

Chapter 2 Development Context and Framing Documents

2.0 Introduction

Tramore has been identified as a Secondary Service Centre in County Waterford and in population terms it is the largest settlement in the County. Its many assets include its expansive coastline, close proximity to the Gateway City of Waterford, and the accessibility to good transportation networks.

2.1 Physical Context

The Town occupies a coastal location overlooking Tramore Bay and is 7 km (4 miles) to the south of Waterford City, 30km (19 miles) to the east of Dungarvan, and 3 km (2 miles) to the southwest of Waterford Airport. The Town is a leading seaside resort for the South East Region with good transport linkages to Waterford City and Waterford Airport.

The existing form and structure of the Town has been influenced by its natural topography and physical landform. Main Street forms a long narrow steep spine through the Town and it is this configuration that has historically confined the growth and expansion of the Town Centre. The 4.5km long strand (2.8 miles) is at the lowest point of the Town and it is here that Tramore's main recreational and activity base is located.

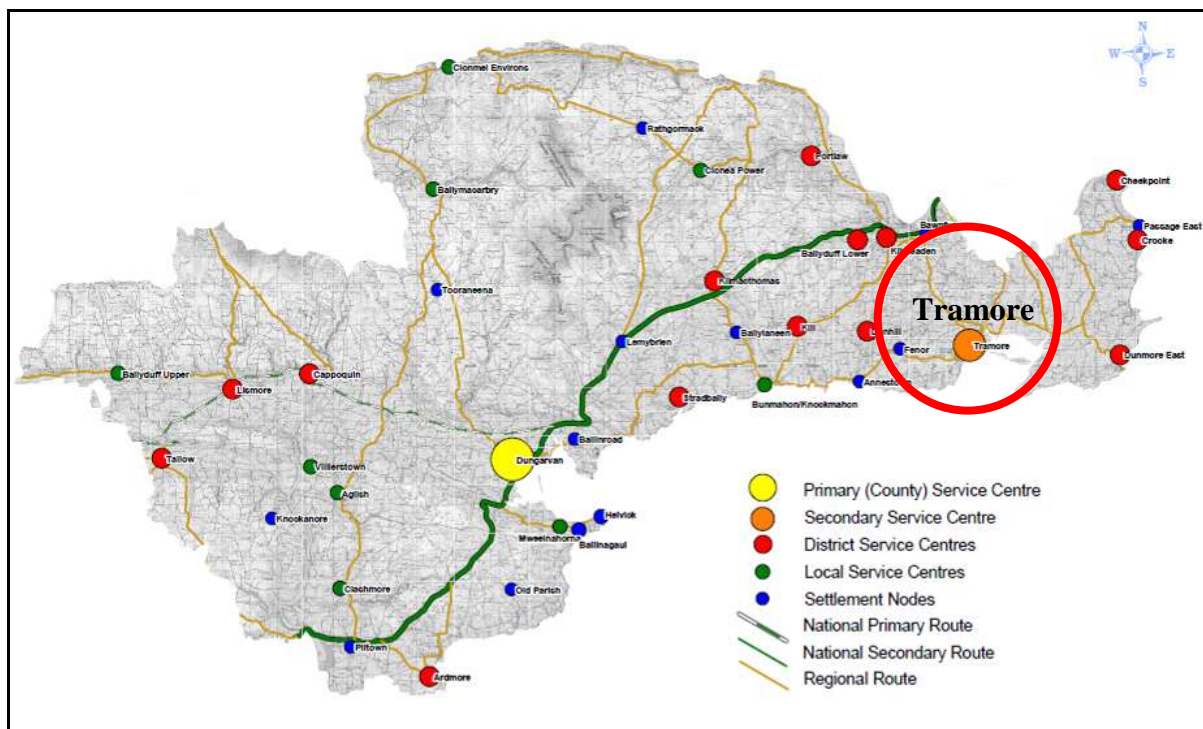


Figure 2.1 Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 – Settlement Hierarchy

2.2 Infrastructure

The R675 Regional Road links Tramore with Waterford City where it joins the N25 National Primary Road. This National Road serves the Gateway Cities of Waterford and Cork and also connects to the M9 Motorway to Dublin. The N25 also serves Rosslare Europort.

The R675 Regional Road also links Tramore with Dungarvan to the west via the Coast Road. The R685 Regional Road links Tramore with Waterford Regional Airport to the north east and Dunmore East to the south-east.

