

**Aim:** To respond in a coherent sustainable, spatial fashion to the challenges facing the county, while building on its strengths and providing a more focused approach to planning for future growth. The Core Strategy facilitates a more consolidated compact urban form; maintenance and improvement of a sustainable economic base; creation of sustainable and integrated communities together with the balancing of our natural and built environment with sustainable and appropriate development.

## 2.1 Background

The overall core strategy for County Kildare builds on the principles established in the previous Kildare County Development Plan 2005-2011 and the framework provided by the National Spatial Strategy (NSS) 2002-2020 and the Regional Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area (RPGs) 2010-2022. It sets out a strategic approach to the management of development in the county. This is expanded upon in the policies and objectives contained within the remainder of this Plan.

## 2.2 Strategy

In developing a strategy for the future planning and development of the county, it is recognised that, as Kildare is part of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA) it will be influenced by and have influence over future economic, social and environmental trends in the region. The RPGs provide a broad planning framework giving an overall strategic context to the development plans of each local authority in the GDA.

This Development Plan seeks to encourage the focus of new development on:

- (i) Consolidation within the existing urban footprint with particular focus on the Metropolitan towns;
- (ii) Supporting the achievement of more sustainable towns and villages through residential and employment opportunities

together with supporting social and community facilities;

- (iii) Supporting national investment in public transport services by focusing new development areas in key locations to achieve the integration of landuses and high quality public transport provision;
- (iv) Achieving economies of scale for services and infrastructure in identified growth towns;
- (v) Promoting economic development within defined economic clusters;
- (vi) Facilitating development in the smaller towns and villages in line with the ability of local services to cater for growth that responds to local demand;
- (vii) Recognising the role of the rural countryside in supporting the rural economy and its role as a key resource for agriculture, equine, bloodstock, forestry, energy production, tourism, recreation, mineral extraction and rural based enterprises;
- (viii) Supporting, promoting and actively developing sources of renewable energy;
- (ix) Protecting local assets by preserving the quality of the landscape, open space, natural, architectural, archaeological and cultural heritage and material assets of the county;
- (x) Promoting social inclusion and facilitating the delivery of objectives contained in the Kildare County Development Board Strategy *Kildare 2012, An Economic, Social and Cultural Strategy for the Development of Kildare*.

## 2.3 Kildare in Context

Kildare has an area of 169,426 hectares. Its topography consists of a large, fertile plain broken only by a few hills such as Dunmurray Hill and the Hill of Allen, with upland areas mainly on the eastern boundary with County Wicklow. The fertile plain forms part of the central lowlands of Ireland and extends throughout most of the county including the unique landscape of the Curragh. Significant areas of bogland are located to the north west of the county. The uplands to the east separate the plains from the Wicklow Mountains and Blessington.

Kildare is one of the fastest growing counties in Ireland. It contains many vibrant towns including Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge and Kilcock within the north east, the strong growth cluster of Naas, Newbridge and Kilcullen within the centre of the county. The towns of Kildare, Monasterevin and Athy support south and west Kildare. Smaller towns, villages and settlements are located throughout the county supporting more rural populations together with large tracts of agricultural lands which have significant value, both as important agricultural enterprises, food sources or as open green areas between towns and the built up areas.

Many of the main transportation corridors linking the Greater Dublin Area to the rest of the country, pass through Kildare. These include three motorway corridors (M4, M7 and M9), the N7 and N81 National Primary Routes and the N78 National Secondary Route. Various regional and local routes also traverse the county together with four mainline railway passenger services, (the Sligo, Cork/Limerick, Galway and Waterford lines) and two important suburban services linking Kildare to Heuston and Kilcock / Maynooth to Connolly (Refer Map 2.6).

Over the last five to ten years, the county has also witnessed an unprecedented growth in the quality and quantum of its retail offer. This plan seeks to continue to sustain and improve the retail profile and competitiveness of the county within the retail economy of the Greater Dublin Area. In this regard,

the preparation of Chapter 9 Retail has been informed by the 2008-2016 Retail Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area and the 2008-2016 Kildare County Retail Strategy.

### 2.3.1 Population Growth Trends


The population of the county has increased from 134,881 in 1996 to 186,335 in 2006, representing a growth of 38%. This equates to more than double the national population increase of 17% over the same period. Net migration from abroad and from other counties in Ireland to Kildare accounted for 59.8% of the increase in population.

#### 2.3.1.1 Population Change ED 2002-2006

Map 2.1 illustrates percentage population change between 2002-2006 per Electoral Division (ED). Significant population growth has occurred within and around the central towns of Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Clane and Kilcullen, creating a pattern of growth along the M7 and M9 motorways. Significant pockets of population growth also occurred in the north of the county. Populations more than doubled in the rural hinterlands of urban centres like Athy, Naas, Newbridge, Clane and Kilcock and the village of Caragh. While the Athy area experienced significant population increase, the majority of the south of the county experienced lower levels of growth. Areas which experienced population decline over the same period include Leixlip, Rathangan, Ballymore Eustace and Milltown.

