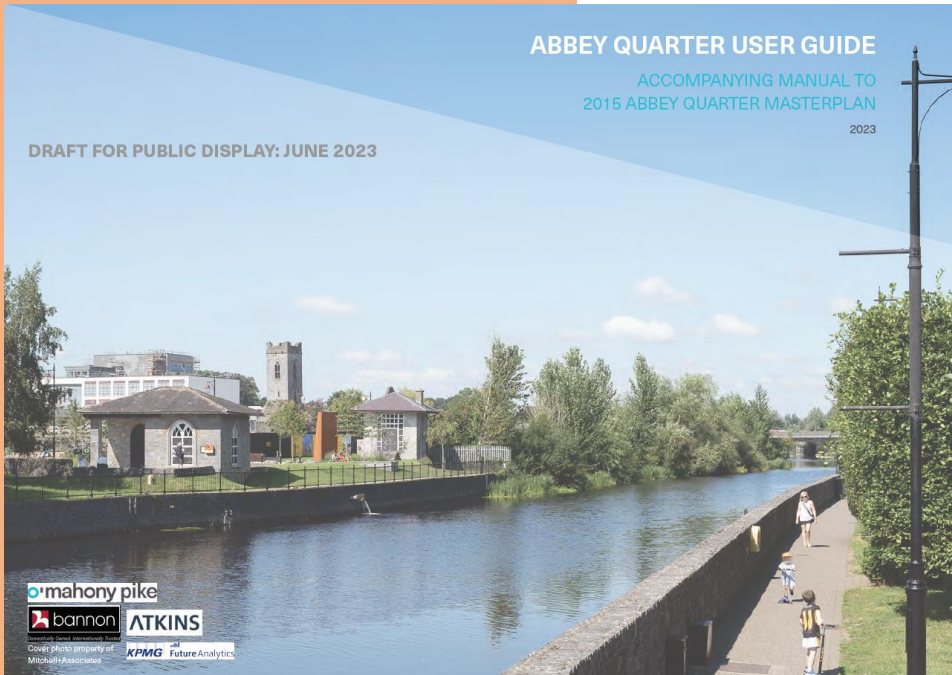


Abbey Quarter Masterplan Review – Public Consultation



Kilkenny County Council

Comhairle Chontae Chill Chainnigh

o mahony pike

KPMG

Future Analytics

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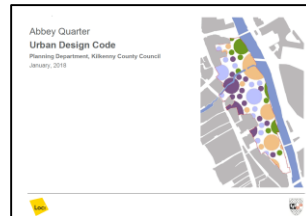
Introduction

In 2022 Kilkenny County Council commissioned a team of experts, led by O'Mahony Pike Architects, to undertake a Review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan. This Review aims to evaluate progress to date, build on the positive work done so far and update the provisions of the Masterplan to ensure that Masterplan continues to serve as guide for the coherent and sustainable development of the Abbey Quarter.

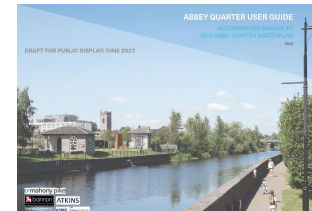
2015 Abbey Quarter Masterplan



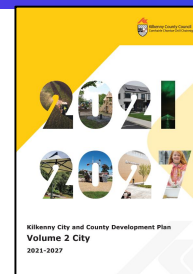
2018 Abbey Quarter Urban Design Code



2022-2023 Abbey Quarter Masterplan Review



2016 Abbey Quarter Development Partnership established.



2021 Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027



Draft Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

Purpose of Today

The purpose of today's session is to:

- Provide an understanding of the updated policy context to which we are responding.
- Review the high level results of the public consultation survey.
- Highlight how these matters have been addressed in the Review.
- Confirm how the Masterplan will relate under the County Development Plan.

Agenda:

- Extended area overview
- Policy context
- Public consultation results
- Presentation from O'Mahony Pike Architects on emerging revised masterplan
- Exercise
- General discussion/Q&A
- Next steps

Done in 90mins!

