

Section 2 The Plan

2.1 Background to and Content of the Plan

The Plan sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the functional area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council for the period 2016-2022. The Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires a planning authority to prepare a Development Plan for its functional area every six years. The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of section 10(2) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, and comprises of a written document with maps, and various appendices.

The Plan's overall vision is to continue to facilitate appropriate levels of sustainable development predicated on the delivery of high quality community, employment and recreational environments - allied to the promotion of sustainable transportation and travel patterns - but all the while protecting Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's unique landscape, natural heritage and physical fabric, to ensure the needs of those living and working in the County can thrive in a socially, economically and environmentally sustainable manner.

The Plan has been structured into 10 main Chapters which deal with various topics as outlined below. These chapters contain different types of provisions (visions, policies, objectives and standards) which will be applied to future development proposals in the County.

1. Strategic Overview

- 1.1 Introduction and Context
- 1.2 Core Strategy
- 1.3 Development Areas and Regeneration

2. Sustainable Communities Strategy

- 2.1 Residential Development
- 2.2 Sustainable Travel and Transportation

3. Enterprise and Employment Strategy

- 3.1 Enterprise and Employment
- 3.2 Retailing and Major Town Centres

4. Green County Strategy

- 4.1 Landscape, Heritage and Biodiversity
- 4.2 Open Space and Recreation

5. Physical Infrastructure Strategy

- 5.1 Environmental Infrastructure and Management
- 5.2 Climate Change, Energy Efficiency and Flooding

6. Built Heritage Strategy

- 6.1 Archaeology and Architectural Heritage

7. Community Strategy

- 7.1 Social Infrastructure and Community Development

8. Principles of Development

- 8.1 Urban Design Strategy
- 8.2 Development Management
- 8.3 Land Use Zoning Objectives

9. Specific Local Objectives

10. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Appropriate Assessment (AA)

The Plan contains **17 Appendices** as follows:

1. National, Regional and Local Context
2. Housing Strategy
3. Ecological Network
4. RPS/RMP/ACAs/CACAs
5. Industrial Heritage Survey
6. Wind Energy Strategy
7. Landscape Character Areas
8. ROW/RAR
9. Building Height Strategy
10. Development Management Thresholds Information
11. Rural Design Guide
12. Dún Laoghaire Urban Framework Plan
13. Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
14. Green Infrastructure Strategy
15. Sandyford Urban Framework Plan
16. Statement outlining compliance with Ministerial Guidelines
17. Green Roofs Guidance Document

2.2 Strategic work done by the Council to ensure contribution towards environmental protection and sustainable development

Far in advance of both the submission of the pre-Draft Plan to the Elected Members for approval and the placing of the Draft Plan (and associated SEA, AA and SFRA documents) on public display, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council undertook various works in order to inform the preparation of the Plan.

The findings of this strategic work have been integrated into the Plan and will be implemented when it is adopted, contributing towards both environmental protection and management and sustainable development within the County.

Strategic work done by the Council includes the preparation of the following:

- Background work in relation to the Sustainable Communities Strategy
- Background work in relation to the Enterprise and Employment Strategy
- Background work in relation to the Physical Infrastructure Strategy
- Background work in relation to the Built Heritage Strategy
- Background work in relation to the Community Strategy
- Housing Strategy
- Ecological Network
- Review of Wind Energy Strategy
- Review of Landscape Character Areas
- Green Infrastructure Strategy
- Review of DLUFP
- Review of SUFF
- Climate Change proofing

The undertaking of this SEA process as well as the undertaking of the AA and SFRA were part of this strategic work and contributed towards the integration of environmental considerations into individual Plan provisions as summarised in Section 5 of this report.

2.3 Relationship with other relevant Plans and Programmes

Introduction

The Plan sits within a hierarchy of land use forward planning strategic actions such as policies, plans and programmes. The Plan must comply with relevant higher level strategic actions and may, in turn, guide lower level strategic actions.

The National Spatial Strategy 2002-2020

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020 is a twenty year National Plan that sets out a strategy for balanced Regional development across Ireland and it informs National decisions as to where development (and Government investment) should take place. The NSS, while acknowledging the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) as the driver of the National economy, seeks to promote a better balance of population, jobs and development elsewhere in the State. The NSS is now twelve years old and is currently under review by the Department of the Environment, Community, and Local Government and is likely to be replaced during the County Development Plan process.

Regional Planning Guidelines

The Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) for the Greater Dublin Area 2010-2022 provide an overall spatial policy framework for the GDA to 2022 and focus on the physical consolidation of the Dublin Metropolitan Area and the proper integration of land use and transportation to promote more sustainable forms of development across the Region. RPG's projections for population and housing targets, published in June 2010, suggest that the GDA will grow significantly through both natural increase and continued in-migration. Up to 118,000 new houses could be needed across the seven GDA Local Authorities by 2022 to cater for the demand generated by the combination of population increase and changing household composition. Substantial retail and commercial development and the commensurate delivery of social and community infrastructure will also be needed to cater for the scale of projected growth.

It is worth noting that these projections were prepared prior to the Census in 2011. It should also be noted that the current GDA Regional Authority will be replaced this year by a new Eastern and Midlands Regional Assembly. This will result in the existing RPGs being replaced. The timing of both the establishment of the new larger Regional Assembly and the review of the NSS presents some logistical difficulties in the preparation of a strategic County Development Plan document which should be guided by and consistent with up-to-date National and Regional guidance.

River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures

Local Authorities including Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council have prepared a River Basin Management Plan and Programme of Measures for the Eastern River Basin District 2009-2015 which is implemented in order to help protect and improve waters in the County and wider River Basin Districts.

Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management Studies

A Catchment Flood Risk Assessment and Management (CFRAM) Study is being undertaken for the Eastern River Basin District by the Office of Public Works. The CFRAM Study focusing on areas known to have experienced flooding in the past and areas that may be subject to flooding in the future either due to development pressures or climate change. In 2015, draft Flood Maps were published. The final output from the studies will be CFRAM Plans, to be published in 2017. The Plans will define the current and future flood risk in the River Basin Districts and set out how this risk can be managed.

Smarter Travel 2009

"Smarter Travel, A Sustainable Transport Future, A New Transport Policy for Ireland 2009 - 2020" is the Government's action plan to free towns and cities from traffic congestion, substantially cut CO2 emissions, encourage car based commuters to leave their cars at home, and encourage a shift toward walking, cycling and greater public transport usage.

New Waste Management Plans

In accordance with Section 22 of the Waste Management Act, 1996 and the Waste Management (Planning) Regulations, 1997, notice was given of the intention to commence the preparation of new Regional Waste Management Plans in 2013. Three new Plans have been adopted (2015) for the following new waste management planning regions:

- Connacht-Ulster;
- Eastern-Midland (comprising local authorities: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, Dublin City, Fingal, Kildare, Laois, Longford, Louth, Meath, Offaly, South Dublin, Wicklow and Westmeath); and
- Southern.

Environmental Protection Objectives

The Plan is subject to a number of high level environmental protection policies and objectives with which it must comply, including those which have been identified as Strategic Environmental Objectives in Section 3.13. An example of an Environmental Protection Objective is the aim of the EU Habitats Directive - which is to contribute towards ensuring biodiversity through the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in the European territory of Member States.