

# 1

## Introduction, Vision and Context

*Honey Park, Credit: Cosgrave Group and  
Imageworks Photography*





## Development Plan Vision

The Vision for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is to embrace inclusiveness, champion quality of life through healthy placemaking, grow and attract a diverse innovative economy and deliver this in a manner that enhances our environment for future generations.



*Marlay Park in the snow*

## 1.1 Introduction

The County Development Plan guides future growth and development in the County. The new DLR County Development Plan sets out the policy objectives and the overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the County over the plan period from 2022 to 2028. The Plan sets out an approach centred on the core principle of sustainability with a focus on creating vibrant, liveable, climate resilient communities. This Plan is consistent with both the 'National Planning Framework' (2018) (NPF) and the 'Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy' (2019) (RSES).

This Chapter sets out the legislative background to the Plan, the context in which the Plan is produced - which has changed significantly since the last Plan was prepared - and the overall structure of the Plan. This Chapter then sets out the overarching Vision which is underpinned by 5 Strategic County Outcomes which permeate all Policy Objectives in the Plan. This approach imbues the Plan, cascading from the Vision and Strategic County Outcomes, through the Core Strategy, policy objectives and standards, and supported through an increased focus on implementation, monitoring and evaluation.



*Meabh McKenna and Rachel Duffy at the Lexlcon Harpathon (Barry Cronin)*



## 1.2 Plan-Making Process

This Plan has been prepared following a period of consultation which took the form of public displays, open days, meetings with stakeholders and service providers, written submissions, briefing sessions for Elected Members, and the preparation of a Chief Executive's Report on submissions received at the Pre-Draft stage.

The process of reviewing the 2016-2022 County Development Plan and preparation of the new Plan formally commenced in January 2020 with an eight-week Pre-Draft public consultation phase.

A 'Have your Say' public consultation document was prepared and widely circulated, and six open days were held, one in each Electoral Ward in the County. Submissions were invited, and the Executive prepared a Chief Executive's Report summarising these submissions and making recommendations on what should be contained in the Draft Plan. A special Council meeting was held with the Elected Members of the Council and a number of Directions were issued requesting strategic matters to be addressed in the Draft Plan.

*Blackrock Library*





### 1.3 Legislative Background

The Draft County Development Plan has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended ('The Act'). The legislative basis for the preparation and adoption of a Development Plan is set out in Sections 9-12 of The Act. Section 10(1) provides that the Development Plan shall set out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area and shall consist of a Written Statement and a Plan or Plans indicating the development objectives for the area. The Act sets out the mandatory requirements which must be included in a Development Plan and these include objectives for inter alia: the zoning of land; the provision of infrastructure; the conservation and protection of the environment; and, the integration of planning and sustainable development with the social, community and cultural requirements of the area and its population.

Section 10(1A) of The Act provides that the Written Statement of the Development Plan shall include a Core Strategy which shows that the development objectives in the Plan are consistent, as far as practicable, with national and regional development objectives as set out in the NPF, the RSES and with Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPRs) set out in Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines (see Appendix 14 for a full list of SPPRs). The requirement for the Development Plan to be consistent with inter alia the NPF, RSES and Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines is woven throughout the planning legislation that pertains to the review of an existing and the making of a new County Development Plan. Section 11(1A) of The Act states that the review of the Plan and preparation of the new Plan shall take account of the "statutory obligations" of any Local Authority in the area and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or of any Minister of the Government. Section 12(11) of The Act refers to the making of the Development Plan and similarly states that in making the Plan that members shall be restricted to considering the proper planning and sustainable development of the area to which the Development Plan relates, the statutory obligations of any Local Authority in the area, and any relevant policies or objectives for the time being of the Government or any Minister of the Government.

There are a range of EU Directives that are an important consideration in the Development Plan preparation process. See Appendix 13 for a full list of relevant Directives.

In accordance with European and national legislation, DLR has carried out: a Strategic

Environmental Assessment of the Plan; Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive; and a Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, all of which informed the preparation of the County Development Plan.

#### 1.3.1 Strategic Environmental Assessment

Environmental assessment is a procedure that ensures that the environmental implications of decisions are considered before such decisions are made. Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is the term which has been given to the environmental assessment of plans and programmes, which help determine the nature and location of individual projects taking place. SEA is a systematic process of predicting and evaluating the likely significant environmental effects of implementing a proposed plan or programme, in order to ensure that these effects are adequately addressed at the earliest stages of decision-making, in tandem with economic, social and other considerations. The SEA process was integrated into the preparation of the County Development Plan and the SEA Environmental Report is contained as a separate document accompanying the Plan.

#### 1.3.2 Appropriate Assessment

In accordance with requirements under EU Habitats Directive (43/92/EEC), the EU Birds Directive (79/409/EEC) and Section 177 of the Planning and Development (Amendment) Act 2010, the impacts of the policies and objectives of all statutory land use plans on certain sites designated for the protection of nature under European legislation, must be assessed as part of the preparation of the Plan. This process, known as Appropriate Assessment, is to determine whether or not the implementation of plan policies or objectives could have negative consequences for the habitats or species for which these sites are designated. Appropriate Assessment was undertaken as part of the plan-making process and a Natura Impact Report is contained as a separate document accompanying the Plan.

