increases in storminess could significantly increase both the frequency and intensity of flooding. To address this issue, the Council will comply with the provisions of the “Planning System and Flood Risk Management” Guidelines (DoEHLG & OPW 2009) by ensuring that flood risk is a key consideration in preparing development and LAPs and in the assessment of planning applications.

In this Plan the guiding principles are the avoidance of development in areas of risk (unless it can be justified on wider sustainability grounds), the substitution to less vulnerable uses where avoidance is not possible, and the mitigation and management of the risk where avoidance and substitution are not possible. It is critical for the long-term sustainable management of flood risk that planning decisions take full account of existing and potential future flood risk to avoid or adequately minimise the creation of new flood risks that could otherwise arise through inappropriate future development. There are essentially two major causes of flooding, coastal and inland.

Coastal flooding is caused by higher sea levels than normal, largely as a result of storm surges, resulting in the sea overflowing onto the land. Inland flooding is caused by prolonged and/or intense rainfall and includes overland flows, river flooding, flooding from artificial drainage systems, groundwater flooding and estuarial flooding. Flooding can also arise from the failure of water infrastructure. The development of lands can also increase both the rate and volume of runoff from rainfall events to existing sewer networks and watercourses. Such increases can in certain circumstances lead to flooding and or sewer overflows.

The flood risk management objectives contained herein shall apply to all new development and are applicable to all those lands identified flood risk areas designated as Zone A & B. These Flood Risk areas are shown on the zoning maps for each settlement.

As per the requirements of the KCDP 2022-2028 nature-based solutions to stormwater management are encouraged.



Figure 2.15: Upgraded MacGillycuddy Reeks Access Point at Breanlee


2.9.2.1 Assessment of Minor Proposals in Areas of Flood Risk




Applications for minor development, such as small extensions or most changes of use to/of existing house/buildings/commercial and industrial enterprises, are unlikely to raise significant flooding issues, unless they obstruct important flowpaths, introduce a significant additional number of people into flood risk areas or entail the storage of hazardous substances. Since such applications concern existing buildings, the sequential approach cannot be used to locate them in lower-risk areas and the Justification Test will not apply. However, a commensurate assessment of the risks of flooding should accompany such applications to demonstrate that they would not have adverse impacts or impede access to a watercourse, floodplain or flood protection and management




facilities. These proposals should follow best practice in the management of health and safety for users and residents of the proposal.


Any development areas within generalised zoning objectives identified as being at risk of fluvial and tidal flooding should be accompanied by a site-specific flood assessment in accordance with the Planning System and flood risk management guidelines (2009)

For further information also see the KCDP 2022-2028, specifically Chapter 11 (Section 11.5) and the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Land Use & Flood Risk Management Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
<p>KENMD – 46 (a-c)</p> 	<p><i>(Development not located within existing built-up areas located within Flood Zone A & B)</i></p> <p>(a) Ensure that highly vulnerable development is not permitted in areas identified in Flood Zone A and B, and not to permit less vulnerable development within Flood Zone A.</p> <p>(b) Ensure that only water compatible development is permitted within Flood Zone A and less vulnerable in Flood Zone B.</p> <p>(c) Ensure that less vulnerable development and water compatible development only is permitted with suitable mitigation measures.</p>

<p>KENMD – 47</p> 	<p><i>(Development within existing built-up areas located within Zone A & B)</i></p> <p>Ensure that development proposals avoid the identified flood risk area, or if not possible, ensure that proposals avoid the identified flood risk properties and consider flood resilient or flood resistant construction design methodologies.</p>
<p>KENMD – 48</p> 	<p>Ensure surface water runoff from completed developments are restricted to their greenfield rate and appropriate measures through design or Sustainable urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) are implemented. Particular regard shall be had to the DoHLG&H best practice interim guidance document '<i>Nature-based Solutions to the Management of Rainwater and Surface Water Runoff in Urban Areas – Water Sensitive Urban Design</i>'.</p>
<p>KENMD – 49</p> 	<p>Ensure that development proposals which would be sensitive to the effects of flooding, or which would be located in flood prone or marginal areas are accompanied by a Flood Impact Assessments, detailed justification tests, and detailed mitigation measures within the context of the DoEHLG guidelines on Flood Risk Management. Development which in the opinion of the Council would have an unacceptable risk of flooding or which would result in an unacceptable risk of flooding elsewhere shall not be permitted.</p>