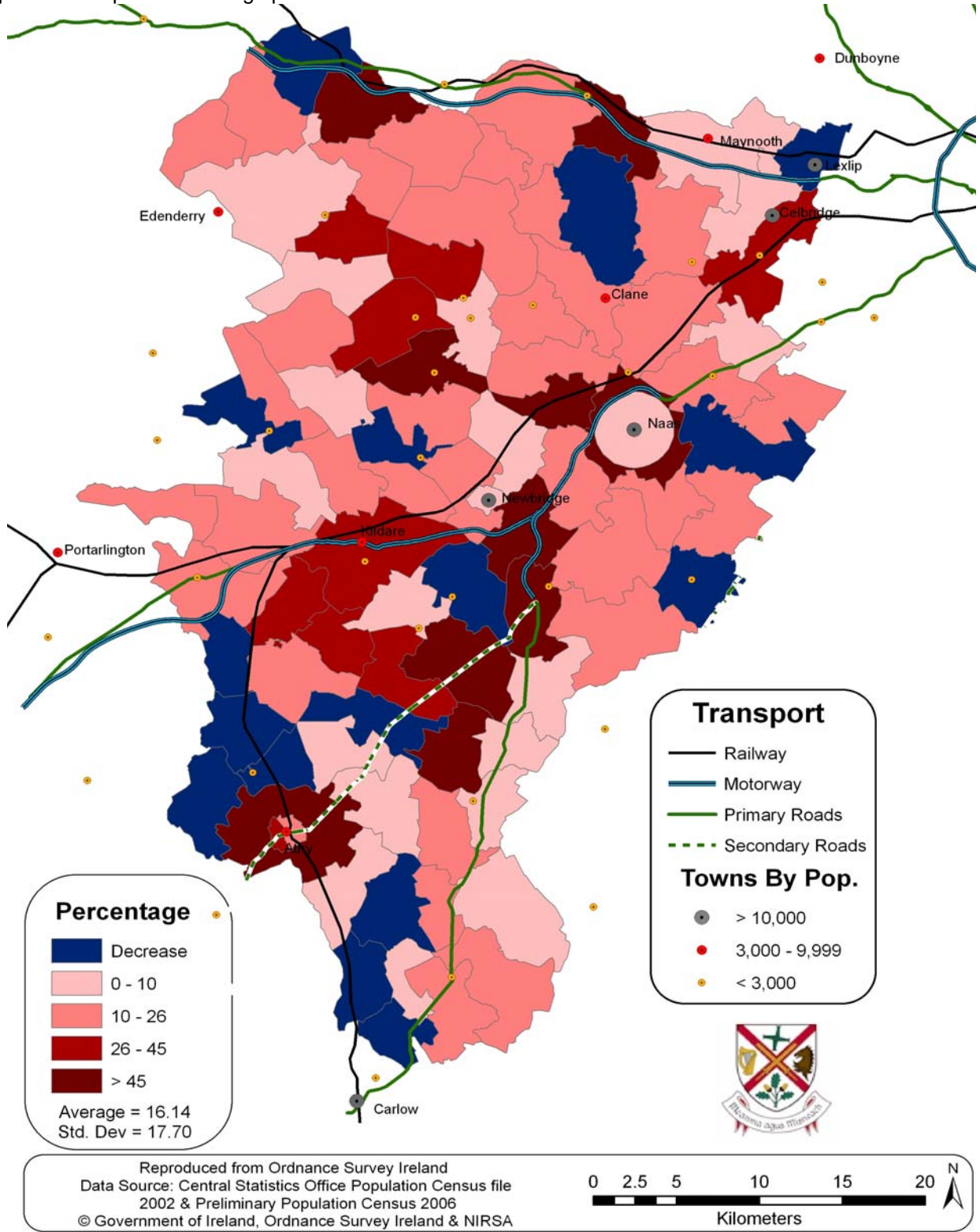
#### 2.3.1.2 Population Density 2006

The distribution of population in County Kildare is outlined on Map 2.2. It varies significantly from concentrations of over 1,000 persons per sq. km in major urban centres like Naas, Newbridge, Leixlip and Athy to more sparsely populated rural areas in the west and south of the county. The urban areas in the northeast of the county have the largest concentration of higher population densities with a less dense band of population along the N7/M7 EDs from Celbridge to Monasterevin. The rural areas in the northwest and south of the county have the lowest population density. A pattern has been formed in the county where the higher

