

# WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

# 2022–2028

## Pre-Draft Strategic Issues Paper





## Background and Context

01



## Population and Settlement Hierarchy

05



## Economy, Employment, Education

09



## Rural Economic Development

11



## Sustainable Tourism

13



## Transportation and Mobility

15



## Principle Enabling Infrastructure, Energy and Communications

17



## Climate Change and Environment

19



## Heritage and Culture

23



## Sustainable Communities and Place Making

27



# Background and Context

## Introduction and Background

Waterford City and County Council is commencing the preparation of the City and County Development Plan 2022 – 2028. The City and County Development Plan sets out a framework or blue print for the proper planning and sustainable development for the whole of Waterford for a six years period. It will include development policies, objectives and guidelines in addition to land use zoning which should be realistic and grounded in financial reality and be achieved through public, local or private resources.

The Development Plan will sit within the hierarchy of spatial plans as highlighted in Figure 1 and will be consistent with the UN Sustainable Development Goals, National Spatial Framework (NPF), National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs) and the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) in areas such as climate action, clean energy, sustainable cities and communities, economic growth, reduced inequalities and innovation and infrastructure, as well as education and health. Each section of this issues paper will indicate alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals. At this early stage of the process we need to find out the 'big picture' issues in Waterford which affect **you**. We want you to actively take part in shaping the future of our City and County. There will be further chances for you to participate in the plan making process at a later date, and we encourage you to take every opportunity to play your part as it is **your plan!!** Details of public consultation events will be available through the website of Waterford City and County Council and through the local press.

## Covid-19 and the Development Plan

When we act **Together**, Waterford is Stronger. It's hard to put a value on resilience until you need it, and whilst the Covid 19 pandemic has demonstrated how fragile our economic systems really are, and how the three dimensions of sustainable development – economic, social and environmental are inextricably linked and intertwined, it has also demonstrated how the community of Waterford has risen to the challenge, by showing both resilience and innovation.



**Fig 1** Planning Hierarchy in Ireland (Source: Government of Ireland, 2018, Project Ireland 2040: National Planning Framework)

While the policy responses needed to build better resilience are far reaching for society as a whole at both a national and international level, for Waterford, the development plan provides a real opportunity for local communities to identify local solutions which will enhance their own community resilience to 'shocks', from whatever source. Enhancing our competitiveness and building resilience will enable us to sustain economic growth.

In framing the development plan and its policy objectives, it is very important that we avoid focussing on short term solutions to post-Covid 19 normality, such as burying climate change actions, enhancing capacity for private transport and scrapping public transport, decreasing housing density. Should we instead take the opportunity to deliver real long-term change in how we configure our places, so as to be:

- People and community centred, to organise work and education so as to be accessible from home or in close proximity, so as to avoid unnecessary/unsustainable travel patterns;
- To provide natural spaces for both people and biodiversity;
- To facilitate, provide and enhance opportunities for people to be more active and healthy in their daily lives;
- To provide the framework to ensure greater internal space for circulation and habitation in buildings;
- To facilitate and encourage local production and how we ensure a high standard of environmental quality while always considering the UN framework of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development?





## Waterford in Context

### Key Information

116,176

Population of  
Waterford County  
116,176 (up 2% on 2011)



51,615

Waterford City  
Metropolitan Area (excluding  
Kilkenny) has a population  
of 51,615 (up 2.9% on 2011)



### Waterford Growth Enablers

- Delivering the **North Quays Innovation District** and new sustainable transport hub and bridge over the River Suir;
- Identifying **infill and regeneration** opportunities to intensify housing and employment development;
- Sustainable redevelopment of **new greenfield areas for housing** which is infrastructure and plan led.
- Enhance and diversify the development of **Retail, Heritage, Culture and Tourism** offering in Waterford;
- **Expansion of the WIT** through development of a Multi-Campus **Technological University for the South-East** and integration with the City and region;
- Prioritise the use of **public transport** and **active modes** and provide a Metropolitan Area wide public transport and strategic cycleway networks;
- Extension of the **Waterford Greenway** to link WIT to the City Centre and to the Kilkenny Greenway linking Waterford to New Ross;
- Enhanced **regional connectivity** through improved average journey times by road and rail to Dublin, Cork, Limerick and the region's ports;
- Harness the power of **rural clusters** to act as rural economic drivers e.g. Blackwater/West Waterford and Comeragh Uplands;
- Exploit the opportunity for **renewable and micro grid development** given the scale up in electrical demand.

## Vision for Waterford

**"A City and County of significance, driving regional growth and prosperity, realising its full potential on behalf of the local, regional and national population. A sustainable, dynamic and resourceful place where people choose to visit, live, work, invest, experience and socialise, as a matter of choice".**