<p>KENMD-50</p> 	<p>Ensure that development proposals in zoned lands located in proximity of a watercourse, that currently has no flood zone mapping or designated flood zones, that a site specific flood risk assessment shall be completed to an appropriate level of detail so that Flood Zones can be defined and the Sequential Approach/Justification Test can be applied where necessary.</p>
<p>KENMD-51</p> 	<p>Ensure that any potential flood risk areas located within residential zoned areas are used for amenity open space use only and/or are left as 'spaces for nature'.</p>
<p>KENMD-52</p> 	<p>A site-specific assessment shall be undertaken in accordance with the "Planning System and Flood Risk Management" Guidelines, in order to ensure that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing flood defences are assessed, and the likelihood and consequence of an embankment breach is considered. • Existing flow paths are maintained. • Floodplain storage and conveyance areas should be protected or appropriate compensation provided • Future flood risk should be considered in the design and land uses should be matched with flood risk. • The development will not have an adverse impact on flood risk. <p>Flood hazard to users is mitigated to an acceptable level. Flood awareness, warning</p>

	systems and evacuation procedures need to be put in place.
 KENMD-53	Protect rivers, streams and other watercourses and where applicable ensure developments follow guidelines outlined in the Inland Fisheries Ireland's 'Planning for Watercourses in the Urban Environment' (2020), particularly in relation to undeveloped lands on greenfield sites.

2.10 Water & Wastewater Management

The supply of residential zoned land is focused in areas where capacity in infrastructure exists, or where capital investment is planned in the short to medium term. The regional towns have been identified as being capable of accommodating additional residential development, subject to the upgrading of the wastewater infrastructure in Kenmare.

The Kenmare Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade includes works to accommodate recent and future growth in the catchment. Works are due to commence on site in Q3 2023 and be completed in Q2 2026.

Infrastructural deficits will play a key role in limiting development in certain settlements of the plan area. Wastewater treatment and water supply are key considerations for future development proposals and in the absence of definite capital investment plan, some settlements will not be capable of supporting significant levels of development.

Settlement Status	Settlement	WWTP (Headroom)	Water Supply
Regional Town	Cahersiveen		
	Kenmare	*	
	Killorglin		
District Town	Sneem		
	Waterville		
Villages	Baile an Sceilg		
	Beaufort		
	Chapelstown		
	Dún Géagáin		
	Glenbeigh		
	Kilgarvan		
	Knightstown		
	Portmagee		
*current project completion year 2024, planning approval obtained			
Key	Capacity available	Potential capacity	No capacity

Table 2.7: Water supply & Wastewater Treatment Capacity Register June 2023

In cases where infrastructural deficits arise and centrally located suitable lands are available for development, these lands have been zoned under the category of 'Strategic Residential Reserve' (R4) or 'Strategic Reserve' (O1). These lands are zoned in line with the long-term objective of encouraging consolidation of the town/village core and the retention and improvement of local services and facilities. Development will be dependent on (amongst

other issues) the availability of infrastructure, the need, and demand for development. Table 2.7 sets out the latest wastewater treatment and water supply Capacity Register for the Plan area received from Uisce Éireann in June 2023.

2.10.1 Cluster Developments in Villages

It is the policy of the Council to encourage people who wish to reside in the countryside to live in villages or small village settlements where services are available. As an alternative to one-off housing, it is an objective of the KCDP to permit clusters of housing (up to 8 dwellings units) served by individual wastewater treatment systems in the small villages and small village settlements listed in Table 3.1 where there is no wastewater infrastructure or no plans for such infrastructure. The strategy for clusters within these settlements is to facilitate a small number of additional dwellings and/or small enterprises to consolidate the existing pattern of development around these focal points and utilise existing services in the area.




Wastewater treatment proposals will be required to comply with the relevant Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) code of practice and be to the satisfaction of KCC's 'Site Assessment Unit'.


An Chillín Liath	Lauragh
An Gleann	Glencar
Beaufort	Kilgobnet
Bonane	Kells
Castlecove	Tahilla
Chapeltown	Templenoë
Cromane	Tuosist

Table 3.1: Settlements where clusters served by individual treatment systems may be considered

2.10.2 Water Resources

The protection and restoration of drinking water at the source reduces the level of treatment required in the production of drinking water and can have co-benefits for biodiversity and climate change, while the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans can play an important role in the protection of human health.