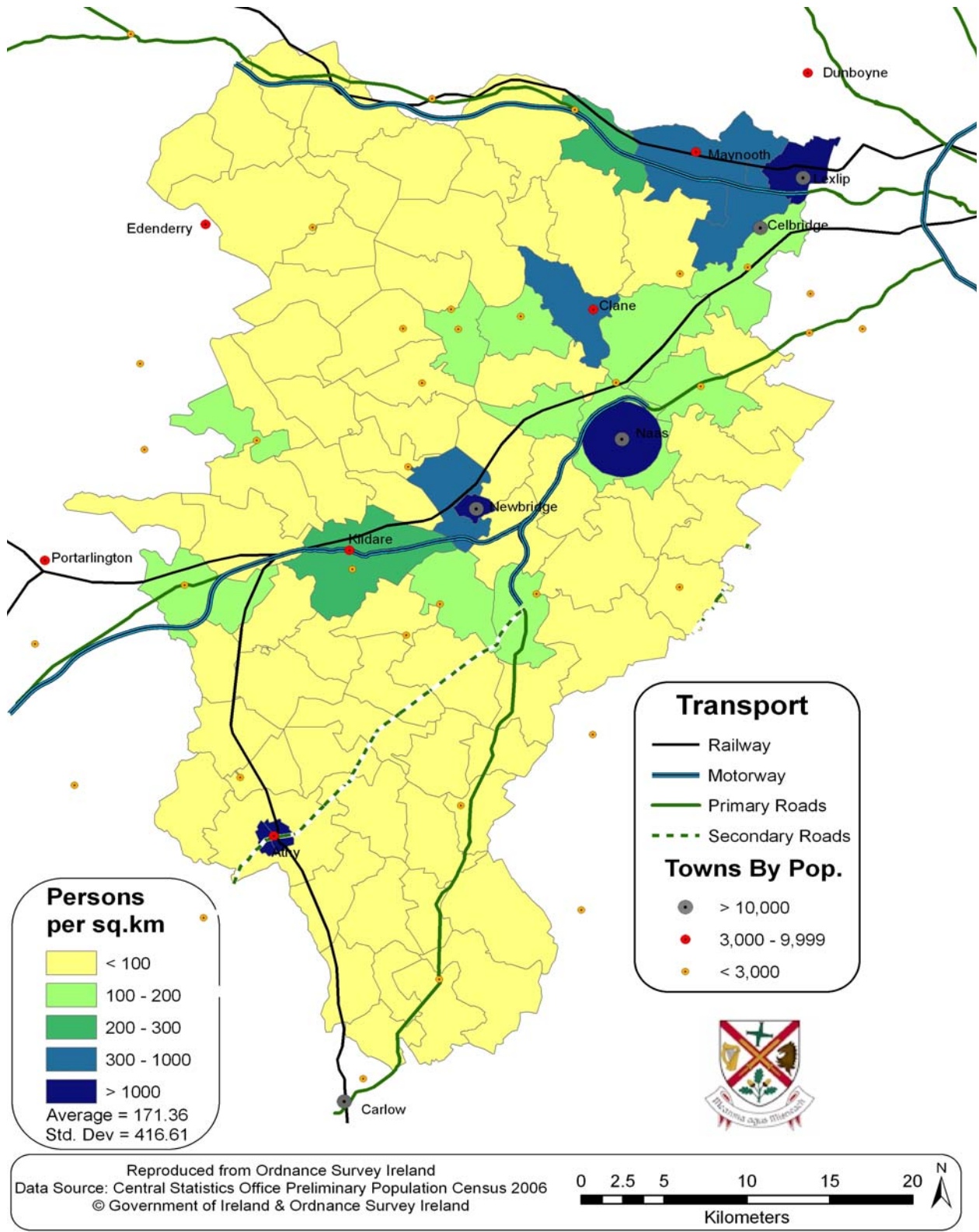


population densities are located in the Metropolitan northeast and within and around the towns of Naas Newbridge, Clane, Athy, Kildare, Monasterevin and Kilcullen.

**Map 2.1** Population Change per ED 2002 - 2006



**Map 2.2** Population Density per ED 2006

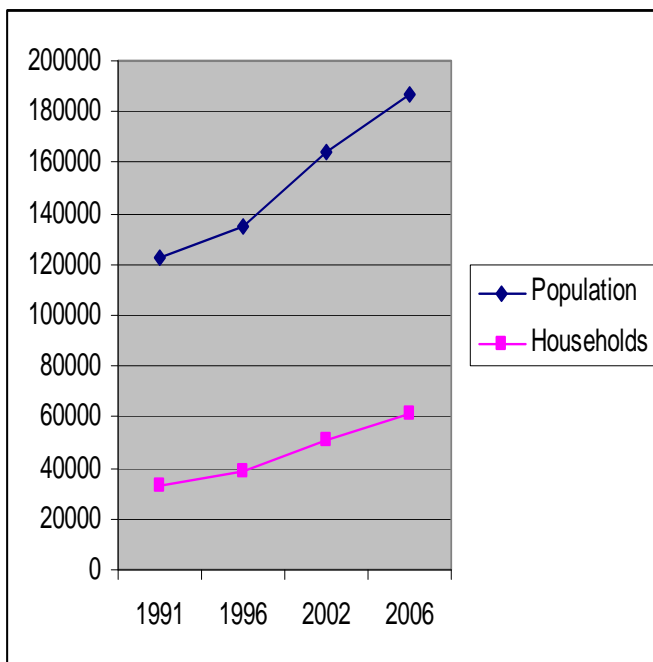


### 2.3.2 Population and Household Patterns

Changes in population and household patterns are important concepts in Development Plans in order to estimate land and services required for residential development, community facilities, employment, infrastructure etc. Table 2.1 and Figure 2.1 below show the pattern of population and household change in the county from 1991-2006.

Population and Households – Co. Kildare 1991-2006				
	1991	1996	2002	2006
<b>Population</b>	122,656	134,881	163,944	186,335
<b>Households</b>	32,589	39,041	50,914	60,957
<b>Ave. Household Sizes</b>	3.76	3.46	3.22	3.07

**Table 2.1** Patterns of Population and Household Change 1991-2006



**Fig 2.1** Patterns of Population and Household Change 1991-2006.

An assessment of the number of dwellings built between 2006 and 2009 shows that, the larger towns of Kilcock, Newbridge and Athy, have experienced population growth of 20% or more, with the Metropolitan towns of Leixlip, Maynooth and Celbridge experiencing more modest estimated growth of less than 12%. The necessary upgrade to Osberstown wastewater treatment plant has impacted on the level of growth in Naas and the central area of the county. Smaller towns and villages (e.g. Monasterevin, Clane, Kill, Rathangan and Sallins) have experienced population growth of 20% or more, with Castledermot, Prosperous and Kilcullen experiencing more modest growth rates of less than 10%. Some rural settlements have experienced significant population growth in the last three years, such as Caragh, Kildangan, Kilmeague, Coill Dubh and Suncroft.

### 2.4 Planning Policy Zones - Regional Context

The strategic planning framework of the Regional Planning Guidelines 2010-2022 (RPGs) identifies planning policy zones supported by a settlement hierarchy.

Two strategic planning policy zones are defined in Kildare under the RPGs (refer to Map 2.3). These comprise the Metropolitan Area and the Hinterland Area.

- The key objective for the future development of the **Metropolitan Area** is to ensure consolidation of urban centres, development of brownfield sites especially along public transport corridors, the provision and facilitation of an integrated public transport system and the achievement of a greater use of sustainable transport modes through the integration of land use and transportation planning.
- Development in the **Hinterland Area** is to be concentrated in strategically placed, strong and dynamic urban centres absorbing most new population growth in the Hinterland Area and acting as key

centres for the provision of services for surrounding smaller towns in rural areas, with all other towns and villages growing at a sustainable and self-sustaining scale.