#### 1.3.3 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment

A Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) is an area-wide assessment of the existing risks of flooding and the impact of those risks arising from proposed spatial planning decisions. The national Guidelines 'The Planning System and Flood Risk Management' (2009) state that Planning Authorities are required to introduce flood risk assessment as an integral and leading element of their Development Plan functions. The Guidelines set out that Development



Plans must establish the flood risk assessment requirements for their functional area. The Guidelines further state that flood risk management should be integrated into spatial planning policies at all levels to enhance certainty and clarity in the overall planning process. In conjunction with the SEA process, the Council carried out a SFRA of the County Development Plan. This SFRA is included as Appendix 16 of the Plan and includes a supplementary set of associated flood zone maps.

### 1.3.4 Office of the Planning Regulator

The Office of the Planning Regulator (OPR) was established in 2019 and oversees the enhancement of Ireland's planning system by driving the co-ordination of planning policy implementation

across national, regional and local levels, building a stronger knowledge base and ensuring regular reviews of the performance of Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála. One of the core functions of the OPR is to independently evaluate and assess statutory development plans and regional strategies, and variations to these, with a view to ensuring that the plan or strategy provides for the proper planning and sustainable development of the area concerned.

The OPR may issue a Notice to the Minister recommending that a Ministerial Direction be issued. It is however the role of the Minister to issue any Direction to compel the Planning Authority to address any matter.



*Indian Summer*



## 1.4 Structure of the Plan

The County Development Plan comprises a series of separate, but closely linked and interrelated elements. The overarching structure of the Plan includes the following:

- The Written Statement;
- Supporting Appendices;
- Zoning Maps; Flood Zone Maps; and, other supplementary mapping;
- SEA Environmental Report;
- Natura Impact Report.

### 1.4.1 Written Statement

The Written Statement comprises the main policy document of the County Development Plan.

The content of the Written Statement has been prepared having regard to the requirements of the National Adult Literacy Agency Guidelines and incorporates its recommendations where possible. The County Development Plan is however, a legal document and as such much of the wording in the Plan reflects statutory obligations. In the event of any conflict or ambiguity between what is contained within the Written Statement and the supporting maps, the Written Statement will take precedence.

The structure of the Written Statement is as follows:

**Table 1.1:** *Layout of Written Statement*

Overall Strategy
Chapter 1: Introduction, Vision and Context – The introductory Chapter sets out an overview of the statutory framework through which the County Development Plan is prepared and sets out the overall Development Plan Vision.
Chapter 2: Core Strategy - This Chapter sets out the Core Strategy or settlement strategy, consistent with both the NPF and RSES, that will help guide and shape the growth and development of the County.
Chapter 3: Climate Action – This new Chapter sets out detailed policy objectives in relation to climate action and the role of planning in climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and the transition towards a more climate resilient County.
Chapter 4: Neighbourhood – People, Homes and Places – This new Chapter which amalgamates the former Residential, Community and Urban Design Chapters sets out the Policy Objectives for residential development, community development and placemaking, to deliver sustainable and liveable communities and neighbourhoods over the six years of the Plan.
Chapters 5 – 11 set out a range of Policy Objectives under a series of specific headings which the Council will seek to deliver upon over the six year life of the Plan and include: Mobility and Transport; Enterprise and Employment; Towns, Villages and Retail Development; Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity; Open Space, Parks and Recreation; Environmental Infrastructure and Flood Risk; and, Heritage.
Chapter 12: Development Management – This Chapter incorporates detailed development management objectives and standards to be applied to future development proposals in the County.
Chapter 13 sets out a series of Land Use Zoning Objectives – and accompanying definitions – which are given graphic representation through the accompanying Zoning Maps. The purpose of zoning is to indicate the land use objectives for all lands within the County. A new zoning for ‘Sustainable Neighbourhood Infrastructure’ is included in this Chapter.
Chapter 14: Specific Local Objectives – This Chapter comprises a series of targeted local objectives.
Chapter 15: Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation - This Chapter details monitoring mechanisms to be put in place to ensure effective sustainable delivery of the Plan and also to allow for greater transparency on the progress made in its implementation.



### 1.4.2 Appendices

The primary Written Statement is accompanied by a separate volume of Appendices (nos. 1 – 17) which incorporates a series of complementary and supporting documents, data-sets and guidelines that help inform and clarify the broader strategic context of the Written Statement. The Appendices of the Plan are as follows:

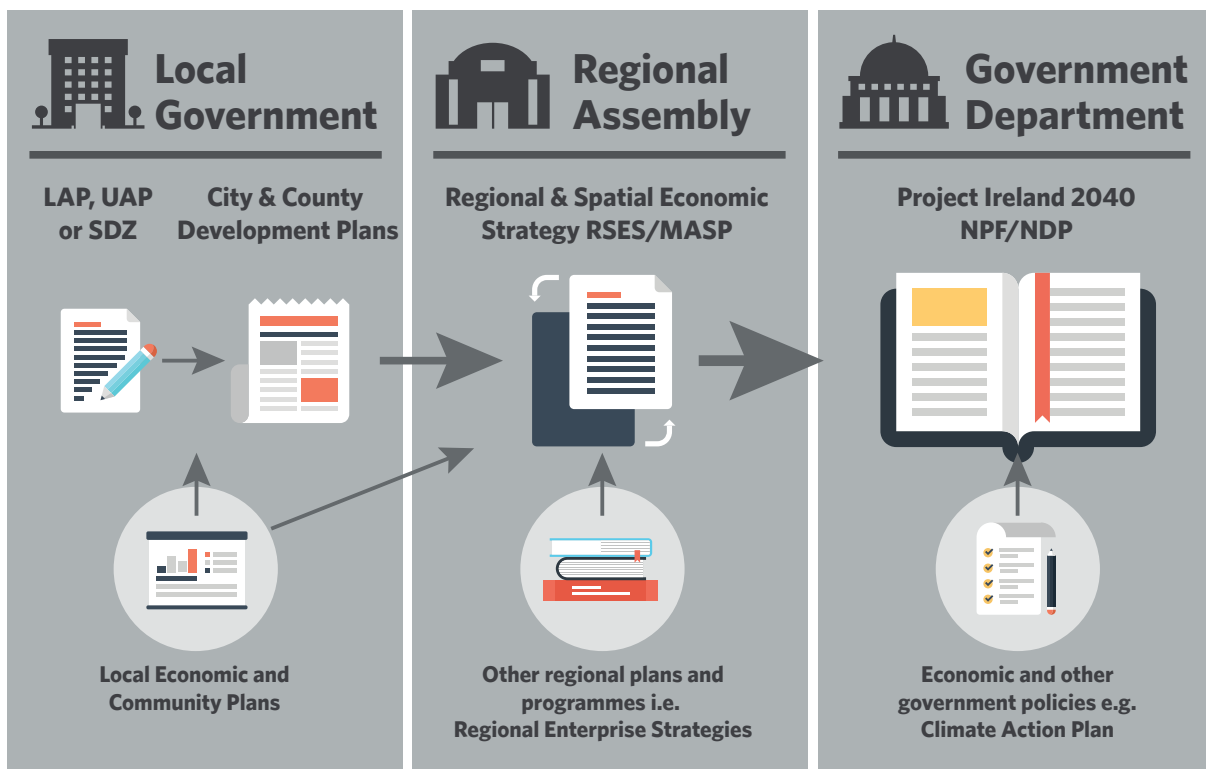
**Table 1.2:** *Appendices*

Number	Title
1	Tiered Approach to Land Zoning – Infrastructure Assessment
2	Housing Strategy and Interim Housing Needs Demand Assessment
3	Development Management Thresholds
4	Heritage Lists: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Protected Structures</li> <li>Architectural Conservation Areas</li> <li>Record of Monuments and Places</li> <li>Industrial Heritage Survey</li> </ul>
5	Building Height Strategy
6	Waste Management Guidelines
7	Sustainable Drainage System Measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stormwater Management Policy</li> <li>Green Roofs</li> </ul>
8	Dún Laoghaire Urban Framework Plan
9	Landscape Character Areas
10	Ecological Network
11	Wind Energy Strategy
12	Rights of Way and Recreational Access Routes
13	Policy Context
14	Statement Demonstrating Compliance with Section 28 Guidelines
15	Green Infrastructure Strategy
16	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
17	Sandyford Urban Framework Plan

1 South County Photographer Enda Kavanagh, Architect – TOT Architects



## 1.5 Strategic Context



**Figure 1.1:** Spatial Planning Hierarchy in Ireland (Source: NPF)

Since the adoption of the 2016-2022 County Development Plan, and the preparation of this Draft Plan, there have been a number of significant legislative and policy changes in the area of planning, including the reframing of policy at both the national and regional levels. In terms of the hierarchy of plans the overarching national plan is now the National Planning Framework with the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy setting out the regional framework for implementation and delivery of the NPF. The RSES also includes the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan (MASP) which provides, for the first time, a 12 to 20 year strategic planning and investment framework for the Dublin Metropolitan Area. The DLR County Development Plan seeks to combine the overarching 'top-down' policy framework at the national and regional level with a 'bottom-up' approach to policy development at the local level.

### 1.5.1 National Planning Policy Context

#### 1.5.1.1 Project Ireland 2040 - National Planning Framework and National Development Plan

The NPF sets out the Government's high level strategic vision for shaping future growth and development in Ireland up to the year 2040. The NPF replaced the National Spatial Strategy and now represents the overarching national planning

policy document, of direct relevance to the planning functions of regional and local Planning Authorities. The companion document to the NPF is the 'National Development Plan 2018-2027' which provides the accompanying investment strategy that aligns with the strategic objectives of the NPF.