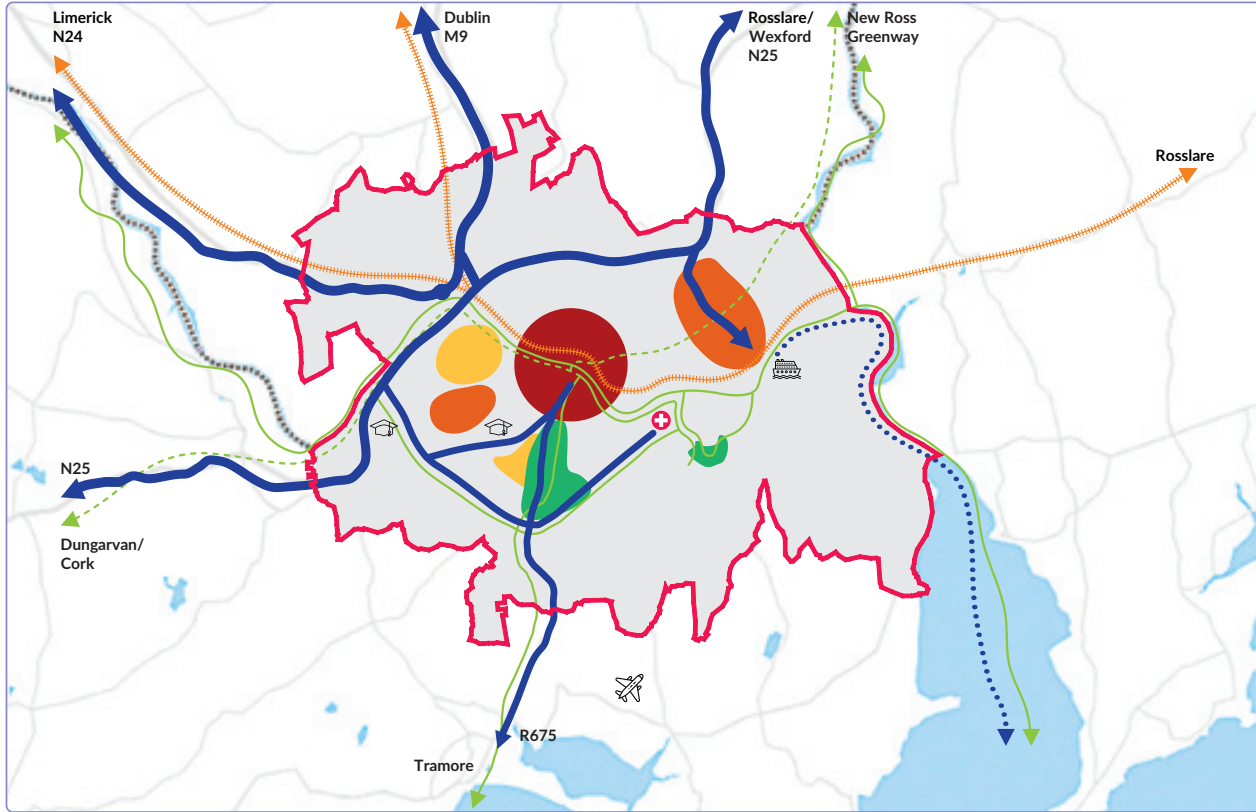
### Key Questions

1. Is this what you think the development plan's vision for Waterford should be or do you propose any changes to the vision stated above?
2. Apart from the Growth Enablers mentioned above, what should the key priorities be for Waterford City and County?
3. Which UN Sustainable Development Goals are most relevant in your view to the new development plan?
4. The Covid 19 pandemic has had a profound impact on how we go about our daily lives. In your view and experience what have been the biggest impacts, and how can the development plan address them?
5. What other challenges and threats do you think could possibly be as impactful as Covid 19, and how can the development plan better equip Waterford's local communities to adapt and be resilient to such challenges?