Water Management Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 54 	Plan for future growth of the Plan's settlements in consultation with Uisce Éireann to ensure that sufficient wastewater capacity and water supply infrastructure is accounted for, and future growth is not impeded in key settlements.
KENMD – 55 	Support the Kenmare water supply / storage supplementation proposals and proposals to increase reservoir storage capacity at the mid Kerry Water Treatment Plant, Gearha, Beaufort, all subject to environmental assessment and compatibility with the requirements of the Habitats Directive.
KENMD-56 	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 Article 7(2) of the Water framework Directive'

 KENMD-57	<p>Support Uisce Éireann in the development and implementation of Drinking Water Safety Plans which seek to protect human health by identifying, assessing and managing risks to water quality and quantity; taking a holistic approach from source to tap.</p>
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2.11 Connectivity

Transport connections are very dependent on the road network, either through private car use or bus services. The area is served by the N70, N71 (Ring of Kerry) and N72 National Secondary strategic routes, numerous regional roads and an extensive network of local roads. The provision of a more pedestrian and cycling friendly environment through the provision of improved and additional infrastructure is an objective of this plan. Cycle routes while providing recreation for local people, have also significant potential in terms of commuter transport, providing access to work, educational and leisure facilities.

2.11.1 Sustainable Transport

It is a main tenet of the KCDP to promote the sustainable development of a transport system that provides a range of transport options for the county, including a safe road network, a range of bus services and rail services and adequate facilities for walking and cycling at appropriate locations. This is reinforced in this plan with an objective to prepare Local Transport Plans (LTP) in consultation with the National Transport Authority (NTA) and Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII).

Some of the public bus services, Bus Éireann services and the Local Link transport in particular serving rural and local areas of the county can have a very limited timetable. The Council will also work with Bus Éireann and the Local Link transport to improve the services and

facilities serving rural and local areas of the Plan area. The Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan (NTA 2022) for the MD includes new and enhanced local bus services and a new two way hop on/off services on the Ring of Kerry, connecting Killarney, Killorglin, Cahersiveen Waterville, Sneem and Kenmare.

The Council will seek to ensure that improvements in transportation infrastructure and services support the strategic development and settlement strategy for the county as set out in the KCDP and provide an appropriate level of accessibility to urban and rural facilities, services and opportunities.

2.11.1.1 Baseline Figures for Modal Share

In terms of sustainable modes, "A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009-2020" sets out key National modal share. These targets were aimed at reducing work-related commuting by car as a modal share from 65% to 45% and accommodating car drivers on other modes of transport such as walking, cycling, public transport and car sharing. An effective and multi-modal transport system is the plan area is reliant on the successful integration with land use planning. The Council will facilitate improved street design in settlements which will encourage more people to choose to walk, cycle or use public transport, by making the experience safer and more pleasant. To date, it is envisaged that the construction of the South Kerry Greenway and the improved public realm associated with the Urban Regeneration and Development Fund (URDF), in tandem with the enhanced bus services (Rural Mobility Plan NTA2022) will encourage a modal shift away from car transport.

	On foot	Bicycle	Train & Buses	Car, Van, or Lorry
Kenmare	15.5%	2.5%	1.2%	67.1%
Killorglin	19.4%	0.8%	1.0%	70.8%
Cahersiveen	26.2%	2.9%	0.5%	60.3%
Waterville	13.2%	2.3%	1.1%	73.6%
Sneem	30.4%	3.5%	1.7%	45.2%

Table 2.8: Baseline data shows modes of transport to work[CSO 2016]

The following are the proposed modal share targets for the Kenmare MD (up to 2040). It is considered that the proposed modal share targets are ambitious but realistic and will be further strengthened and informed by the upcoming preparation of LTPs.

Kenmare MD	On foot	Bicycle	Train or Bus	Car, Van or Lorry
2016	8.9%	0.9%	9.7%	68.7%
2040	20%	15%	20%	50%

Table 2.9: Modal Share Targets (%) for Kenmare MD

2.11.1.2 Cycle Paths/Walkways/Greenways/Coastal Walkways

The Plan area offers unparalleled choice of location, landscape and experience to residents and visitors alike. There is significant potential to further develop the tourism offering in rural areas and rural villages through the provision of appropriately located amenity greenways, walkways and cycle paths. Marked paths and cycle routes are an important resource for attracting tourists and providing recreation for local people. Cycle paths have also significant potential to function as commuter routes, providing access to work, educational and leisure facilities. The key to these paths and cycle paths is that they are well developed, maintained and advertised in local villages and tourist offices. They can also open up potential for farm diversification into small-scale tourist services.