The NPF utilises a set of shared goals which are expressed as National Strategic Outcomes (NSOs), see Figure 1.2 below. Sustainability is key to the NPF and there is significant alignment between the NPF's NSOs and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, to which Ireland has been a signatory since 2015. Where Policy Objectives in this County Development Plan support the achievement of a specific NSO or National Policy Objective (NPO), the relevant objective is referenced in brackets after the policy objective statement.

The key role that land use planning plays in progressing climate change mitigation and adaption is to the forefront of the NPF. Underpinning the NPF is a firm commitment to ensuring our planning system is responsive to our national environmental challenges and that development occurs within environmental limits (NPO Objective 52). Part of this commitment includes sustainable land management and resource efficiency in order to support the transition towards a low carbon society.





**Figure 1.2:** National Strategic Outcomes (Source: NPF)

#### 1.5.1.2 NPF Development Strategy

The NPF is unapologetic in seeking to disrupt trends and sets out how Ireland can move away from the current ‘business as usual’ pattern of development. The NPF explored the ‘do nothing’ scenario which suggested that without a new approach there would likely be continued sprawl, stagnation of inner city and older suburban areas, a degraded environment with loss of habitat due to greenfield development, greater distances between where people live and work, social inequality and disadvantage, and haphazard approaches to planning for infrastructure and climate change.

The Eastern and Midland Regional Area (EMRA), where DLR is located, has a target population growth of c. 490,000 – 540,000 additional people up to 2040, with an additional 320,000 people in employment. A key focus for delivering this ‘regional parity’ approach is through strengthening Ireland’s overall urban structure and, in particular, encouraging proportionally higher levels of population growth in Ireland’s five Cities.

The NPF recognises that the physical form of urban development in Ireland is one of the greatest national development challenges. The NPF has a very clear focus on achieving what is called brownfield/infill development, which translates

into encouraging more people, jobs and activity generally within our existing built up areas. The NPF sets out that securing compact and sustainable growth requires a focus on the liveability of urban places, continuous regeneration of existing built up areas, tackling of legacies such as concentrations of disadvantage in certain areas, and linking regeneration and redevelopment initiatives to climate action.

To support the delivery of this compact growth agenda the NPF puts in place a target that half of future national population growth will be focused in the existing five Cities and their suburbs (NPO 2a) and furthermore, that at least half of all new homes, that are targeted in the five Cities, will be within their existing built-up footprints (NPO 3b). The CSO boundary utilised by the NPF to define the geographic area of Dublin City and Suburbs is illustrated in Figure 1.3 below. The NPF provides that the targeted pattern of population growth will be addressed by way of a Metropolitan Strategic Area Plan for each City. Outside of the five Cities and suburbs, the NPF targets the delivery of at least 30% of all new homes within the existing built-up footprint in other settlements (NPO 3c).

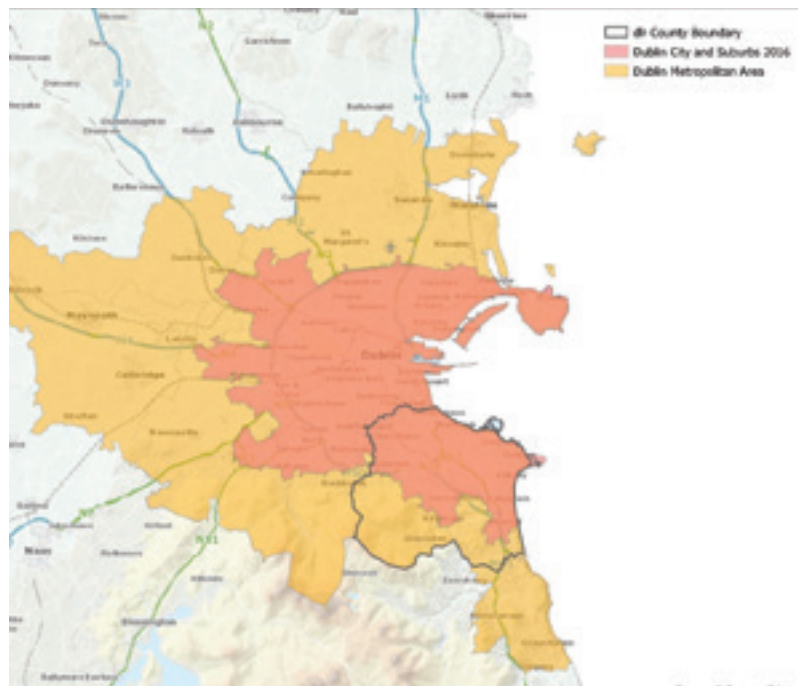
In terms of housing, the long term vision of the NPF is to balance the provision of good quality

housing that meets the needs of a diverse population in a way that makes our cities, towns and villages good places to live now and into the future.

### 1.5.1.3 Dublin City and Metropolitan Area: Growth Enablers

The NPF recognises the strong performance of Dublin in recent years and the importance of its ongoing role as an internationally competitive City. However, it also acknowledges the key challenges facing Dublin including inter alia: housing affordability; transport; and urban amenity/liveability issues. The NPF states that Dublin needs to accommodate a greater proportion of the growth it generates within its metropolitan boundary and offer improved housing choice,

transport mobility and quality of life. Dublin also needs to become a greener, more environmentally sustainable City in line with international competitors. The NPF sets out key growth enablers for Dublin, many of which have directly informed and shaped the growth objectives of this County Development Plan. The most pertinent of the NPF 'growth enablers', as relevant to DLR, are set out in Table 1.3 below.