These planning policy zones are supported by a settlement hierarchy with the identification of key growth towns to be consolidated, developed and supported within a sustainable urban form. Map 2.3 illustrates the RPG settlement strategy including the Metropolitan and Hinterland Areas.

## 2.5 Settlement Hierarchy Regional Context

The settlement strategy of the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) ranks settlements in the county from large growth towns to moderate sustainable growth towns. At the lower level of settlement each Local Authority within the GDA should define small towns / villages as part of the development plan process.

### 2.5.1 Settlement Hierarchy – Defining Principles

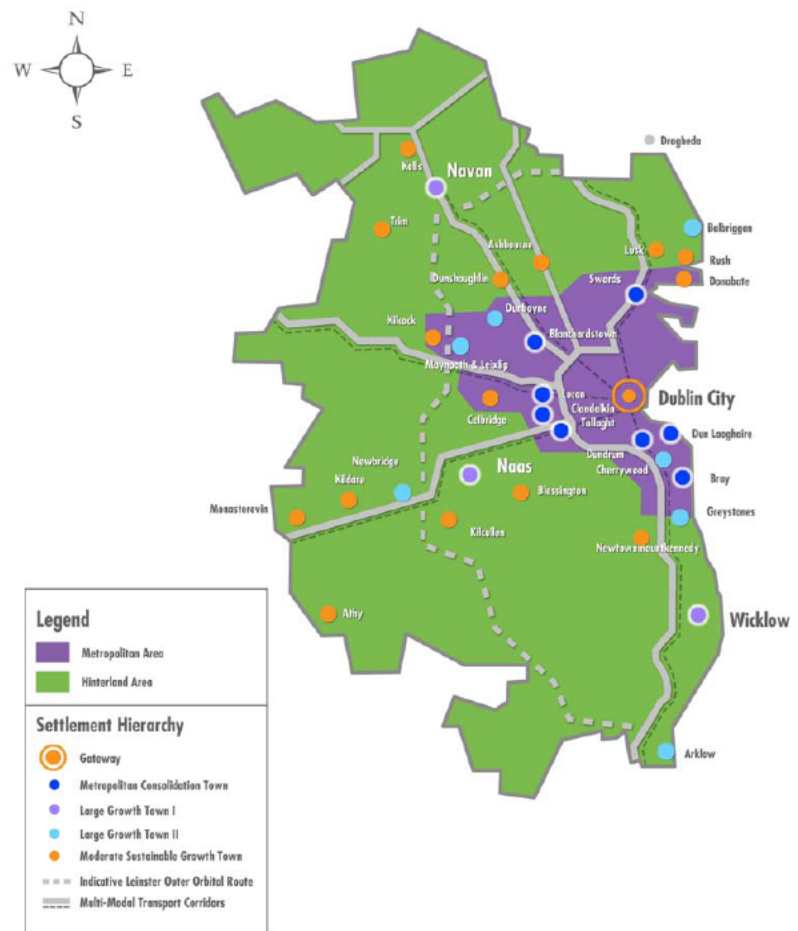
The principles governing the categorisation of each settlement type are summarised in the following paragraphs followed by Table 2.2 which identifies the overall settlement hierarchy for County Kildare.

**Large Growth Towns** – are strategically positioned to make the most of their connectivity and high quality connections to Dublin City Centre, whilst also supporting and servicing a wider local economy. They are important centres for delivery of public services, alongside IDA promoted companies, high order retail businesses and supported enterprise centres providing a strong commercial hub.

Large Growth Towns are divided into levels I and II. This recognises the smaller population base and a lesser range of facilities provided within level II towns. The division allows for growth to develop in level II towns in line with new facilities and services as these towns expand.

**Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns** – are located within both the Metropolitan and Hinterland Areas. They are at sub-county town level, with lesser levels of economic activity beyond that required to service the local population. Most of these towns are envisaged as having an interacting and supporting role to their adjacent higher order town in the Hinterland areas or as part of Dublin City within the Metropolitan area.

Map 2.3 RPG Strategy 2010 - 2022



**Small Towns within the Hinterland Area** are not listed under the RPGs. Such centres are to comprise populations of between 1,500 - 5,000 with relatively small and locally financed businesses. In terms of facilities, the RPGs recognise that small towns contain retail facilities mainly in the convenience category, and services such as primary school(s), secondary school(s), health clinic(s) and sports facilities.

**Villages** comprise populations of circa 1,000 people, serving smaller rural catchment areas providing local services with, in some cases, smaller scale rural enterprises.

### 2.5.2 Rural Settlements / Countryside

It should also be noted that Kildare, as a diverse county, contains significant rural areas. This Plan therefore recognises the need to protect and support lower order rural settlements and the countryside by recognising the need to accommodate limited growth in accordance with requirements for local housing demands and the needs of genuine rural dwellers while providing careful management of physical and environmental resources.

