

APPENDIX 4 – POLICY CONTEXT

National Spatial Strategy 2002

The National Spatial Strategy (NSS) is a twenty year planning framework that aims to achieve a better balance of social, economic and physical development across the country supported by more effective planning. The strategy is based on a hierarchy of settlements, Gateways, Hubs and county towns along with the need to support the role of smaller towns, villages and diverse rural economies. Carrick on Suir is located on a National Transport Corridor and it is stated that Carrick on Suir and similar towns;

“...provide good bases for population and services which will attract investment and employment activities additional to those that need to be located in or near a gateway. There are development opportunities for Clonmel and Carrick-on-Suir, placed strategically between Waterford and Limerick/Shannon”...

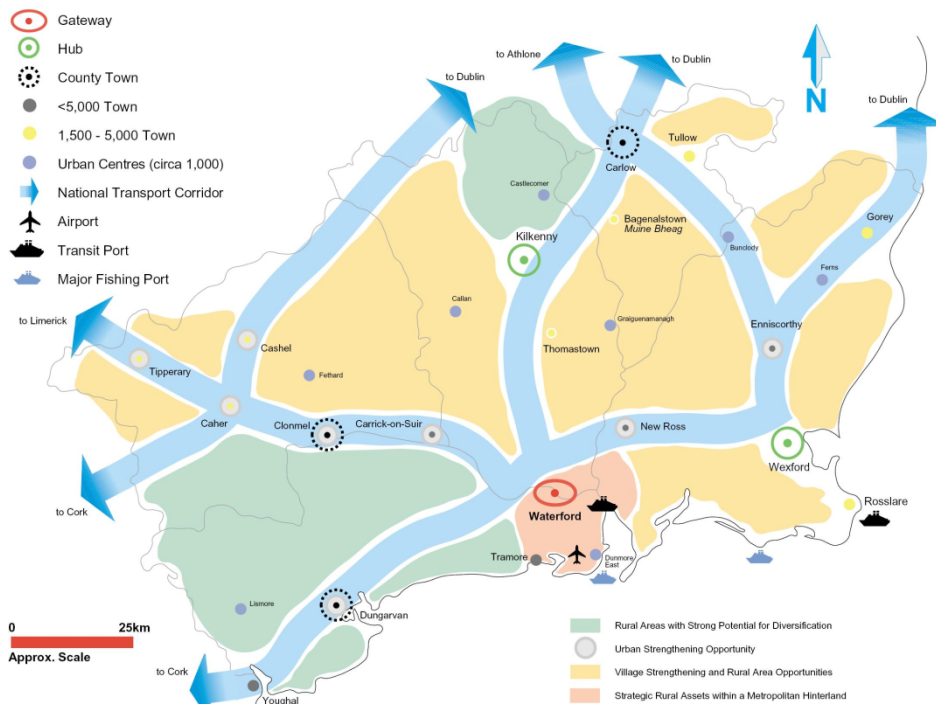


Figure A3.1: Role of Carrick on Suir in Context of NSS

National Development Plan 2007 – 2013

The National Development Plan (NDP) identifies investment funding for significant projects in sectors such as health services, social housing, education, roads, public transport, rural development, industry, and water and waste services. The NDP is designed to strengthen and improve the international competitiveness of the County so as to support continued, but more balanced, economic and social development in line with the NSS.

Smarter Travel A Sustainable Transport Future

Smarter Travel A Sustainable Transport Future, was published in February 2009, and represents a new transport policy for Ireland for the period 2009-2020. The policy recognises the vital importance of continued investment in transport to ensure an efficient economy and continued social development, but it also sets out the necessary steps to ensure that people choose more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

The policy is a response to the fact that continued growth in demand for road transport is not sustainable from a number of angles it will lead to further congestion, further local air pollution, contribute to global warming, and result in negative impacts to health through promoting increasingly sedentary lifestyles.