**Figure 1.3:** Geographic Boundaries - Dublin City and Suburbs (Source: Census 2016) and the Dublin Metropolitan Area (Source: RSES)

**Table 1.3** Key Growth Enablers for Dublin

Key Growth Enablers for Dublin
Identifying ambitious largescale regeneration areas for the provision of new housing and employment throughout the City and Metropolitan area and the measures required to facilitate them as integrated, sustainable development projects.
Progressing the sustainable development of new greenfield areas for housing, especially those on public transport corridors.
Determining a limited number of accessible locations for significant people-intensive employment to complement the City Centre and Docklands.
Enabling enhanced opportunities for existing communities as development and diversification occurs, particularly through employment, learning and education support.
Relocating less-intensive uses outside the M50 ring, in particular, and from the existing built-up area generally.
Delivering the key rail projects set out in the Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.
The development of an improved bus-based system, with better orbital connectivity and integration with other transport networks.
Delivery of the metropolitan cycle network set out in the Greater Dublin Area Cycle Network Plan.
Ensuring that water supply and wastewater needs are met by new national projects.
Improving sustainability in terms of energy, waste management and resource efficiency and water.
Public realm and urban amenity projects focused on streets and public spaces.
Measures to enhance and better link the existing network of green spaces.

#### Policy Objective NPF1 – National Planning Framework:

It is a Policy Objective of the Council to ensure consistency with and support the achievement of the National Strategic Outcomes and National Policy Objectives of the National Planning Framework.



## 1.5.2 Regional Planning Policy Context

### 1.5.2.1 Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2019-2031

The RSES sets out the long-term spatial planning and economic framework for the Eastern and Midland Region, in accordance with the economic policies of the Government, for the proper planning and sustainable development of the Region to 2031 and beyond. The principal statutory purpose of the RSES is to support the implementation of the NPF. In practical terms the RSES takes the high-level framework and principles set out in the NPF and applies a finer level of detail at the regional level. The RSES is underpinned by three cross-cutting principles; healthy placemaking; climate action; and, economic opportunity. Sixteen Regional Strategic Outcomes (RSOs) are set out which are broadly aligned with the National Strategic Outcomes of the NPF, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, EU, and other national policies, see Figure 1.4 below.

The RSES also includes Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs). Where policy objectives in this County Development Plan support the achievement of a specific RSO or RPO, the relevant objective is referenced in brackets after the policy objective statement.

### 1.5.2.2 Asset-Based Approach to Growth

In developing a growth strategy for the Region, the RSES promotes what is called an asset/potential-based criteria approach. The asset-based approach to spatial development is 'evidence-based' and identifies and builds on a combination of social, economic and natural assets that are available within a settlement. This growth strategy is then underpinned by a settlement strategy and an integrated land use and transportation strategy. In a similar vein to the NPF, the RSES also identifies key 'growth enablers' to support the Region in meeting its potential. The recommended 'growth enablers', as relevant to DLR, include the following:

- Align Population, Employment and Housing Growth - Promote sustainable growth in the right locations that reduces the distance between the places people live and work.
- Compact Sustainable Growth - Promote compact, sequential and sustainable development of urban areas. Promote active land management and better use of under-utilised, brownfield and public lands.
- Regeneration and Development – Identify significant ready-to-go regeneration projects in existing built-up areas.
- Economic Growth - Harness opportunities for economic growth by supporting synergies