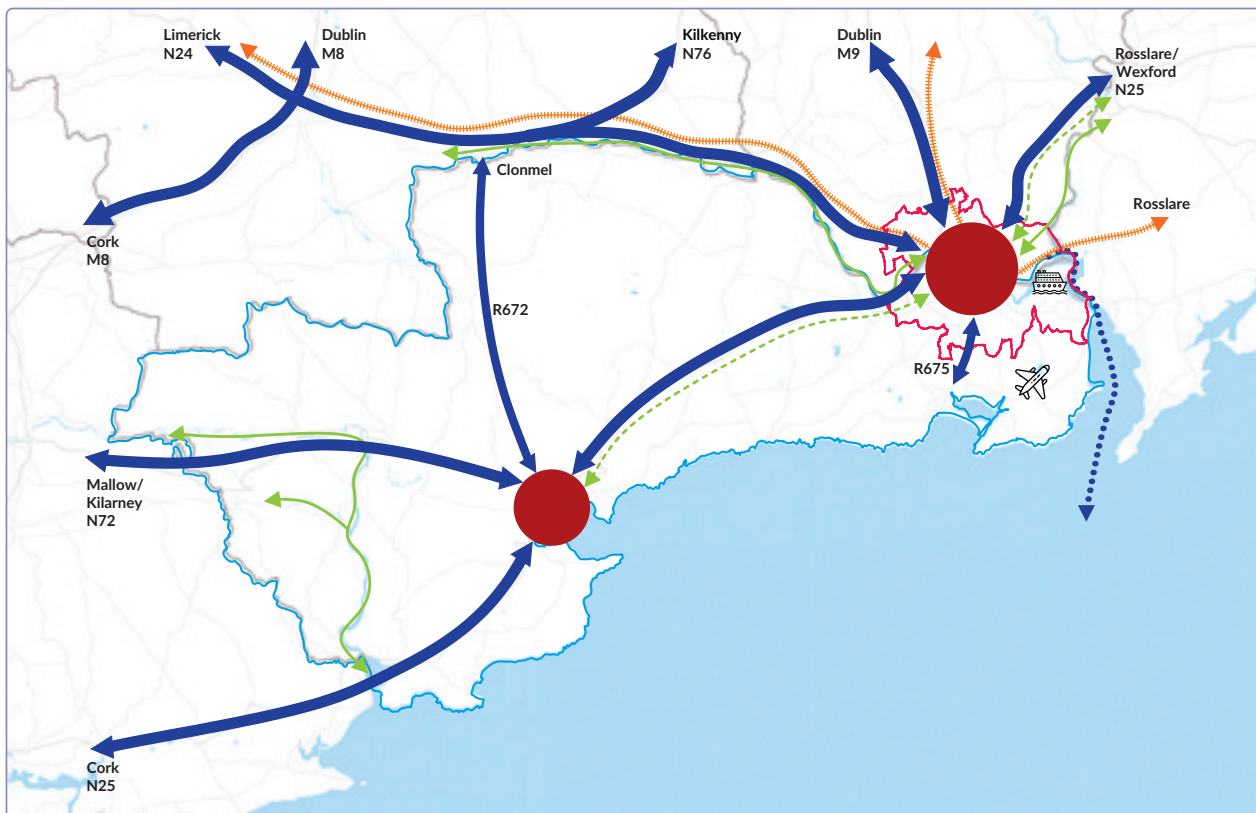


# Waterford City & County Core Strategy Maps

**Map 1: Roadmaps and Key Hotspots**



**Map 2: Transport Links**



- |                                    |                                      |  |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Waterford metropolitan area (MASP) | Shipping connectivity                | Waterford Institute of Technology / Technological University of the South East |
| Urban Centres                      | Strategic new biodiversity corridors | Waterford Airport  |
| Greenway / active routes           | Strategic new open space             | Port of Waterford Belview  |
| Road connectivity                  | Strategic new employment areas       | University Hospital Waterford  |
| Rail connectivity                  | Strategic new housing areas          |  |



# Population and Settlement Hierarchy





Waterford City is recognised in the National Planning Framework as a national and regional driver of growth. The NPF sets out that Waterford City and suburbs population will grow by 50%. This growth will occur within the existing 'built-up' footprint of the city, through brownfield, infill and regeneration sites. Outside of Waterford City and Suburbs, 30% of all new homes will be targeted in settlements and will occur within their existing 'built-up' footprints<sup>1</sup>.

This requires a development strategy to build Waterford city's population and employment base substantially in a way that would enable it to act as an economic engine, driving the county and regional enterprise growth in combination with surrounding urban centres.

Dungarvan is identified as a Key Town in the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy. It will play a critical and strategic role in underpinning the strategy and ensure the consolidation and spread of growth beyond the Waterford city to the sub regional level and will also provide synergies with East Cork.

A network of other towns such as Tramore and smaller towns and villages including Dunmore East, Portlaw and Lismore among others will collectively support the social and economic development of Waterford. The primary aim of these smaller settlements is to create sustainable and vibrant communities which will act as district and local service centres to their hinterlands proportionate to their scale, function and their access to public services and facilities. It is envisaged that these centres will provide for rural housing, an improved quality of life by promoting accessibility, connectivity and high quality public realm while protecting their natural and built environments.

Where and how we plan to meet this population increase in terms of housing must be set out in the Development Plan's Core and Housing Strategies. Recent trends suggest an imbalance in the type of housing i.e. social, middle and high end, in different locations leading to undue segregation which is evident between neighbourhoods in Waterford City and Dungarvan, between Tramore and Waterford City and between housing in the open countryside and rural settlements. To this end there needs to be a balance to ensure that appropriate and affordable housing is available in the right locations, with good infrastructure, services and amenities, if we are to improve the quality of life for people living in Waterford. We also need to ensure that we provide the right mix and type of housing to meet the requirements of various household formations. The changing demographics of the city and county are also an important element to consider and ensure that the right services are in place to deal with the increase requirements in health care etc.

<sup>1</sup> National Policy Objective 3 (c)



Settlement Category	Designated Settlement
Regional City	Waterford City
Key Town	Dungarvan
Secondary Service Centre	Tramore
District Service Centres	Ardmore, Ballyduff Lower (East), Cappoquin, Cheekpoint, Crooke, Dunhill, Dunmore East, Kill, Kilmacdromas, Kilmeaden, Lismore, Portlaoise, Stradbally, Tallow
Local Service Centres	Aglish, Ballyduff Upper (West), Ballymacarbry, Bunmahon/Knockmahon, Clashmore, Clonmel Environs, Clonea-Power, Maoil na Choirne, Villierstown
Settlement Nodes	Annestown, Baile na nGall (An Rinn), Ballinroad, Ballylaneen, Bawnfune, Fenor, Heilbhic, Knockanore, Lemybrien, Passage East, Piltown, Rathgormuck, Sean Phobal, Touraneena

Table 1: Current Waterford Settlement Hierarchy

## Key Information

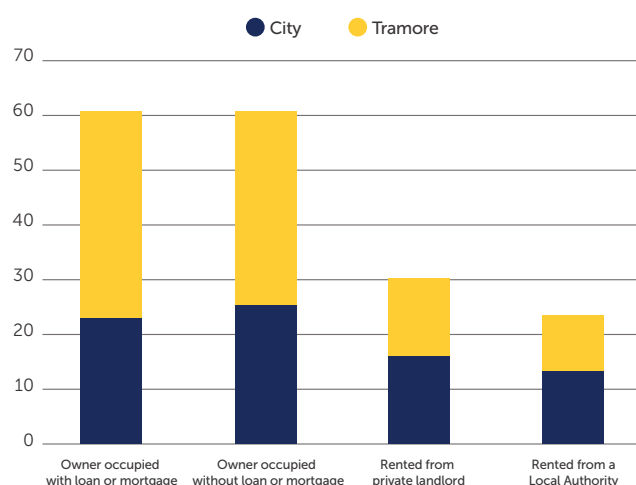
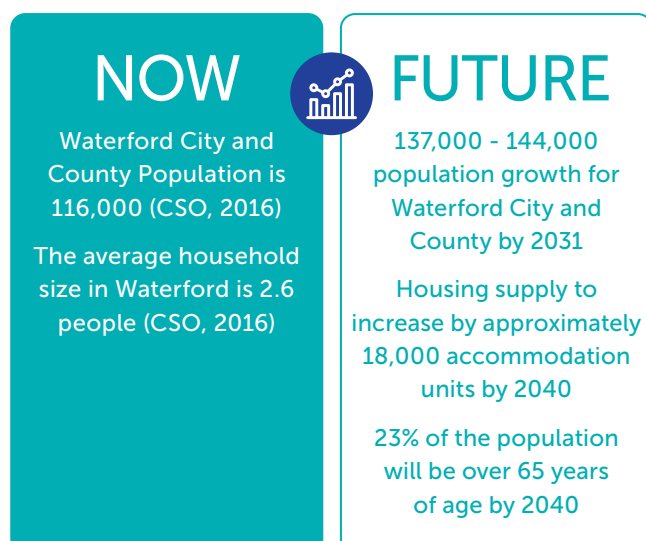