The policy aims to;

- ✚ Improve quality of life and accessibility to transport for all and, in particular, for people with reduced mobility and those who may experience isolation due to lack of transport
- ✚ Improve economic competitiveness through maximising the efficiency of the transport system and alleviating congestion and infrastructural bottlenecks.
- ✚ Minimise the negative impacts of transport on the local and global environment through reducing localised air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✚ Reduce overall travel demand and commuting distances travelled by the private car
- ✚ Improve security of energy supply by reducing dependency on imported fossil fuels.

South East Regional Planning Guidelines 2010

The South East Regional Planning Guidelines 2010 were made on the 26th July 2010. Under the Regional Planning Guidelines it is stated that the strategic role of Carrick on Suir needs to be developed. The town has been targeted for growth having regard to its strategic location, capacity for growth and potential to deliver on the core objectives of critical mass and balanced regional development. Furthermore it is stated that;

“Both New Ross and Carrick-on-Suir are located approximately 23 kilometres and 27 kilometres respectively from Waterford City and, as such, are ideally placed to support the strengthening of critical mass within the catchment of the Regional Gateway. Both towns are directly connected to Waterford City by National Primary Road and they provide a strategic link between the Gateway and the larger urban centres to the west and east of the city, i.e. Clonmel and Wexford”.

Development Role is stated as being;

- a) Target for growth, or
- b) Consider that, these towns having recently experienced high levels of population growth, the objective is that more measured growth is desirable in a manner that allows community, social and retail development to catch up with recent rapid phases of mainly residential development.
- c) Consider to be good locations for economic development

Table A3.1: Settlement Hierarchy for the South East Region	
Gateway	Waterford City
Hubs & County Towns	Kilkenny City Wexford Town Clonmel Carlow Dungarvan
Large Towns	CARRICK ON SUIR Tipperary Town Tramore Enniscorthy New Ross Gorey
District Towns	Cashel Cahir Tullow Bagenalstown Bunclody/ Carrickduff Thomastown Callan Castlebridge Dunmore East Castlecomer