Greenway/cycle paths/walkways offer a means to enhance or improve local biodiversity. The linear nature of such developments can provide connectivity for species through associated landscaping e.g hedgerows. Bats, birds and other wildlife can use these corridors to move through the rural countryside providing shelter, food and other suitable habitats.

Numerous attractive coastal walks, walking routes and recreational areas exist in the area. This area is a mountaineer's paradise with

extensive mountain peaks and ridges to explore, with thousands travelling to this area every year just to reach the summit of Ireland's highest peak, Carrauntoohil on the MacGillycuddy's Reeks. The Kerry and Beara Ways are long distance signposted walking routes around a variety of highly spectacular different landscapes including scenic coastal areas and the lower mountain ridges of the Iveragh and Beara Peninsulas. This form of recreational tourism is increasingly becoming more popular and is of benefit to the more rural parts of the Plan area.

In addition, the Plan area is fortunate to have spectacular beaches including Rossbeigh, Derrynane and Ballinskelligs which are very popular recreational walking destinations all year round. The Cappanalea outdoor centre is located near Caragh Lake outside Killorglin. This centre functions as a public outdoor education and training centre, providing education and training in an extensive range of outdoor pursuits. Fáilte Ireland has proposed a national coastal walking trail. It is the intention of KCC to work closely with landowners, community groups, local development companies and government departments to achieve this key national tourism objective. Considerable potential exists for the sustainable development of greenways through the area, thereby connecting the towns and villages to the wider area.

The Council has developed a Greenway Strategy for the future development of routes throughout the county. The Council will seek to roll out development on the greenways in a coordinated and linked up manner (See Chapter 10 &14 of the KCDP for further information on Greenways). This includes extending the South Kerry Greenway from Renard to Glenbeigh to Killorglin and Farranfore and the development of a greenway along the old railway line from Headford to Kenmare.

2.11.1.2.1 CycleConnects

This Plan supports the Draft CycleConnects Strategy (NTA 2022): this Cycle Network aims to improve sustainable travel by providing the potential for more trips on a safe, accessible and convenient cycling network, connecting more people to more places.

Figure 2.16 shows the draft CycleConnects Strategy (proposed routes) for South Kerry. The council will facilitate the sustainable development of greenways & cycleways.

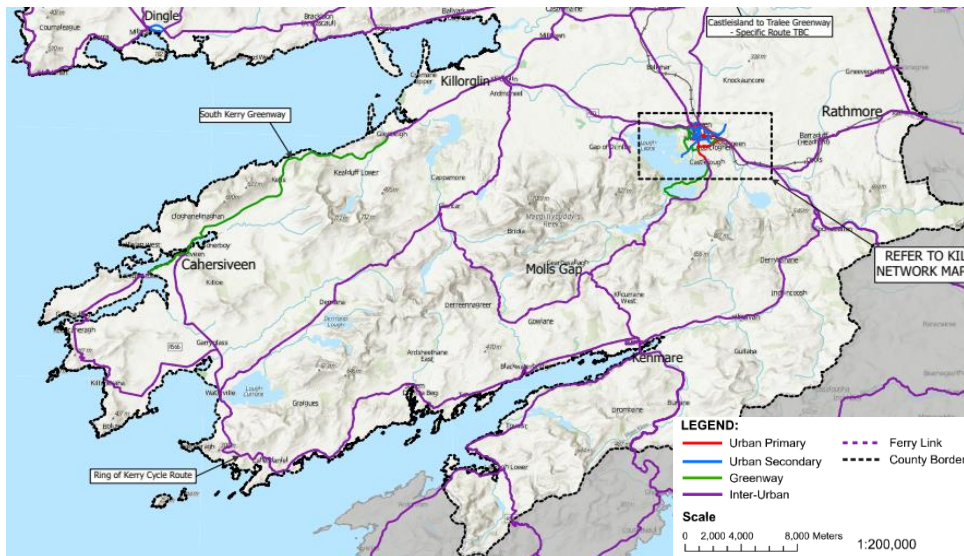


Figure 2.16: (Draft) Cycle-Connects Strategy

2.11.2 Ports, Harbours & Piers

Portmagee, Cahersiveen and Knightstown are important as centres of fishing fleet activity and ancillary services. The safeguarding and enhancement of their roles as locations for appropriate investment and employment opportunities, including marine related economic activity is an objective of the KCDP. The Council have recently

received funding to upgrade the Renard Pier which will enable further economic and tourist growth.