The *Sustainable Rural Housing - Guidelines for Planning Authorities*, issued by the DoEHLG in 2005 identify that Kildare falls within two areas i.e. 'areas under strong urban influence' and also 'stronger rural areas'. The guidelines advise that only people who are part of the rural community are facilitated for one-off housing and that there is careful management of the rural environs of major urban areas to ensure their orderly development in the future. To facilitate the management of rural one off housing, rural policy zones have been identified on the basis of key considerations which are outlined in detail in Chapter 4 (See Map 4.1)

The rural settlements and the countryside represent a smaller proportion of the allocated overall growth for the county (1.8% in rural settlements / nodes and 15% in the rural countryside, refer Chapter 3 Settlement Strategy). Policies and objectives to manage their future

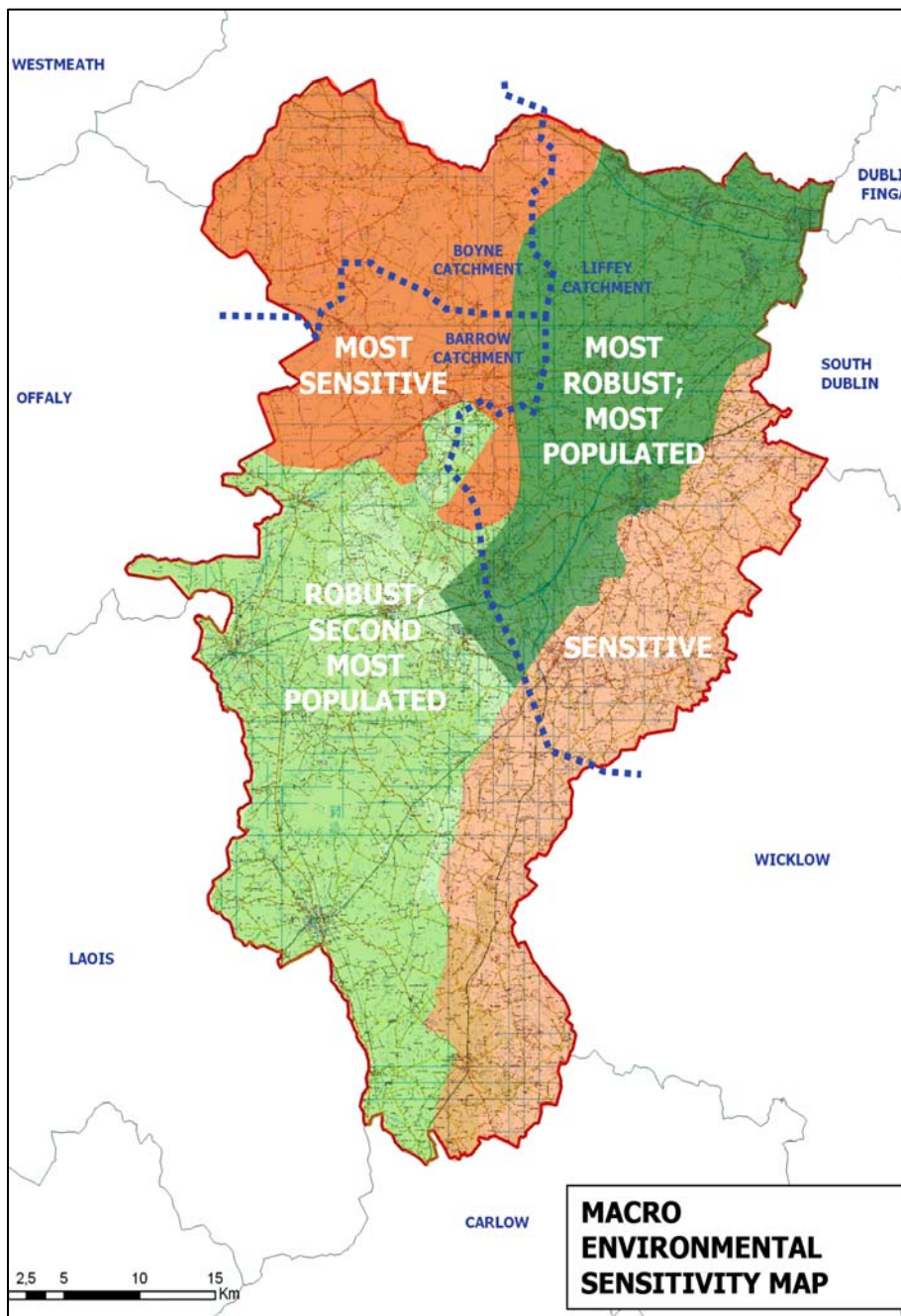
development are contained in Chapter 4, (Housing) and Chapter 17 (Villages and Settlements).

Hierarchy	Description	Locations
<b>Large Growth Towns I</b>	Key destinations, economically active towns supporting surrounding areas.	<b>Naas</b>
<b>Large Growth Towns II</b>	Smaller in scale but strong active growth towns, economically vibrant with high quality transport links to larger towns / city.	<b>Newbridge Maynooth Leixlip (including expansion area of Collinstown)</b>
<b>Moderate Sustainable Growth Towns</b>	In Metropolitan Area, strong edge of Metropolitan area district service centres, HQ linkages and increased densities at nodes on public transport corridors.  In Hinterland Areas, circa 10km from large growth town on public transport corridor, serve rural hinterland as market town.	<b>Celbridge Kilcock</b>  <b>Kildare Monasterevin Kilcullen Athy</b>
<b>Small Towns</b>	Good bus or rail links; circa 10km from large growth towns.	<b>Clane Prosperous Rathangan Sallins Athgarvan Castledermot Derrinturn Kill</b>
<b>Villages</b>	Villages - rural service centres – play a key local role for services for the local rural and adjoining village populations. Local centre for services and local enterprise to be supported, without resulting in growth beyond local need or creating unsustainable travel patterns.	<b>Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore-Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, Coill Dubh / Coolearagh, Caragh, Kilmeague, Kildangan, Suncroft &amp; Ballitore/Timolin/ Moone/ Crookstown</b>

**Table 2.2** Settlement Hierarchy and Typology County Kildare

## 2.6 SEA and the Settlement Strategy

As part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment of this Plan a review of environmental sensitivities of the county has been undertaken. Map. 2.4 outlines at a macro level the environmental sensitivities of the county.