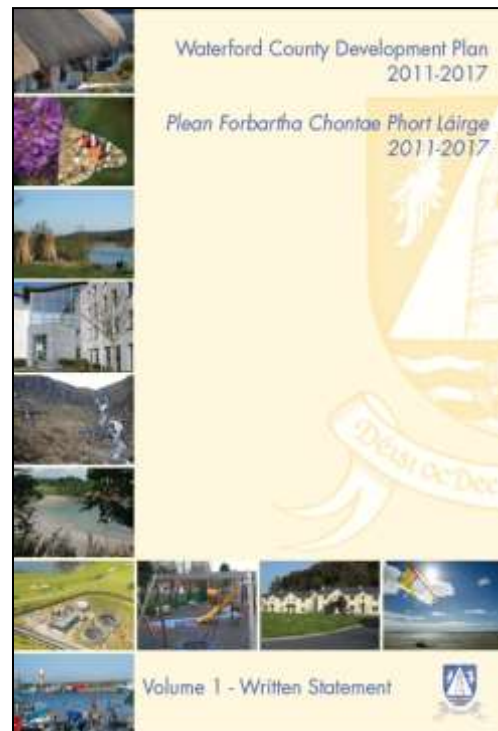
2.3 Framing Documents

2.3.1 Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017

The Waterford County Development Plan is the ‘parent’ document which underpins the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020. Section 1 of Volume 1 of the Waterford County Development Plan provides for the preparation of the Tramore Local Area Plan within 2 years of the adoption of the County Plan.

This Local Area Plan, which should be read in tandem with the Waterford County Development Plan, will provide for the settlement plan and landuse zonings with respect to Tramore Town & environs, and will be consistent with the overall approach of the Waterford County Development Plan.

Other plans and guidelines which have influenced the preparation of the Tramore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 are outlined in the following sections.



2.3.2 The South-East Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022

The South-East Regional Planning Guidelines provide a long-term strategic planning framework for the development of the South-East Region and both guides and informs the Development Plans and Local Area Plans of the local authorities in the Region.

2.3.3 Retail Planning Guidelines 2012

These Guidelines, which replace the Retail Planning Guidelines published in 2005, are designed to ensure that the planning system plays a key role in ensuring competitiveness in the retail sector, supports the vitality and viability of city and town centres, contributes to a high standard of urban design and encourages a greater use of sustainable transport. The Guidelines also provide for:

- The new requirement for joined up approaches to planning for the retail sector across local authority boundaries;
- A general presumption against out of town retail centres; and
- Clarification of certain retail planning definitions to reflect various changes in the retail sector.

2.3.4 Smarter Travel – A Sustainable Transport Future 2009-2020

Smarter Travel, “*A Sustainable Transport Future*” is the blueprint for transport in Ireland until 2020. It recognises the vital importance for continued investment in transport but also sets out the necessary steps to ensure that people choose more sustainable transport modes such as walking, cycling and public transport.

2.3.5 Joint Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region

The Joint Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region (comprising the south-east region, and counties Cork & Limerick) seeks to secure the best environmental management of all waste (including prevention and minimisation) for the next 20 years and will be reviewed every 5 years. The purposes of the Plan are:



1. The promotion of waste prevention and minimisation through source reduction, producer responsibility and public awareness; and
2. The management for the recovery/recycling/disposal of waste arising on a regional basis.

2.3.6 Waterford Planning, Land Use and Transportation Strategy 2004-2020 (PLUTS)

The PLUTS area comprises Waterford City and its environs including neighbouring towns such as Tramore. A key element of the PLUTS strategy is the achievement of a critical mass in Waterford City Gateway to reinforce and develop its role as the economic driver of the

South-East Region. This will have a knock-on effect on the growth and development of neighbouring towns such as Tramore which should provide a support to the Gateway.

2.3.7 National Climate Change Adaptation Framework (Building Resilience to Climate Change)

This framework, published in December 2012 by the DoECLG, provides a mandate for local authorities and other agencies to prepare local adaptation plans (including mitigation) for climate change as part of development planning. These adaptation plans are to be published by mid-2014.



2.3.8 Our Sustainable Future, a Framework for Sustainable Development for Ireland (DoECLG, 2012).

This document sets out a medium to long-term framework for advancing sustainable development and seeks to guide Ireland's transition to a resource efficient, low-carbon and climate resilient future. It focuses on identifying gaps where further progress is required and setting out a series of pragmatic measures to address those challenges.