Chapter 14 (Connectivity) of the KCDP which sets out objectives under Sustainable Transport and Mobility, Active Travel and Greenways and Landuse Integration, LTPs and Digital Connectivity should also be read in conjunction with this LAP.

2.11.2.1 Valentia Island Ferry

The Valentia Island Ferry is important link and component of an established tourist route including the Wild Atlantic Way from Renard Point, Cahersiveen to Valentia Island, it is also of economic importance to the local hinterlands. It is an objective of Council as set out in the KCDP to facilitate and support the continuation and development of the Knightstown to Renard Ferry.

2.11.3 Digital Connectivity

The Information Technology (IT) sector has huge potential for employment creation and access to high-quality broadband is essential if the Kenmare MD LAP area is to be regarded as a viable location for the I.T. industry and other service industries which rely on Broadband. It is an objective of the Planning Authority as set out in the KCDP 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 policies and objectives of the KCDP with respect to digital connectivity will be underpinned by the new digital strategy which is currently being prepared by KCC. The overall aim of the new strategy is the creation of a Smart County, through Smart Communities.

This strategy will set out the key vision, opportunities and objectives to developing business, skills, communities and capacity in the county to avail of digital technologies underpinned by the National Broadband Plan. It will provide key infrastructural requirements to drive economic and community development in the LAP area.



The Council supports the implementation of the National Broadband Plan and in particular it supports the 5G rollout. In addition, the council is committed to replicate smart programmes / initiatives across all towns and villages across the county.

The Kerry Hub Network is comprised of several well-established and quality enterprise hubs. These include a mix of public and privately funded enterprise hubs, with a geographical spread throughout the county. There are several of these based within the Kenmare MD LAP area. KCC has been proactively involved in the provision of digital hubs and has allocated funding for the Sneem Digital Hub and the RDI Hub in Killorglin. The Table below sets out the established hubs in the LAP area.

Kenmare Enterprise Hub (Kenmare)
RDI Hub (Killorglin)
Sneem Digital Hub (Sneem)
gteic @ An Dromaid
gteic @ Baile an Sceilg
Office Light (Cahersiveen)
Valentia Cable Station (Valentia)

Table 2.10: Enterprise Hubs in Plan area

Policies and objectives in respect of Digital Connectivity are outlined in Chapter 14 Connectivity in the KCDP 2022-2028.

Connectivity Objectives	
Objective No.	It is an objective of the Council to:
KENMD – 58 	Prepare Local Transport & Traffic Management Plans for the settlements as appropriate.
KENMD – 59	Facilitate the carrying out of the works stated in the 'Schedule of MD Works Plan' for the Kenmare MD which are compatible with environmental protection objectives for the area.
KENMD – 60	Recognise the importance of safeguarding and improving access and connectivity between Valentia Island with the wider Iveragh Peninsula.
KENMD – 61 	Protect all existing or historical rail lines and associated facilities from redevelopment for non-transport related purposes in order to protect their potential future use as greenways / cycle or walking routes.
KENMD – 62	Support the sustainable provision of farm-tourism enterprises associated with the South Kerry Greenway, such as the renovation of farm buildings for tourism purposes, subject to compliance with normal planning and environmental criteria and development management standards as set out in the KCDP.

KENMD - 63	Facilitate the maintenance and where appropriate the upgrade of port, harbour & pier infrastructure in the plan area – subject to environmental assessment.
KENMD - 64	Facilitate and support the development of 5G infrastructure at appropriate locations (in particular in urban and suburban locations owned by the State).
KENMD - 65	Support the preparation of a feasibility study for a proposed ferry route linking the Corca Dhuibhne and Iveragh peninsulas. As part of this environmental considerations should be taken into account, including carbon emissions, infrastructural requirements and environmental designations.