Table 2: Waterford City & Tramore Percentage Housing Tenure (Source CSO 2016)



## Key Questions

1. Are there infill/regeneration sites in your locality that the development plan could identify for housing development?
2. What policies and objectives can the development plan include to make our towns and villages more attractive, vibrant and welcoming to all?
3. Housing accommodation is required for all sectors of society, in particular older people, students, member of the Traveller Community, minority groups, single occupancy units, apartments, family units. Where should such housing be located?
4. What should the form and scale, design and layout of housing in our rural towns look like?
5. How can the development plan promote the reuse of vacant premises within our city, towns and villages?
6. How can the development plan enhance vitality and viability of our smaller communities and places?
7. How can the development plan policies balance the need for the provision of housing in the open countryside while maintaining the social and economic function of the settlements and overall environmental quality?
8. It is important for the broader community that a balance is achieved in the mix of house type and tenure both within settlements and neighbourhoods and between settlements. How can this be achieved through the development plan?



## UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

6; 8; 9; 11; 13; 15

\*Refer to Page 2





174  
Eolas Tionscómachais  
Tourist Information  
Irisleán Leachannach  
Viking Triangle  
Orlaithí Phort Láirge  
Waterford Crystal

**i**  
INFORMATION

**FREE**  
SPREAD THE WORD  
But please  
don't  
Gimme

*Lily O'Brien's*  
THE CHOCOLATE  
CAFÉ

**INFORMATION**





# Economy, Employment, Education



Waterford is located at a key strategic position on the axis of both the Atlantic Economic Corridor, which connects the regional cities on the southern and western seaboard, and the East Coast Corridor which links Waterford to Dublin and Belfast. These links have the potential to stimulate employment led growth and regeneration across the city and county.

Waterford City has been designated as a key regional driver for growth in the South-East, with Dungarvan designated as a key town in the Regional Spatial Economic Strategy.

It is worthwhile to note that Waterford City is the closest metropolitan area to the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) and also to mainland Europe. Waterford benefits from exceptional road, rail, sea and air transport infrastructure making it a prime location for both indigenous and foreign companies to access national and international markets.

The development of WIT to a new Technological University for the South East (TUSE) will increase the intellectual capital of the region. It would be a key driver for innovation and entrepreneurship, increasing Foreign Direct Investment and thereby attracting increased external funding and investment.

## Key Information

5<sup>th</sup> 

Waterford is the 5th largest employment centre in the State



Waterford Port, a deepwater port, is connected to global shipping hubs, providing access to Europe, Americas and Asian markets

18.6% 

have a third level qualification or higher, compared to an average of 24.6% for the State

1.20 

Job to worker ratio for Waterford is 1.20 compared to Cork's 1.16 and Dublin's 0.97<sup>2</sup>, this is indicative of an inflow of workers into the city from a wider service area

6,919 

Waterford City and County Live Register Numbers for March 2020 (Waterford City = 5,731; Dungarvan = 973). This figure is up down by 223 from the same month in 2019\*



Additional 3,840 primary places, 2,720 post-primary and +10K 3rd level places at WIT/TUSE

11.3% 

The school dropout rate was 11.3% compared to 9.4% nationally

12,000 – 15,000 

Additional jobs by 2040 to support additional population

16.2% 

have no formal or only primary level education



## Key Questions

1. What are the unique opportunities and challenges for enterprise and employment growth in Waterford?
2. How can the development plan policies and objectives assist in attracting inward investment and job creation in Waterford and how can a balance be achieved in terms of where investment is located?
3. What type of infrastructure is needed to ensure development of enterprise and how can it be delivered in a timely manner?
4. How can the development plan facilitate the delivery of appropriate education facilities at appropriate locations?



## UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 15

\*Refer to Page 2

\*Source: CSO, May 2020

2 Ratio of +1 = Net in flow of workers, ratio of – 1 = Net out flow of workers.



# Rural Economic Development

The Waterford countryside is, and will continue to be, a living and lived-in landscape focusing on the requirements of rural economies and rural communities, based on agriculture, marine, forestry, tourism and rural enterprise.


The appropriate development of our rural villages and settlements including the provision of infrastructure (water supply and waste water, broadband etc.) is crucial to sustain and increase the rural population and community and maintain facilities and services. Rural towns function as local drivers for their surrounding areas through well established economic, administrative and social functions. It is recognised that the promotion of farm diversification and new employment opportunities within the agriculture sector, energy production, circular bio-economy and rural tourism is necessary to sustain rural communities and ensure viability of existing community services.