Figure A3.2: Geographical location of the South East Region

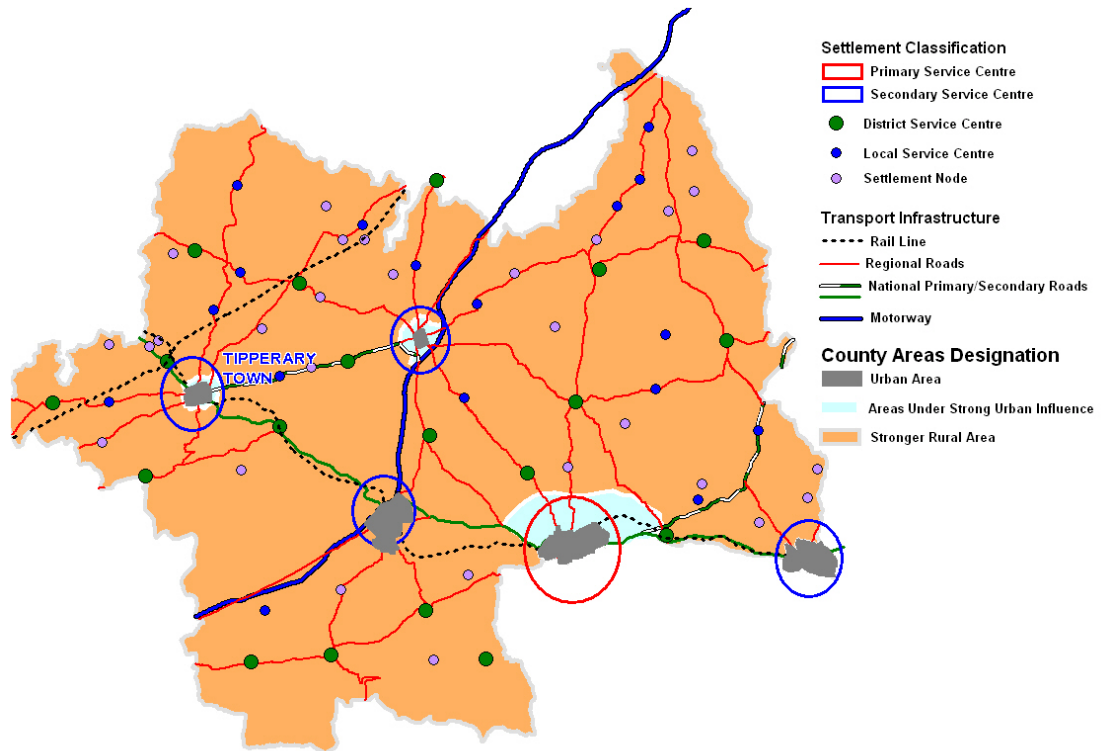


Figure A3.3: Core Strategy Map for South Tipperary

Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland 1997

In 1997, the Government published Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland. The Strategy provides the framework for the achievement of sustainability at the local level. It calls on Planning Authorities to incorporate the principles of sustainable development into their development plans and to ensure that planning policies support its achievement. The strategy highlights the need for Planning Authorities to take a strategic view of settlement patterns; avoiding development that results in the inefficient use of land.

National Climate Change Strategy 2007-2012

The strategy seeks to reduce dependence on the use of fossil fuels for energy production, increase use of low and zero carbon fuels and improve building efficiency. The Council is committed to ensuring that the measures and commitments identified in the Strategy will be implemented throughout the life of the Development Plan.

The Water Framework Directive 2000

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) sets out a framework for comprehensive management of water resources in the European Community. It addresses inland surface waters, estuarine and coastal waters and groundwater. The fundamental objective of the WFD aims at maintaining “high status” of waters where it exists, preventing any deterioration in the existing status of waters and achieving at least “good status” in relation to all waters by 2015. Member States will have to ensure that a co-ordinated approach is adopted for the achievement of the objectives of the WFD and for the implementation of programmes of measures for this purpose. Irrespective of political boundaries, the river basin is the natural unit for water management; Ireland is divided into 8 River Basin Districts (RBD).

Carrick on Suir lies within the South Eastern RBD. The River Basin Management Plan for the South Eastern River Basin District 2009 – 2015 produced in accordance with the Water Framework Directive was published in 2010. The River Basin Management Plan identifies the key water issues facing the region and classifies the status of our waters. In addition the Management Plan expands and applies the core objectives set out under the WFD. Lastly the River Basin Management Plan sets out the measures to be pursued in order to restore good water status. Any relevant policies and objectives contained in the Draft Implementation Plan for the River Basin Management Plan currently being produced by the Environment Section of STCC are reflected in the COSTDP 2013.

Spatial Planning & National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012

These Guidelines set out planning policy considerations relating to development affecting national roads outside the 50/60-kph speed limit zones for cities, towns and villages, including motorways, national primary and national secondary roads. The Guidelines identify that the planning system has a key role to play in directing development towards locations where infrastructure capacity has been or will be provided to cater to long term development requirements and so harnessing and protecting the states investment for long term strategic benefit.

The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines 2009

These guidelines, published by the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government (DoEHLG) in November 2009 introduce comprehensive mechanisms for the incorporation of flood risk identification, assessment and management into the planning process, building upon the longstanding acknowledgement in the planning system of the importance of addressing the issue. Implementation of the guidelines is to be achieved through specific actions at the national, regional, local authority and site specific levels. These guidelines, introduce a more consistent, systematic and stringent approach to both Forward Planning and to the assessment of planning applications seeking permission for development on floodplains. The operation of the Guidelines has implications for landuse zoning within the plan area. In addition, all planning applications submitted within the development plan boundary will have to include a Flood Risk Management Assessment as provided for in the Flood Risk Management Guidelines.

Sustainable Residential Development in Urban Areas 2009

These statutory Guidelines and accompanying Urban Design Manual set out and illustrate essential criteria for sustainable urban residential development and demonstrate how new development can be integrated and facilitated across a range of locations. Specific guidance is also provided on residential development for smaller towns acknowledging that different solutions are required to meet different scales and patterns of urban development.

Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2005

These guidelines set out in detail how the Government's policies on rural housing are to be implemented by planning authorities in making their development plans. Planning Authorities should seek to manage pressure for overspill development from urban areas in the rural areas closest to the main cities and towns such as the gateways, hubs, and other large towns. Local Authorities have a variety of measures available to them to secure the ongoing development,

renewal and improvement of towns and villages. These measures include the incorporation of appropriate policies in the development plan, derelict sites legislation and serviced land initiatives relating to water service and roads related infrastructure. Development of individual serviced sites or housing schemes of appropriate scale and character, within, or in the vicinity of small rural towns and villages can be encouraged using these mechanisms. Using the development plan and local plan processes, planning authorities should therefore make every effort to harness all of these measures to ensure that sufficient high quality, well located and affordable development can take place.

The development of the rural environs of major urban areas, including the gateways and hubs identified in the NSS and county and other larger towns over 5,000 in population needs to be carefully managed in order to assure their orderly development and successful functioning into the future.

Planning authorities need to ensure that cities, towns and villages offer attractive and affordable housing options to meet the housing needs of urban communities and persons wishing to live in urban areas. This will assist in mitigating excessive levels of pressure for urban generated development in rural areas, especially those closest to the environs of cities and towns.

Delivering Homes, Sustaining Communities 2007

This national policy statement sets out a range of actions geared at:

- Building sustainable communities
- Responding to housing need in a way that improves choice and encourages individual responsibility within communities, There is a clear emphasis on a services approach – one that tailors supports to households taking account of their position in the life cycle, and,
- Effectively delivering housing programmes, to get better outcomes for the households' supported and better value for money for the tax-prayer

The South Tipperary County Spatial Strategy 2002

The South Tipperary County Spatial Strategy 2002 sets out the plan of action to be adopted by South Tipperary County Council in order to promote the delivery of its own spatial policies and opportunities following adoption of the NSS. Carrick on Suir is identified as a location for an additional 200 decentralised public service jobs and is anticipated to prosper from the growth of Clonmel.

South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 – 2015

The CDP 2009-2015 was adopted on the 9th February 2009 and came into effect on the 9th March 2009. Carrick on Suir is identified as a Secondary Service Centre in the County Settlement Strategy included in the CDP. The identified role of the Secondary Service Centres is to act as service centres for their hinterlands and to drive development within their catchment areas. Furthermore it is stated in section 3.5.1.2 of the Plan that;

“The residential function of these service centres will be strengthened, retail/employment/heritage functions improved and their overall perception as desirable places to live and work will be promoted and enhanced”.

Lands for Strategic Employment Use, defined as lands which have characteristics which make them important for employment uses, have been identified in Chapter 5 of the CDP including lands at new interchanges on the proposed N24 at Carrick on Suir. Ultimately the policies and objectives contained in the CDP underpin and reinforce the strategic aims of the COSTDP 2013.

South Tipperary County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development

Four Programmes form the core of this Strategy namely the Economic, Social, Cultural and Local Agenda 21 Programmes. For the purposes of this Strategy Carrick on Suir is located within the Clonmel Economic Zone. This area has been successful in creating and sustaining jobs. Here, the aims of the County Strategy are:

- to fill existing job opportunities by improving the skills of the workforce
- to attract further industry and services to the area by upgrading the infrastructure

Initial Measures and Actions are set out under the headings of Management of the Economic Programme, Matching Skills with Jobs, Matching Entrepreneurs with Opportunities and Matching Locations with Opportunities. Carrick on Suir is identified for a pilot project under Matching Skills with Jobs in particular improving the skills of the workforce.