Purpose of the Review

The Review of the Abbey Quarter Masterplan has been undertaken to address several key objectives:

- Extend the masterplan area to incorporate lands towards Green Street and Vicar Street to the north, and lands towards Parliament Street to the west.
- Incorporate updated policy and guidance adopted since the original 2015 Masterplan document, particularly around housing and sustainability.
- Assess progress made so far and update proposed project phasing to reflect current policy and economic context.
- Consult with key stakeholders and the public at large to provide an update on progress made and validate the direction of travel under the Masterplan.

***This Review does not replace or supplant the 2015 Masterplan and 2018 Urban Design Code. Rather, it seeks to update and strategically align these documents with the currently policy and strategic context.**

Extended Area

The area to which the masterplan applies has been extended to allow for a more coherent design and development approach to the Abbey Quarter and its immediate environs.



Green's Bridge



The Engineers' Block at The Smithwicks Experience



Market Square 3D Visualisation

Green's Bridge:

Green's Bridge itself is regarded as one of Ireland's finest Georgian bridges and considered of national architectural and technical significance.

Green Street:

There may be opportunities to improve access to the northern end of the Abbey Quarter from Green St.

Vacant Properties:

Some vacant or underused plots (lilac) could possibly be considered for redevelopment and regeneration, as part of a holistic placemaking initiative.

Land Swap:

The northern end of the Masterplan (known as Sweeney's Orchard) has been rationalised through land swap to support a more efficient development plot.

Engineers' Block at The Smithwick's Experience:

This structure is vacant and an important piece of the route linking new developments seamlessly into the city. Activation of this block will add active frontage to a new pedestrian link from Horse Barrack Lane into new the mixed-use street.

Country Market:

This plot adjacent to the Courthouse which is used periodically as a small market. The plot has potential for redevelopment and the Market function could be relocated into the new public realm.

New public space between Market Yard and St. Kieran Street:

This public space received planning permission through the Part VIII process in November 2022.

Diagram shows:

- Updated Abbey Quarter Redline,
- Development progress to date,
- Remaining development plots.



DRAFT FOR PUBLIC DISPLAY: JUNE 2023

Abbey Quarter User Guide | 7

Trace Garraon

Policy Context

The Original Masterplan for the Abbey Creative Quarter was published in 2015, with the subsequent Urban Design Code published in 2018. Since the publication of the original masterplan the strategic planning context in Ireland has changed dramatically. There is now a renewed focus on compact growth and housing delivery in urban centres, as well as a push towards sustainability and emissions reductions in the built environment.

The Masterplan has been updated with particular respect to two key policy areas:



Housing: Provision of diverse housing typologies to accommodate population growth and meet the needs of different households



Sustainability: Reducing emissions, supporting active travel, ensuring a sustainable and resilient community.

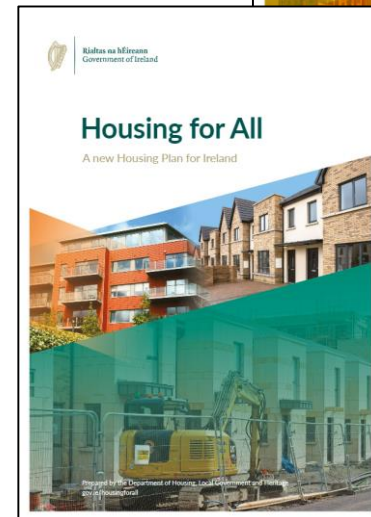
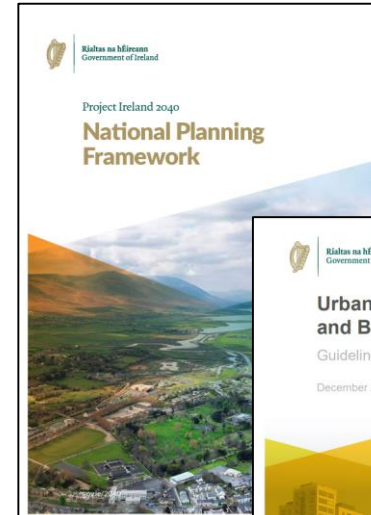