High speed broadband roll out beyond urban centres will increase the potential for working from home and facilitate a mobile/remote and flexible workplace. The availability of high speed broadband, which is already accessible in our Libraries throughout the county, is of strategic importance to improving the productivity of the workforce in rural areas of Waterford. It will assist innovation and job creation, improving our status as an attractive location for foreign direct investment and enabling firms to compete in national and international markets. Remote working will reduce the need for employees to commute long distances to work, helping cut our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as well as bringing vibrancy and vitality back to rural our rural towns and villages.

The development plan will seek to create a balance of residential, commercial, employment, community and other uses in rural settlements in support of their broader rural hinterland.


### Key Information

5.7%



Agriculture is the predominant land use in the County with 5.7% of people employed in the Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing

6.4%



6.4% of rural Waterford's population are Pre-Schoolers; 12.5% are Primary School age; 9% Secondary School age and 16% are Older People (+65)

€4m



WCCC has assisted rural communities in rural economic activity with almost €4m allocated in rural funding since 2016

€3.7m



WCCC helps rural villages and towns through our Rural Regeneration Project e.g. €3.7m for Mount Congreve to establish a world-class tourism destination



Community of Place Plans to act as rural economic drivers in tourism, agricultural and marine sectors (Eustary, Copper Coast, An Rinn, Blackwater/ West Waterford and Comeragh Uplands);



### Key Questions

1. What policies and objectives should be included in the development plan to accommodate sensitive rural development while safeguarded the countryside in terms of biodiversity and habitats?
2. How do you think the development plan can support agriculture and other rural based enterprises such as forestry, marine and renewable energy?
3. What are the services and infrastructure required to support vibrant rural communities and where should they be located?
4. How can the development plan facilitate new and existing indigenous rural based enterprises and how can they be facilitated in unserved rural areas?



UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 13; 14; 15

\*Refer to Page 2





# Sustainable Tourism





Waterford is Ireland's oldest city and as such its rich history and landscape has and continues to provide invaluable tourism assets for both the city and county. Waterford has a strong tourism base focused around our natural environment and historic towns all have significant growth potential to develop tourism in Waterford.



The review of the development plan will play a key role in facilitating the development of our tourism potential, through supporting sustainable development of our natural and historical assets and strengthening the role of our city, towns and villages in providing the framework for tourism related infrastructure.

## Key Information



288K International tourist visitors in 2018 who spent €52m; 509K National visitors in 2019 who spent €111m

€500K

from Failte Ireland to boost the attractiveness and tourism appeal of Waterford City



The Greenway, a 46km cycle and walking route from Waterford to Dungarvan won The Guardian and Failte Ireland awards in 2018; 283K people used the Greenway in 2018



Planned expansion of the Waterford Greenway into the heart of the Viking Triangle and to New Ross

€400K

spent on Out Door Recreation Projects since 2017

€700K

spent on trail under the Town and Village Renewal Projects since 2017

25

walking trails in Waterford that meet the National Trails Standards



Waterford has been chosen as the winner of Foodie Destinations 2019



## Key Questions

1. How can the development plan policy balance the requirements to enhance the natural amenity of Waterford, including its rivers, mountains, woodlands and coastline, while developing such amenities for tourism's.
2. Are there any areas/attractions in Waterford city or county that you think have the potential to be sustainably developed for tourism and recreational purposes?
3. What type of infrastructure or services are required to service tourism attractions and where should they be located?



## UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

3; 10; 11; 13; 14; 15

\*Refer to Page 2



# Transportation and Mobility



A successful transport system is dependent on the integration with land-use planning. It is essential to have an efficient strategic transport system for the future economic, social and physical development of Waterford. An efficient and well managed transport network not only provides ease of access and movement; but serves to improve the quality of life of residents and visitors, attracting businesses and activity. New cycle ways and walkways are also a significant means of improving sustainable transport within/between communities and assisting in transitioning to a low carbon and climate resilient society.

The development of the City’s North Quays provides an opportunity to promote a move away from car based transport to public transport, walking and cycling and facilitates the relocation of Plunkett Station to a more accessible location. The North Quays will link to the South Quays via a sustainable transport bridge.

For Waterford’s national & regional economic competitiveness, investment in the sustainable development of our port and airport assets is essential. Key future growth enablers for Waterford include connectivity to these facilities as well as enhanced regional connectivity to/from Waterford through improved average journey times by road to Limerick via proposed M20, to Cork via N25 and improved rail connections to Dublin and Limerick Junction.

### Key Information

52%

Just over half (52%) of commuters into Waterford city and suburbs came from Waterford county (5,807), 27% Kilkenny (2,994), 10% Wexford (1,145).

North Quays will provide for a multi-modal transport hub and a sustainable transport bridge across the River Suir.

67.8%

of people have less than 30 min commute; (national average is 28.2 mins)

22mins

is the average travel time to work for people in Waterford

Trip Type	Age	Car %	Active Modes %	Public Trans. %
School	5-12	67	19	9
School	13-18	52	20	22
School	19+	45	37	13
Work	15+	71	10	2
Total		71	15	6
State Total		63	17	13

### Key Questions

1. Do you find it easy to access local amenities by foot or bike?
2. What actions and policies can the development plan identify to ensure an increase in persons using public transport?
3. How can we build on the successes of the Waterford Greenway?
4. What actions can the development plan include to support the use of the Greenway as an option for you to walk/cycle for transport?
5. What are the most suitable locations for Park and Ride or Park and Stride facilities?
6. What are the most suitable locations for electrical vehicle charging points?
7. How can the development plan facilitate Waterford City and other towns becoming ‘10 minute neighbourhoods’?<sup>3</sup>
8. How can the development plan policies and land use objectives decrease dependency on private cars?
9. How can development plan assist in creating safe environments for walking and cycling while still accommodating private car and heavy goods vehicle movement, particularly in narrow confined streets?