The Social and Local Agenda 21 Programme for the County aim to achieve the following objectives (in summary):

- Social Inclusion
- Meeting the needs of minority groups
- To facilitate the development and implementation of county strategies for projects in childcare, children's play, etc.
- Create a co-ordinated cultural environment that includes minority and ethnic cultures.
- Community development
- Protection of the environment
- Provision of services
- Improvement of facilities

Guidelines Name (in alphabetical order)	Manner in which the Planning Authority has implemented the policies and objectives contained in the Guidelines	Where the policies and objectives of the Minister have not been implemented give reasons as to why this is the case.
Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship (November 2003)	Stated under Section 7.1.1 "Protected Structures" that When considering proposals for works to a protected structure or proposed protected structure, the Council will have regard to the Architectural Heritage Protection Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2004 (DoEHLG) and the Architectural Heritage Protection for Places of Public Worship Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2003 (DoEHLG) which set out best practise conservation principles.	
Best Practice Urban Design Manual (May 09)	Referenced under Section 1.3 (Relationships with other Plans & Guidelines), Section 6.4 (New Housing Development), Section 9.6 (Multi-Unit Residential Development).	
Childcare Facilities Guidelines (June 2001)	Incorporated into Section 6.9.	
Design Standards for New Apartments (September 2007)	Section 9.8.1 (Minimum Apartment Sizes) & Section 6.4 (New Housing Development).	
Development Management Guidelines (June 2007)	See Section 9.1, the Development Management Chapter has been prepared in accordance with these Guidelines.	
Development Plan Guidelines (June 2007)	The Plan has been prepared in accordance with the objectives of the Development Plan Guidelines (See Section 1.3). Regard was had to the manner in which the Draft Plan was presented, its strategic context, the manner in which public consultation was undertaken and the use of IT and the website in the Public Participation process.	
Spatial Planning and National Roads Guidelines (2012)	See Section 1.3.	
Funfair Guidance (2003)		
Implementing Regional Planning Guidelines-Best Practice Guidelines (December 2010)	See Section 1.3 (Relationships with other Plans & Guidelines) and Section 2.1 (Core Strategy, Population and Demographics), Section 5.8 (Access to Broadband) and Appendix 4 (Policy Context).	
Landscape and Landscape Assessment (June 2000)	The County Development Plan 2009 – 2015 includes for the Landscape Character Assessment which was carried out for the upland areas of the County and indicates primary and secondary amenity areas. Carrick on Suir is located within a lowland area and the Draft Plan relates to a primarily urban area. However the Plan does include Policy AH 8 which relates to Views and Prospects, Policy AH 4 (River Suir).	

Quarries and Ancillary Activities		
Redevelopment of Certain Lands in the Dublin area	Not applicable to Carrick on Suir	Not applicable to Carrick on Suir
Guidelines for Planning Authorities – Retail Planning (2012)	See Town Centre Strategy Section.	
The Provision of Schools and the Planning System - Code of Practice for Planning Authorities (July 2008)	Future educational requirements are assessed under Section 2.3 in line with the Department of Education and Skills Guidelines.	
Sustainable Residential Developments in Urban Areas-Guidelines for Planning Authorities (May 09)	Referenced under Section 1.3 (Relationships with other Plans & Guidelines), Section 6.4 (New Housing Development), Section 9.6 (Multi-Unit Residential Development).	
Implementation of SEA Directive (2001/42/EC): Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment (November 2004)	The COSTDP 2013 is supported by an SEA and an AA.	
Sustainable Rural Housing Development Guidelines	The COSTDP 2013 relates to a primarily urban area with an agricultural hinterland. Having regard to the provisions of these Guidelines the Plan contains policies and objectives relating to Individual Houses on lands zoned for agriculture (Section 6.11).	
Telecommunications Antennae and Support Structures (July1996)	Section 5.9 and Policy INF 10 relate to Telecommunications.	
The Planning System and Flood Risk Management - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Nov 09)	The COSTDP 2013 has been carried out in accordance with the Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2009. The Plan is supported by a Stage 1 and Stage 2 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the recommendations and findings of same have been incorporated into the Plan.	
Tree Preservation Guidelines	Section 7.2.7 and Policy AH 8 relate to Tree Preservation.	
Wind Energy Development Guidelines 2005		