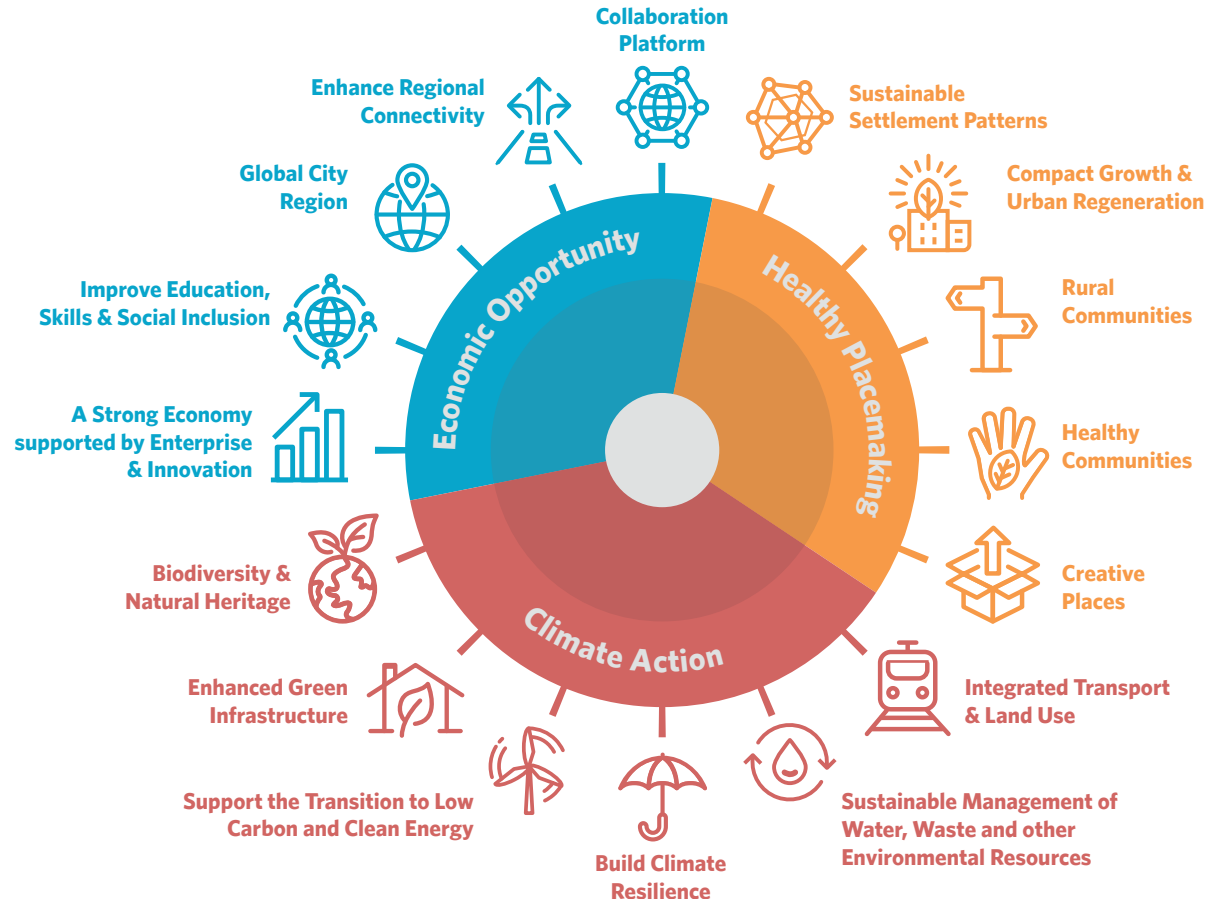


Figure 1.4: Regional Strategic Outcomes (Source: EMRA RSES)

between talent and place, building on identified assets to strengthen enterprise ecosystems and provide quality jobs. Re-intensify employment within existing urban areas, complemented by strategic employment growth in the right locations.

- Healthy Placemaking - Focus on place-making to create attractive and sustainable communities for people to live, work, visit and invest in.
- Climate Action – Accelerate the transition to a greener, low carbon and climate resilient region.

### 1.5.2.3 RSES Settlement Strategy

The RSES sets out a settlement hierarchy for the Region and identifies key growth areas which will see significant development up to 2031 and beyond. The vast majority of the built-up footprint of DLR is located within the area defined as Dublin City and Suburbs, which comprises the first tier in the regional settlement hierarchy. Old Connaught, in the south of the County, comprises a component part of the 'Key Town' of Bray (tier 3), while Glencullen comprises a rural village (tier 6). In terms of applying the settlement hierarchy at County level, RPO 4.1 provides that, in preparing Core Strategies for Development Plans, that Local Authorities shall determine its hierarchy of settlements in accordance with the hierarchy, guiding principles and typology of settlements set out in the RSES (see Section 2.4.1 of the Core Strategy).

Within Dublin City and Suburbs, the focus in the RSES is on the consolidation and re-intensification of infill/brownfield sites, in order to provide high density and people-intensive uses within the existing built up area (RPO 4.3).

The Key Town of Bray is recognised in the RSES as having significant growth potential. Owing to geographical constraints, the growth of Bray is primarily limited to westward expansion with identified growth potential at Fassaroe (Wicklow County Council) along with the development of lands at Old Connaught (DLR). RPO's 4.37 and 4.38 provide that the westward extension of the Key Town of Bray is to be co-ordinated between Wicklow County Council, DLR County Council, and the relevant transport agencies to facilitate the delivery of key enabling transport infrastructure and services. In addition to the westward extension of Bray, RPO 4.37 of the RSES also supports the development of major schemes at the former Bray Golf Club lands.

### 1.5.2.4 Population Targets

The RSES includes a breakdown of population targets at County level and provides that the Core Strategy of the Local Authority should be informed by the transitional population projections methodology set out in the 'Implementation

Roadmap for the National Planning Framework' (2018). Under NPO 68 of the NPF, the RSES makes a further allowance for up to 20% of the targeted growth in Dublin City and Suburbs area to be transferred to other settlements in the MASP, which includes inter alia the Metropolitan Key Town of Bray (see section 2.3.2 of the Core Strategy).

### 1.5.2.5 Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan

The Dublin MASP sets out, for the first time, a strategic planning and investment framework for the growth of the Dublin Metropolitan area over a 12 to 20 year horizon. The MASP comprises an integrated land-use and transportation strategy that sets out;

A vision for the future growth of the Dublin Metropolitan area, identifying strategic corridors based on their capacity to achieve compact sustainable and sequential growth along key public transport corridors.