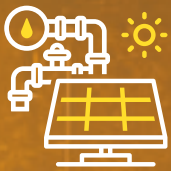
### UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

3; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 13; 15

\*Refer to Page 2

<sup>3</sup> A 10 min city is where a range of community facilities and services are accessible in short walking and cycling timeframes from homes or accessible by high quality public transport to these services in larger settlements.

16 Transportation and Mobility



# Principle Enabling Infrastructure, Energy and Communications

The availability of high quality infrastructure and environmental services will play a crucial role in securing economic investment and safeguarding our environment into the future. The development plan must ensure that all new development is both plan and infrastructure led across Waterford.

## Water and Drainage

The National River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 sets out to bring Ireland fully in line with the Water Framework Directive and restoring our water quality to at least ‘good’ status.

The development plan provides an opportunity to find innovative solutions to infrastructural requirements, especially surface water and foul water, where enhanced biodiversity and green infrastructure as well as amenity value can be added to settlements, e.g. Dunhill Integrated Constructed Wetlands and the Anne Valley Walk. The use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) is critical to implementing solutions in larger urban centres and will be central to any Green Infrastructure Strategies of the Council.

## Energy

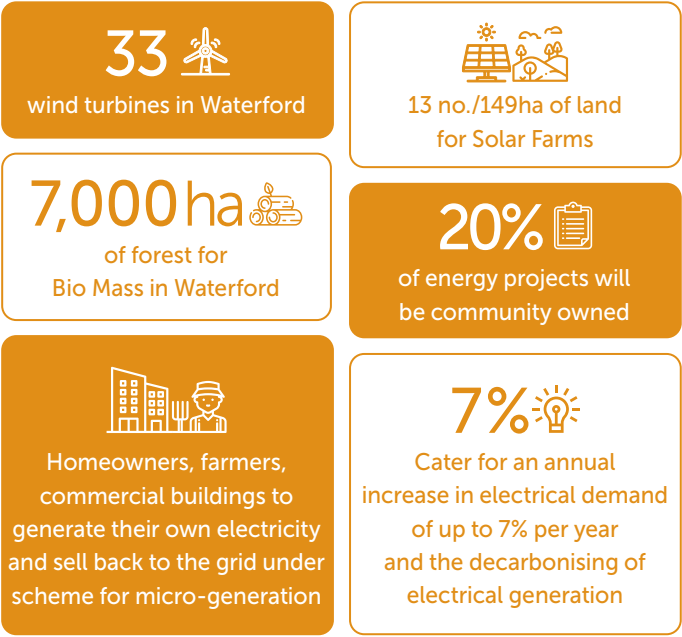
Energy comes in many forms such as fossil fuels and renewable (solar, biomass, wave and on/off shore wind). The Council supports the national policy shift to low carbon energy solutions for a greener future as well as the need to enhance electrical generation and distribution infrastructure to ensure that current and future energy demands are met.

The role out of electrical infrastructure such as upgrades to transmission and distribution networks, the increased electrical capacity to meet the increase electrical demand and the connection to the ‘Green Link’ interconnector for energy supply/security will be vital for the future development of Waterford.

## Communication

It is intended that the National Broadband Plan will address the lack of high speed connectivity in rural areas. The Council will continue to support and facilitate operators to improve speed and service across Waterford in line with national policy.

## Key Information



## Key Questions

1. What policies and objectives can be contained in the development plan that will facilitate /enable infrastructure led development?
2. How can the development plan policies support the reuse of older buildings in the context of current energy and other building design standards?
3. How can the development plan balance the need for renewable and secure energy supply for urban and rural communities while maintaining environmental quality?
4. What actions can the development plan include to ensure we meet our energy needs in the future?
5. What actions can the development plan put in place to improve water quality?
6. Where should renewable energy developments be located given the national targets for this sector?
7. In the absence of public investment in infrastructure, what is the best solution to providing waste water and water services in smaller towns and villages in order to support their capacity to accommodate viable communities into the future? How can such a solution be implemented?



## UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15

\*Refer to Page 2





# Climate Change and Environment



The Council recognises and understands the significance of protecting our natural environments and the potential adverse impacts climate change could have on our way of life. Climate change adaptation and mitigation and reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> will underpin the development plan which will deliver a more climate resilient Waterford for future generations. Key objectives in this regard will be:

## Adaptation Measures

- To Implement 8 goals and 25 specific objectives of the “Waterford City and County Council Climate Change Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024”;
- These include the mainstream adaptation, implementing informed decision making, building reliance to the effects of Climate Change, capitalising on opportunities; and provide green infrastructure measures to control/ manage surface water;

## Mitigation Measures

- LED retro fitting of 16,000 WCCC public lighting to begin in 2020;
- Reduce energy consumption to meet 2020 and 2030 energy and CO<sub>2</sub> targets;
- Ensure that all WCCC housing stock has a minimum energy rating of B2, by 2030;
- Implement sustainable transport measures such as cycling lanes, electrical vehicles charging infrastructure and community rural transport services;
- Increase the level of tree coverage in both urban and rural areas;
- Promote compact growth through reducing the need to travel;
- Promote passive solar design and energy efficient **Nearly Zero Energy Buildings**;
- Prioritise sustainable and active modes of travel;
- Promote waste reduction and the re-use of existing building stock;
- Place residential, employment, commercial, community services within easy 10 min walking and cycling catchments.



Development if not managed in the correct way can intensify natural flooding process, therefore a strategic flood risk assessment will be carried out to avoid flood risk and substitute less vulnerable uses when avoidance is not possible.

As part of the preparation of the development plan the Council will include policies to support the reduction of the impacts of climate change, promote energy conservation and greater use of renewable energy sources/ technologies as well as identifying measures to minimise the potential for flooding in the area.