Document Classification: KPI

Policy Context

Housing and Development

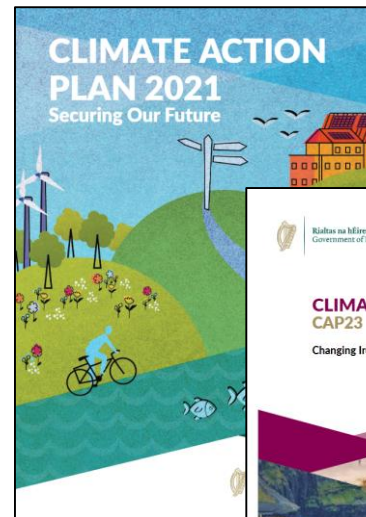
- The **National Planning Framework** (2018) is a high-level document that establishes an overarching framework for Ireland's growth and development up to 2040. It emphasises the compact development of urban settlements to accommodate growth.
- The **Building Heights Guidelines** (2018) encourage the provision of increased building heights in appropriate urban locations and introduce a shift from generic building height limits previously applied in some Local Authority Development Plans to a criteria-based approach to evaluate building heights relative to their urban context.
- **Housing for All** (2021) is the Government's ambitious plan for housing delivery up to 2030. It sets a target to deliver 33,000 new homes per annum, with over 300,000 homes to be delivered up to 2030. It formally introduces the Local Authority Affordable Purchase Scheme and Cost Rental Tenure to the Irish market to help ensure the delivery of new affordable homes to purchase and rent.



Policy Context

Climate Action Plan (2021)

- Whole-of-Government plan for Ireland to fulfil commitments under the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act 2021. It sets out a roadmap for Ireland to achieve a 51% reduction in overall greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.
- The CAP is a living document and is updated annually to reflect progress made.
- Highlights importance of coordinated spatial planning in reducing carbon emissions. Promotes **compact growth and higher density residential development** to create vibrant and people-focused environments that **reduce travel time and encourage active sustainable modes of travel**.
- Requires Local Authorities to establish Decarbonising Zones i.e. spatial areas in which a range of climate change mitigation measures are trialled to contribute to meeting national climate action targets
- The CAP's 2023 update is the first to implement carbon budgets and sectoral emissions ceilings as agreed by the Irish Government in 2022.

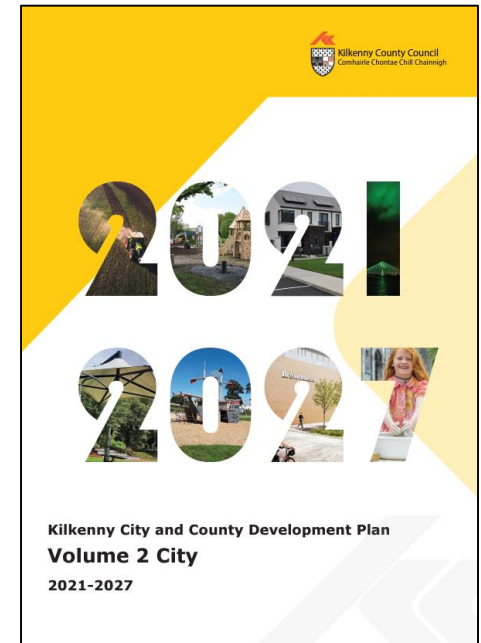


“Local authorities, in particular, have a pivotal role to play in the decarbonisation transition, including through spatial planning, the provision of public housing and transport infrastructure, and the maintenance of biodiversity.”

Policy Context

Kilkenny City and County Development Plan 2021-2027

- Establishes a detailed direction for the spatial and economic development of Kilkenny City and County.
- Reflects national priorities for **compact growth, housing delivery, sustainable mobility and decarbonisation** and translates these into detailed policy objectives for Kilkenny's development.
- The CCDP identifies several key strategic priorities for the city's development, including:
 - ❑ *“To consolidate and strengthen the role of Kilkenny City as a self-sustaining Key Town and regional economic driver*
 - ❑ *To deliver compact growth in the expansion of the City with a minimum of 30% of the growth within the existing built up footprint of the City*
 - ❑ *To support urban regeneration through investment in the Abbey Quarter & other initiatives to improve the public realm and regenerate underused land and buildings in the City.*
 - ❑ *To deliver investment in sustainable transport measures through a Local Transport Plan including continued development of the city bus services with walking and cycling infrastructure in support of the compact ‘10-minute city’ concept.”*
- This updated masterplan will be included as a variation.