Map 2.4 Environmental Sensitivities

The Macro-Environmental Sensitivity Map illustrates environmental conditions at a very broad strategic level for the county as a whole. These considerations have informed the preferred development strategy for the county. It has been compiled having regard to a number of environmental factors including:

- Landscape character area boundaries;
- Ecological values;
- Land cover;
- Topography;
- Soils;
- Settlement patterns;
- Existing and planned waste water services;
- Infrastructure and capacity; and
- Existing and planned transport infrastructure and capacity.

The Macro-Environmental Sensitivity Map illustrates that at a broad strategic level there is a 'corridor' of more robust environmental conditions that follows the more fertile lowlands of the centre of the county. The north-east of the county has a concentration of high capacity public transport routes, a high density of serviced lands and a lower density of ecological and landscape designations. Environmental sensitivities increase to the south-east on account of uplands and increase towards the north-west on account of bogs and wetlands. There is a lower proximity and concentration of quality transport and high capacity water services in these areas.

As the map illustrates a broad scale generalisation of sensitivities, all applications for development must be considered having regard to the individual environmental conditions of the subject site including the availability of waste water treatment infrastructure and services and the assimilative

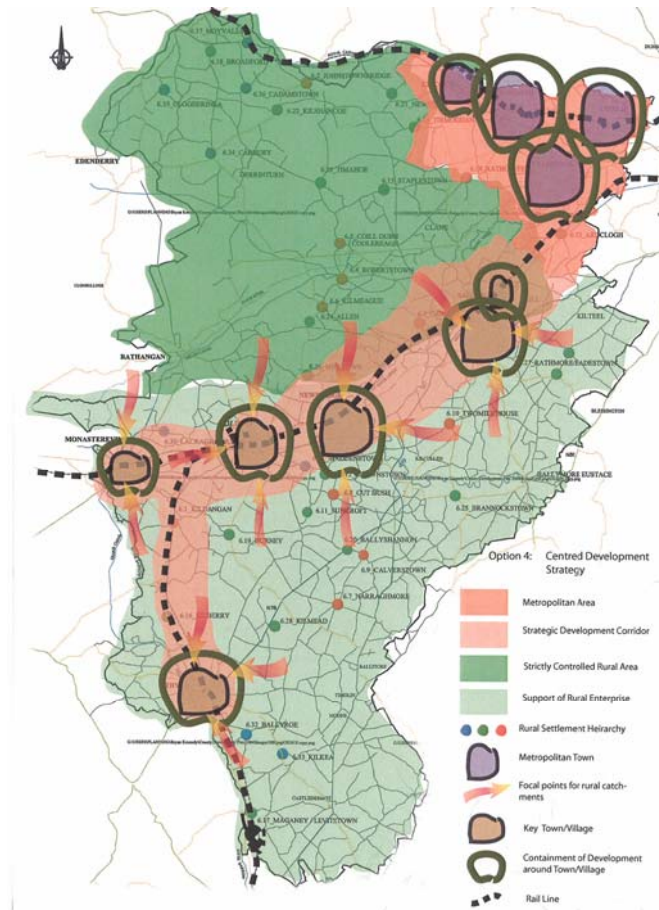
capacity of rivers into which treated effluent will be discharged.

## 2.7 Preferred Development Strategy

The preferred development strategy has been informed by the Regional Planning Guidelines (RPGs) and the environmental sensitivities of the county. It is based on building strong urban centres while protecting the rural hinterlands. The focus is on achieving:

- Critical mass in the Metropolitan urban areas (Maynooth, Leixlip, Celbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin and Kilcullen);
- Establishing a hierarchy of smaller rural settlements to develop rural centres capable of providing a range of services and employment to their local populations;
- Managing development in rural areas with a focus on agricultural diversification, appropriate rural enterprise, (e.g. renewable energy production) and the strengthening of existing towns and villages;
- Protecting the environment by implementing an environmental protection policy which recognises the various environmentally sensitive zones within the county but not to mutually exclude appropriate and otherwise acceptable uses and development.

**Map 2.5 Preferred Development Strategy**



review of the RPGs and the changed economic circumstances and market conditions. The RPGs have had regard to the relevant targets and as such have informed the preparation of this Plan. Kildare is to plan for continued strong levels of population growth towards a target of 252,640 by 2022, an increase of 66,305 persons (or 33.8%) in addition to the number recorded in 2006. It is estimated that household size will continue to reduce to 2.39 by 2022.

	Population	Housing Units
<b>2006</b>	186,335	68,840
<b>Target 2016</b>	234,422	93,748
<b>Target 2022</b>	252,640	112,477
<b>Increase 2006-2016</b>	48,087 (26%)	24,908 (36%) 2,490 units / yr <sup>1</sup>
<b>Increase 2016 - 2022</b>	18,218 (7.8%)	18,729 (20%) 3,122 units / yr <sup>2</sup>

**Table 2.3** Population and Housing Targets for County Kildare

The allocation of housing units between 2006-2016 in the planning policy zones is outlined in Fig. 2.2.

**2.8 Future Population Growth and Housing Targets**

Although this is a statutory plan that the County Council is required to review every six years, the population and household targets set out in this Plan are based on a horizon year of 2022 in line with the RPGs.