The development plan will also be subject to Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA) to consider its potential effects on the natural environment and on EU protected sites (Natura 2000) and their networks.

## Key Information



WCCC's Climate  
Change Adaptation Strategy  
adopted 2019



In 2016 WCCC adopted its  
Renewable Energy Strategy

0.5m   
sea level rise by 2050

30% 

Reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions  
by 30% by 2030 from  
that basis net zero  
emissions by 2050



Reduce fossil fuels and  
reliance on gas, oil and peat



Support the  
decarbonising of heating  
building, transport  
and related emissions



## Key Questions

1. What are the opportunities and challenges for Waterford in light of climate change?
2. How do you think the development plan policy can assist in bringing about a reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> levels in line with national policy?
3. What do you think the impacts of climate change will be in your area?
4. How do you think the policies and objectives of the development plan can make a climate resilient place in which to live?
5. In light of climate action targets, what areas should be identified for district heating and micro-generation schemes?
6. (A) Can the development plan influence new developments so that they are self-sufficient in meeting their energy requirements; and (B) Contribute to the future overall energy demand of their locality i.e. commercial, domestic, transport etc?



**UN Sustainable  
Development Goals:\***

3; 6; 7; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15

\*Refer to Page 2









# Heritage and Culture

Waterford City & County has a rich and varied heritage which plays a key part in its identity and distinctiveness. The protection of our archaeological, built, cultural and natural heritage is vital to creating a better future for all.

## Natural Heritage

Waterford contains a variety of sites of special conservation interest as they are considered to be internationally important under the EU Habitats Directive. Nine sites are designated for their value as habitats or species of flora or fauna e.g. the Rivers Suir and Blackwater and the Comeragh Mountains whilst Dungarvan Bay, Tramore Bay and the coast are designated Special Protection Areas for birdlife.

Conservation sites of national importance include Kilbarry Bog and Fenor Bog which are designated as Natural Heritage Areas. Connecting these sites are networks of ecological corridors important for biodiversity at a local scale e.g. small wetlands, woodlands, tree lines and hedgerows. The importance of these ecological stepping stones is recognised in Article 10 of the EU Habitats Directive. Other sites of natural heritage value protected in the Development Plan include, trees listed under Tree Preservation Order Geological Heritage Sites and scenic routes and views.

## Green Infrastructure, Biodiversity

Green Infrastructure (GI) is used to describe the interconnected network of land and water all around us that sustains environmental quality and enrich our quality of life. GI contributes to the protection of both the urban and rural environments for people, biodiversity and ecosystems. GI can include nature conservation areas, parks, open space, rivers and floodplains, hedgerows and wetlands.

See images below for a good example of Green Infrastructure in the county in **Dunhill – Annestown Valley**.



## Built Heritage and Archaeology

The built heritage includes a rich catalogue of archaeological and architectural structures including castles, country houses, churches, public buildings, town houses, historic shopfronts, thatched cottages, farm complexes, mills, quays and lighthouses. Many of these buildings are designated as Protected Structures (PS) and included on the Record of Protected Structures or are located within designated Architectural Conservation Areas (ACA).

Archaeological Sites and Monuments are recorded on the Record of Monuments and Places (RMP) which identifies the location of all known recorded archaeological monuments in Waterford City and County. The RMP also includes Zones of Archaeological Potential which indicates areas of potential archaeology within a given area.

## Culture

Culture is an integral part of how we lead our everyday lives. It connects us through our rituals and traditions through our landscape, language, sport, food, song and dance. It roots us and gives us a sense of place. It assists our health and wellbeing, gives expression to our creativity and provides outlets for participation, engagement, reflection, celebration and entertainment for all citizens.

Creativity is increasingly been recognised as supporting innovation and economic development. The Creative Ireland programme and planned development of a creative industries ecosystem in the Waterford Cultural Quarter support cultural and economic growth including in employment, tourism and Waterford's status as regional capital of the South East.

Heritage and Culture can all play an important economic role that promotes jobs, encourages tourism and supports the hospitality sector of Waterford.





## Key Information

### Heritage Facts:

**132ha** 

Waterford Nature Park and pNHA is a 132 ha public amenity and biodiversity space within the city environment 23 TPO's in Waterford City and County

**56** 

Wetlands of local biodiversity interest

9 SACs/ 6 SPAs & 27 pNHAs

**54** 

Geological Heritage Sites

### Built Heritage Facts:

**3** 

There are 3 ACAs in Waterford

**1,500** 

buildings on the RPS in Waterford

**€1m** 

received in funding for protected structures in Waterford since 2016

**2,700** 

archaeological sites and monuments in Waterford

### Gaeltacht Facts:

**27%** 

of the population of An Rinn speak Irish on a daily basis



An Rinn was the only Gaeltacht in the County to see an increase in Irish speakers



Dungarvan is classified as a Gaeltacht Service Town

### Culture Facts:

**569,841** 

people visited our libraries in 2018 with 445,450 items issued to library borrowers

**€165K** 

grants total by which Cultural Venues were funded in 2018



WCCC has adopted the Waterford City & County Council Library Development Plan 2017–2022 and The Arts Strategy 2016–2021

**€327,800** 

total funding which went to Cultural Festival Grants

**€160K** 

Arts Programme total funding

**€90K** 

total funding which went to Arts Practice Grants in support of artists

**€500K** 

from Creative Ireland Programme 2017– 2022 to fund creativity and development of creative communities)