- Large scale strategic residential, employment and regeneration development opportunities and infrastructure deficits or constraints that need to be addressed.
- A sequence of infrastructure priorities to promote greater co-ordination between Local Authorities, public transport and infrastructure providers for the phased delivery of sites.

The MASP supports a sequential approach to residential development with a primary focus on the consolidation of sites within or contiguous to Dublin City and Suburbs.



Figure 1.5: Dublin MASP (Source: EMRA RSES)



The Dublin MASP identifies strategic residential and employment corridors based on their current and future development capacity, their ability to deliver outcomes such as compact development, place-making, accessibility to public transport, potential for economic development, and their ability to deliver a reduced carbon footprint. The strategic development corridors of the MASP are illustrated in Figure 1.5. The corridors of relevance to DLR include the: North-South Corridor (DART); and the MetroLink / Luas Green Line Corridor. Within the North-South Corridor (DART), the MASP identifies Woodbrook-Shanganagh, Old Connaught and lands at the former Bray Golf Course and Harbour lands as suitable for the development of new residential communities. Within the Metrolink / LUAS Green Line Corridor, Ballyogan and Environs and Kiltiernan-Glenamuck are identified as new residential communities, while Cherrywood and Sandyford are identified as new and emerging mixed-use districts.

In terms of employment generation, the MASP identifies a limited number of people intensive employment locations that are accessible to public transport. While the overarching aim of the MASP is to continue densification in the City Centre, it also aims to intensify strategic employment areas within the M50 ring, such as Sandyford Business District, and to activate key strategic sites such as Cherrywood, to complement existing employment hubs. Sandyford and Ballyogan (Carrickmines) are also identified as strategic employment locations.

The MASP thus provides the planning policy framework, which is interlinked with the requisite capital investment programmes, to ensure the co-ordination of strategic growth areas through the delivery of supporting infrastructure. The County Development Plan includes an Infrastructure Assessment which addresses inter alia the enabling infrastructure and phasing timeframes detailed in the MASP (see Appendix 1).

#### **Policy Objective RSES1- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy:**

It is a Policy Objective of the Council to ensure consistency with and support the achievement of the Regional Spatial Objectives (RSOs) and Regional Policy Objectives (RPOs) of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy.

#### **Policy Objective MASP1- Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan:**

It is a Policy Objective of the Council to support the delivery of the Dublin Metropolitan Area Strategic Plan.

### **1.5.3 Climate Action**

National Government policy has increasingly recognised the key strategic challenge of climate change. The Government has published the 'Climate Action Plan 2019', the 'National Adaption Framework' (2018), and the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2015, all of which combine to comprise a strong legislative and policy framework for climate action. At a local level, the Council has adopted the 'Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council Climate Change Action Plan 2019-2024', and furthermore, is a signatory of the Climate Action Charter that commits local Government to driving forward meaningful climate action in their communities, through the actions set out in the Climate Action Plan.

### **1.5.4 Other International, Regional and Local Policy**

In addition to the NPF, RSES and climate related policy, there are a whole range of other national, regional and local policy documents which have helped inform and guide the preparation of the County Development Plan. A full list of these policy documents is included in Appendix 13.

### **1.5.5 UN Sustainable Development Goals**

The 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) set out a holistic approach to achieving a sustainable future for all. Ireland is committed to achieving the SDGs as set out in the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment 'The Sustainable Development Goals National Implementation Plan 2018-2020' (2018).

#### **Policy Objective UN1 – United Nations Sustainability Goals:**

It is a Policy Objective of the Council to contribute, as practicable, via this Plan, towards achievement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## 1.6 Challenges in Plan Preparation

A Development Plan is made at a particular point in time and this creates a challenge in that it is based on the policies in place at that particular time. In the last number of years that statutory planning policy framework has been changing and evolving and it will inevitably continue to do so once this Plan is adopted. While every effort has been made to prepare the Plan in accordance with the most up-to-date statutory planning policy framework the following limitations are noted.

### 1.6.1 Section 28 Ministerial Guidelines

In accordance with Section 28 of The Act, Planning Authorities shall have regard to any Guidelines issued by the Minister and are also required to apply any Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPR's) contained in such Guidelines in carrying out their functions. Planning Authorities must comply with these SPPRs. Section 34 of The Act provides that where SPPR's contained in Section 28 Guidelines differ from the provisions of the Development Plan of a Planning Authority, then the SPPR, to the extent to which it differs, shall apply instead of the provisions of the Development Plan. This statutory provision was particularly relevant through the period of the 2016-2022 County Development Plan during which a number of Section 28 Guidelines were issued by the Minister including inter alia 'Urban Development and Building Heights' (2018) and 'Sustainable Urban Housing: Design Standards for New Apartments' (2018).