The most recent population targets “*National Population Projections and Regional Population Targets 2010 to 2022*”, were issued by the Government in January 2009. These targets referenced the NSS, the six yearly cycle for the

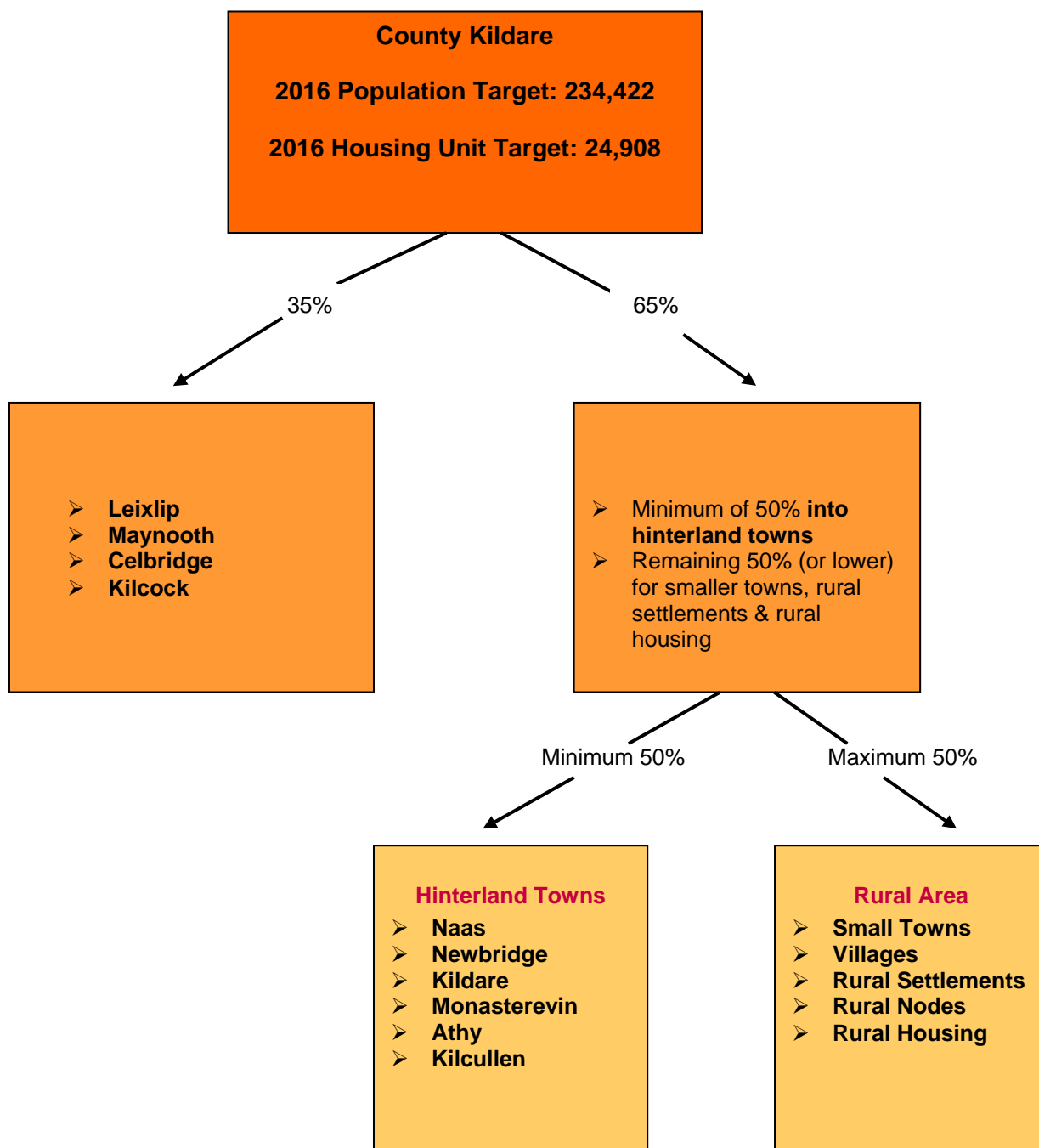
<sup>1</sup> These targets take on board existing and potential vacancy levels and projected decline in household size over the time period.

<sup>2</sup> As above.

The allocation identifies a minimum of 35% of the overall allocation to the towns in the Metropolitan area (Maynooth, Celbridge, Leixlip and Kilcock) and the remaining 65% to the Hinterland area. Of the proportion allocated to the Hinterland, a minimum of 50% of the allocation is directed to the

main urban centres (Naas, Newbridge, Kildare, Monasterevin, Athy and Kilcullen) with the remainder to rural towns / villages and the rural countryside. The settlement strategy as outlined in Chapter 3 details the allocation and growth rates throughout the county.

**Fig 2.2** Population and Housing Targets 2006 – 2016 (RPGs).



## 2.9 Employment Trends in Kildare

In 2006 a total of 97,719 persons aged 15 years and over were recorded in the labour force in the county. The economic downturn has impacted significantly on the numbers in the labour force with 34,458 recorded on the live register in the county in December 2009. The areas which have experienced the highest increase in 2009 are in north Kildare, most likely reflecting a high level commuting workforce to Dublin City. It is imperative that the necessary spatial strategy is put in place to support, maintain and improve a sustainable economic base, maintain existing jobs and create new employment opportunities.

## 2.10 Overall Economic Strategy

The strategy for the future economic development of the county has been informed by the RPGs and seeks to focus development on strategic economic growth centres and supporting economic growth towns. The economic growth centres are focused on multi-modal corridors. These connect the economic growth centres within the region with both the Dublin City-region gateway and beyond through adjoining regions to other key towns and NSS gateways, benefiting from national investment on these corridors.

### 2.10.1 Primary Economic Growth Towns

**Naas, Maynooth** and **Leixlip** are identified as primary economic growth towns to be promoted for regional enterprise. In these towns critical mass is a core objective for economies of scale to justify strategic infrastructure provision.