### Key Questions

1. How can the development plan balance the need to maintain and enhance the quality, character and function of our natural heritage landscapes and seascapes while facilitating appropriate development?
2. How can natural heritage and biodiversity be enhanced in your area/Waterford?
3. What are the key features of biodiversity value and how can the development plan protect and enhance them?
4. How can the development plan encourage and strike a balance between conservation and renewal, while facilitating the reuse/adaptation of protected structures that are underutilised or have fallen into disrepair?
5. Our built heritage contributes to our sense of place; can we adapt historic buildings and find a sustainable reuse without losing unique character?
6. How can the development plan assist the owners of historic structures in protecting and using their properties?
7. Are there areas in your town/village that should be designated as an Architectural Conservation Area and if so why?
8. Should any changes be made to the Record of Protected Structures and if so, why?
9. How can the development plan support the linguistic and cultural heritage of the Gaeltacht in An Rinn and safeguard and promote culture in Waterford?
10. What policies or actions should be included in the development plan to progress the Waterford Cultural Quarter?
11. Can the development plan support cultural and creative industry and associated events and if so how?



**UN Sustainable Development Goals:\***

3; 10; 11; 13; 14; 15

\*Refer to Page 2







# Sustainable Communities and Place Making

## Sustainable Communities

Community facilities play a central role in shaping our cities, towns, neighbourhoods and villages. They provide for the educational, cultural, sporting, childcare, environmental health and social needs of our society. Sustainable neighbourhoods need a range of community facilities that are fit for purpose, easily accessed and adaptable. All of our citizens across the Waterford should have easy access to these facilities in order to avoid social exclusion and inequality.

## Place Making

The built environment impacts on our quality of life. Good urban design is crucial in creating attractive vibrant places and spaces in which we live, work and play. Creating a sense of place and identity in our built environment can facilitate a range of positive outcomes such as encouraging economic vitality and enhancing the character and distinctiveness of our urban environments. It can also enhance wellbeing by allowing people to interact informally with others.

### Key Information

€17.3m

in total was invested in the Waterford City Centre public realm in 2018

€2.1m

in total committed to public realm upgrades in Tramore

€7.2m

invested in Dungarvan Smarter Travel which included upgrade to The Square

€500K

received in 2019 under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme



### Key Questions

1. What do you think makes a sustainable neighbourhood or place in which to live?
2. What do you think can be done to make sure our public spaces are safe and accessible to all?
3. What facilities would you like to see provided for in your community?
4. What actions can the development plan include to facilitate greater levels of physical activity and support healthy and active life choices?
5. What is needed to make our neighbourhoods and settlement more desirable places in which to live?
6. What policies and actions can the development plan include to make the most of our public parks for purposes of both amenity and biodiversity value?
7. Within Waterford city and suburbs where do you think (i) regional park and (ii) neighbourhood parks should be located?

**Note:** Aside from this pre-draft public consultation process, a Place Standard survey is being undertaken with a link to the relevant documentation set out on the [consult.waterford.ie](https://consult.waterford.ie) portal. This will inform Waterford City and County Council of your views on your own area. You are invited to complete the survey in your own time, the results of which will be used by Waterford City and County Council in the carrying out of its statutory functions.



### UN Sustainable Development Goals:\*

3; 10; 11; 13

\*Refer to Page 2



## Making Your Submission

Submissions or observations regarding the review of the existing Waterford City Development Plan 2013-2019 (as amended), the Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 (as amended) and Dungarvan Town Development Plan 2012-2018 (as amended) and the preparation of the new unitary Waterford City and County Development Plan 2022-2028 may be made to the Planning Authority from Monday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2020 until Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 (both dates inclusive) and can be submitted by one of the following mediums;

1. In writing to: Senior Planner, Planning Department,  
Waterford City and County Council, Menapia  
Building, The Mall, Waterford City.

OR

2. In electronic format to via the online consultation  
portal <http://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/>

Please make your submission by one medium only (i.e. in hard copy or via the website/email). This will avoid the duplication of submission reference numbers and will streamline the process. All submissions should be clearly marked 'City and County Development Plan 2022-2028'.

**In respect of making a submission  
or observation please note the following;**

- Submissions should relate to the proper planning and sustainable development of the area.
- Children or groups or associations representing the interest of children are entitled to make submissions or observations regarding the objectives and policies to deliver an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area of the development plan and core strategy. **However, requests or proposals for the zoning of particular land for any purpose shall not be considered at this Pre-Draft Stage. Any such submissions will be returned.**
- If you consider that you have a disability, please give details of any special requirements for public consultation purposes that you may have in order that appropriate arrangements can be made if necessary.
- All submissions must include your name and contact address, a map (where appropriate), and where relevant, details of any organisation, community group or company, etc, which you represent.

A number of public Information drop-in events are being organised across the city and county which will assist in informing the making of pre draft submissions by the public. Full details of the location and times for these events will be provided through <https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/> and through local press.

**The closing date for receipt of submission to this  
Pre-Draft stage is Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020 at 4.00pm.  
Late submissions will not be accepted.**

**Data Protection: Note:** Submissions received by the Planning Authority will be published on Waterford City & County Council's website at <https://consult.waterfordcouncil.ie/> within 10 working days of receipt, along with your name in accordance with the Planning & Development (Amendment) Act 2018. Your contact details will not be published. Please do not include personal, confidential or other sensitive information in submissions. Queries: Email [dataprotection@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:dataprotection@waterfordcouncil.ie)

## Stages of a Development Plan

There are various stages involved in the preparation of the development plan. This current stage is considered to be Stage 1 "Pre-Draft" and includes the preparation of this strategic issues paper. As noted from the accompanying diagramme, there will be subsequent opportunities for public consultation prior to the making of the final unitary development plan in early 2022.