Section 28(1) of The Act provides that the Minister may, at any time, issue Guidelines to Planning Authorities under Section 28 of The Act regarding any of their functions and, as such, this Plan must be read in conjunction with any forthcoming Section 28 Guidelines. In this context, it is noted that the Draft Plan has been prepared in a period when certain relevant Section 28 Guidelines are currently being progressed by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government. These include:

- Development Plans - Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Update of the 2007 Guidelines).
- Housing Need Demand Assessment Guidelines.
- Sustainable Rural Housing Guidelines for Planning Authorities (Update of the 2005 Guidelines).

### 1.6.2 Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area

In planning policy terms, the 'Retail Planning Guidelines for Planning Authorities' (2012) and the 'Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016', set out the higher level strategic framework for a co-ordinated and sustainable approach to retail growth in the County and wider Region. The Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2008-2016 was prepared at a time of record in-migration, economic growth and spending and requires updating. In this regard, it is a policy of the RSES to support the preparation of a new Retail Strategy/Strategies for the Region in accordance with the Retail Planning Guidelines, or any subsequent update, and to update the retail hierarchy and apply floorspace requirements for the Region. To date the preparation of an updated retail strategy for the Greater Dublin Area has not commenced.

### 1.6.3 Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area

The National Transport Authority's (NTA) 'Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area 2016-2035' provides a framework for the planning and delivery of transport infrastructure and services in the Greater Dublin Area over the medium to long term. The Planning Authority must ensure that the County Development Plan is consistent with the Transport Strategy of the NTA. The Dublin Transport Authority Act 2008 (as amended) provides that the NTA's Transport Strategy, must be reviewed every six years, and as such the revised Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area will likely be published after the adoption of the County Development Plan.

### 1.6.4 Census Data

While the preparation of the County Development Plan has been informed, where possible, by the most up-to-date available data sources, the statutory timeframe of the plan-making process will not allow for the incorporation of Census 2022 data. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic Census 2021 is deferred until April 2022 with preliminary results available a number of months thereafter.



## 1.7 Development Plan Vision

The Vision for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown is to embrace inclusiveness, champion quality of life through healthy placemaking, grow and attract a diverse innovative economy and deliver this in a manner that enhances our environment for future generations.

The Development Plan Vision has been crafted having regard to the National Strategic Outcomes set out in the NPF, the Regional Strategic Outcomes set out in the RSES, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the 8 Corporate Goals set out in the DLR 'Corporate Plan 2020 – 2024' and the unique character of DLR.

In addition, the content of the submissions received from members of the public, interested groups and statutory bodies, and of the directions, received at the pre-draft public consultation and members consideration stage have informed this Vision.

To deliver on the Development Plan Vision over the lifetime of the Plan there are a number of key cross cutting and interrelated themes or Strategic County Outcomes which underpin the Plan as follows:

**Figure 1.4:** Strategic County Outcomes



Blackrock

**Table 1.4** Five Strategic County Outcomes

<b>Creation of a Climate Resilient County</b>	It is recognised that the County Development Plan has a key role in supporting the delivery of meaningful action on climate change through the implementation of the NPF compact growth agenda at the local level; the integration of land-use and transportation; and in the sustainable management of our environmental resources including biodiversity. Climate action is thus an important strategic objective of the County Development Plan which is reflected by the introduction of a new stand-alone evidence based Chapter relating to Climate Action (see Chapter 3) in addition to other climate action related Policy Objectives which permeate throughout the Plan. The County Development Plan in conjunction with the DLR 'Climate Action Plan' in effect provides a framework for the transition towards a low carbon and more climate resilient County.
<b>Creation of a Compact and Connected County</b>	One of the best ways to transition to a climate resilient County is to consolidate development within the existing urban footprint thus making best use of land. Sustainable planning policy has long been underpinned by the matching of land use and transport policies so that denser development takes place close to good quality public transport options and supporting services. This will allow those living, working and visiting the County easy access to amenities and services by way of high-quality public transport and the softer modes of walking and cycling.
<b>Creation of a Network of Liveable Towns and Villages</b>	In creating a climate resilient and a compact and connected County one must also create a liveable County, where our necklace of towns and village and the surrounding neighbourhoods work better for the people who use them. It should be a County where residents, workers and visitors alike can access transport options, housing, services and amenities including heritage, culture, recreational and community facilities, green infrastructure and biodiversity in a sustainable manner.
<b>Creation of an Inclusive and Healthy County</b>	Mental and physical health is affected by the environment in which we live. Access to sustainable transport, housing, quality placemaking, green space and community infrastructure can have a significant influence on the health and wellbeing of all.
<b>Creation of a Vibrant Economic County</b>	The things that make DLR an attractive and exciting place to live, work and visit also make it a County within the Metropolitan Dublin area that attracts business. Continuing success of the economy is reliant upon making the County work better for all. By delivering on the four Strategic County Outcomes above and creating a liveable, sustainable climate resilient County one will create a County that is primed for economic growth.

Each of the five Strategic County Outcomes outlined above are entirely interrelated and in combination can deliver the overall Development Plan Vision over the lifetime of the Plan. Creation of a liveable, connected and compact County will in turn lead to a climate resilient County which will create the opportunities for economic growth.



