

## Chapter Nine – Monitoring

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Under the Planning and Development Act, 2000 (as amended), the County Manager is required to prepare a progress report on the implementation of the plan. The environment is a significant consideration and the progress report will include the key findings of the environmental monitoring programme as outlined in this chapter of the SEA.

Monitoring of the County Development Plan and its implications on the environment is paramount to ensure that the environment of the county is not adversely affected through the plans implementation. Under Article 10 of the SEA Directive monitoring must be carried out of the significant environmental effects directly related to the implementation of the Plan “*in order to, inter alia, to identify at an early stage unforeseen adverse effects and to be able to undertake appropriate remedial action.*” The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government Guidelines on SEA recommends that monitoring does not require new research activity; existing sources of information can be used and the task of data collection can be shared.

While considerable environmental data is directly available to the Council such as water quality, recycling rates etc, other sources of information will be accessed to provide a comprehensive view of the effect of the Plan. In this regard the Local Authority will work with other agencies with environmental mandates to gather data for the purposes of monitoring the implementation of the Plan. Therefore, while monitoring specific elements of the environment is not strictly the preserve of the Council, the Council will continue to liaise and work with the Environmental Protection Agency, The National Parks and Wildlife Service, The Fisheries Board, as well as others in the pursuit of environmental conservation and protection through existing environmental monitoring procedures.

It is proposed, in accordance with the Directive, to base monitoring on a series of indicators which measure changes in the environment, especially changes which are critical in terms of environmental quality, for example water or air pollution levels. The indicators aim to simplify complex interrelationships and provide information about environmental issues which is easy to understand. An indicative list of environmental indicators is provided in the table overleaf.

Environmental Category	Nature of Potential Significant impact	Environmental Indicators	Data Sources and additional monitoring by:
<b>Flora and Fauna (Biodiversity)</b>	Loss of biodiversity	Known loss	National Parks and Wildlife Service/Birdwatch Ireland
	Loss of protected habitat	Known loss	National Parks and Wildlife Service
	Water pollution	Fish/bird deaths	The Fisheries Board/Birdwatch Ireland
<b>Population</b>	Air pollution	Number/severity of recorded pollution incidences	EPA and South Tipperary County Council
	Water pollution	Number/severity of recorded pollution incidences	EPA and South Tipperary County Council
<b>Soil</b>	Incidents of soil contamination	Number/severity of recorded pollution incidences	South Tipperary County Council/EPA
	Excessive landfilling of quality soil.	Quantity and quality of soil being landfilled	South Tipperary County Council/EPA
	Loss of productive land	Estimated extent to which settlement policy has helped to conserve land such as reuse of brownfield sites	South Tipperary County Council
<b>Water</b>	Deterioration of water quality	Reduction in Q rating	South Tipperary County Council/EPA
	Deterioration of groundwater quality.	Reduction in rating	South Tipperary County Council/EPA
	Flood risk	Recorded flooding incidences	South Tipperary County Council/Office of Public Works
<b>Air and Climatic Factors</b>	Air pollution	Traffic volumes/modal split	NRA, Public bus providers, Iarnród Éireann, South Tipperary County Council.
		Percentage of new development within public transport corridors	NRA, Public bus providers, Iarnród Éireann, South Tipperary County Council.
	Energy use increases.	Energy demand per capita	ESB and Bord Gáis
		Roll out of renewable energy techniques	South Tipperary County Council

<b>Material Assets</b>	Severe traffic congestion	Increased car use.	South Tipperary County Council/National Roads Authority
	Water pollution	Adequacy of wastewater treatment facilities	South Tipperary County Council
	Excessive increases in loss of water supplies.	Supply versus demand, estimated losses	South Tipperary County Council
	Increase in landfill	Re-use/recycling rates	South Tipperary County Council/EPA
<b>Cultural Heritage</b>	Damage to, or loss of, protected sites or structures	Loss of architectural or archaeological heritage.	South Tipperary County Council / Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government
<b>Landscape</b>	Large scale development in sensitive areas.	Record of scale of such development	South Tipperary County Council
	Loss of views/vistas.	Loss of trees on TPO.	South Tipperary County Council