Policy Context

Draft Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan

- The SUMP is a strategic plan to meet the mobility needs of communities and businesses in Kilkenny.
- It seeks to ensure that *“Kilkenny will be an accessibility city with sustainable mobility options for everyone by 2030.”*
- Public consultation process on the Draft SUMP commenced in November 2022 and final public consultation is anticipated for Q4 2023.
- Objectives under the Draft SUMP include:
 - *Enhancing permeability within the city centre.*
 - *Enhancing public transport options.*
 - *Manage parking in an effective manner to support a shift to sustainable modes of transport.*
 - *Provide a safe and coherent cycle network.*
 - *Ensure businesses can connect with potential suppliers and customers.*

Mobility and transport solutions will primarily be determined by the provisions of the SUMP.



Public Consultation

Extensive public consultation was key to informing the development of the 2015 Masterplan. Further consultation has helped inform the review and update of the Masterplan. The public survey concluded has helped identify key themes for consideration, informed recommended land uses for the Abbey Quarter and identified priority amenities and services for delivery.

274 responses

Key Takeaways:

- Majority of respondents felt that 2015 vision for the Abbey Quarter Masterplan was still relevant (59%).
- 39% of respondents supported an increase in creative land use.
- Themes identified as most important to consider for the Masterplan Review included:
 - Outdoor recreation and public space.
 - Sustainability, biodiversity, climate action.
 - Enterprise and employment.
 - Built heritage and conservation.
 - Engaging with the River Nore.

*‘To plan the area as a seamless **complement to the medieval city** as an inclusive place for an inter-generational community to work, live, visit and play with St. Francis Abbey at its core. The regeneration of the area will focus on embracing the sites’ **natural, cultural and built heritage**, whilst maximising the **benefits of the rivers Nore and Breaghagh**, providing for a broad range of uses, sustaining growth in employment, 3rd & 4th level education and **advancing economic activity** in a sustainable and energy efficient fashion where innovation can flourish. The area will be a **permeable expansion of the city for pedestrians and cyclists** where smarter travel principles will apply throughout.’*

2015 Abbey Quarter Masterplan Vision

Public Consultation

The project team also conducted an online survey with employees in the Brewhouse offices in the Abbey Quarter. This helped identify current commuting trends to the Abbey Quarter, mobility constraints and opportunities for sustainable modes of transport.

169 responses

Key Takeaways:

- The majority of respondents (30.2%) live more than 50km for the Abbey Quarter.
- The number of days work in the office differs amongst respondents e.g. 29.6% work 2 days a week and 21.3% work 5 days a week in the Brewhouse. This may indicate that recent wider trends in remote working arising from the COVID-19 pandemic have and will continue to persist.
- The vast majority (84%) of respondents drive their own car to the Abbey Quarter.
- Only 8.9% of respondents use active modes of travel i.e. walking and cycling, and only 2% by public transport.
- The majority (54.4%) said that speed is the primary determinant of their transport mode, while 45.6% cited a lack of alternatives.
- Of those that drive, 68.2% of respondents normally park their car in the Abbey Quarter car park.
- The vast majority (72%) of respondents said that it was not currently feasible to stop using their car and choose another travel option.

Exercise

1. Prioritisation: what should come first and why?
2. Prototyping: choosing the key priorities
 - a) What issues do you think would come up during implementation?
 - b) How would these be solved?
3. Sweny's Orchard design ideas

Next Steps

1. Online consultation session 7pm June 21st.
2. Submissions or observations may be made by 5pm June 30th:
 - a) online at <http://consult.kilkenny.ie/>
 - b) by e-mail to ourplan@kilkennycoco.ie
 - c) in writing to: The A./Senior Planner, Planning Department, Kilkenny County Council, County Hall, John Street, Kilkenny
3. This updated masterplan will be finalised over the summer and included as a variation in the County Development Plan in Autumn.

Full report available at consult.kilkenny.ie