### 2.10.2 Economic Clusters

Economic clusters are also promoted as part of the overall economic strategy. In this regard, Naas is clustered with **Newbridge** and **Kilcullen** while Maynooth and Leixlip are clustered with **Celbridge** and **Kilcock**. Clusters are to develop in a mutually dependent way, so that the amenities and economies of the whole cluster are greater than the sum of the individual parts.

### 2.10.3 Secondary Economic Growth Town

**Kildare Town** and **Athy** are identified as secondary economic growth centres providing an important and complementary role in developing economic growth and sectoral interests in tandem with primary economic growth towns. Athy has close linkages and interactions with Carlow in the south east region.

### 2.10.4 Hinterland Towns

The town of **Monasterevin** within the Hinterland area will provide new employment opportunities at a district level providing employment opportunities for the urban areas as well as its large rural hinterland. Employment uses that build on the existing assets of the town (such as the quality of transportation infrastructure and equestrian and heritage links) should be encouraged. This will assist in reducing long distance commuting patterns creating more sustainable communities.

### 2.10.5 Small Towns and Villages

The small towns of **Clane, Prosperous, Rathangan, Sallins, Athgarvan, Castledermot, Derrinturn** and **Kill** together with the villages of **Johnstown, Straffan, Ballymore Eustace, Allenwood, Johnstownbridge, Coill Dubh/Coolearagh, Kilmeague, Caragh, Kildangan, Suncroft and Ballitore/ Timolin/ Moone / Crookstown** will seek to supply new local employment opportunities.

### 2.10.6 Rural Areas

Within the rural areas there are clear locational requirements for employment generating uses including but not limited to green energy projects such as renewable energies, resource recovery, food production, agri-business, quarrying, bloodstock, horticulture and rural based tourism.

## 2.11 Sectoral Strengths

To realise the potential of the identified economic growth centres it is recommended that sectoral strengths are developed and identified around the growth centres as follows:

- **Maynooth and Leixlip** - based on the presence of NUI Maynooth, Intel and Hewlett Packard, should brand itself as the knowledge valley, a centre of excellence in the knowledge based economy. The key focus is directed to hi tech/bio tech sectors, research and development, ICT and manufacturing.
- Sectoral opportunities within **Naas** are to focus on high tech manufacturing, ICT, food production, public administration, office based industry, tourism and bloodstock.
- **Newbridge** has established itself in the pharmaceutical, distribution, manufacturing, innovation, R&D sectors (facilities in Newbridge include Bord na Mona, Horse Racing Ireland and the Department of Defence). Development of Newbridge will seek to complement the sectoral strengths of the primary economic growth town of Naas.
- **Celbridge and Kilcock** are designated as supporting centres to Maynooth and Leixlip and will support the knowledge based economy focusing on manufacturing / office based industry, logistics, tourism and natural and built heritage.
- Within **Kildare** town and **Athy** the development of high value- added manufacturing sectors and internationally traded sectors in tandem with IDA support around transport corridors and routes such as the rail station are also supported in tandem with continued investment in education and skills development. Kildare town also has the opportunity to develop and promote its economic base through

capitalising as an important tourism destination.

## 2.12 Future Trends

The RPGs identify economic trends for the region which are primarily drawn from the ESRI Medium Term Review (2008-2015) and patterns emerging from enterprise dynamics. These include the following:

- (i) A key driver of growth in the future is the business and financial services sector given the GDA is *'currently the most influential contributor in this sector in terms of employment and regional output, supported by high levels of educational attainment'*.
- (ii) The educational sector, where third and fourth level education attainment and innovation are important for developing the knowledge based economy.
- (iii) A decline in the growth and influence of manufacturing and the changing nature of regional employment to higher value-adding activities is likely to give rise to challenges for industrial policy, R&D policy, land use zoning and human capital.
- (iv) The supply of labour with appropriate skills for services activities will be important for future growth.
- (v) Despite a reduction in the demand in the global export market, the value of exports at a national and regional level has remained robust and is likely to remain so.
- (vi) The Metropolitan area of the GDA and the Hinterland area suffer from patterns of urban sprawl, and dispersal of population which adversely affects competitiveness. Sustainable and balanced spatial planning and targeted

infrastructure is therefore essential to support regional enterprise and economic activity.

Appropriate policies and objectives to deliver the overall economic strategy are outlined in Chapter 5.

### **2.13 Creation of Sustainable and Integrated Communities**

In parallel with the provision of a more consolidated and compact urban form, together with the provision of employment opportunities, is the need to create sustainable and more socially inclusive integrated communities.

The strategy will seek to provide quality homes, mixed tenure neighbourhoods, catering for a wide range of family types. There is also a clear need to ensure social and community facilities, including recreation and amenity facilities, are provided in tandem with residential development. The provision of infrastructure such as schools, retail and childcare facilities are necessary to complement and support increasing populations throughout the county. The creation of vibrant and bustling towns and villages is necessary with a diverse mix of activities to facilitate the creation of sustainable and integrated communities.

### **2.14 Balancing the Environment with Sustainable and Appropriate Development**

Heritage is recognised as an important environmental and economic resource and its conservation and enhancement is a major objective of this Plan. A key challenge is to balance the protection of our natural and built environment with the pressure for development. An important mechanism to achieve this is to formulate appropriate policies and objectives for the protection, enhancement and management of our heritage. This will also be achieved through the actions of the County Kildare Heritage Plan and County Biodiversity Plan.

## **2.15 Delivering the Core Strategy**

### **2.15.1 Settlement Strategy**

It is the policy of the Council:

- CS 1: To provide new housing provision in accordance with the County Settlement Hierarchy.
- CS 2: To direct appropriate levels of growth into the designated growth centres and moderate sustainable growth towns.
- CS 3: To support rural communities through the identification of lower order centres including small towns, villages and settlements to provide more sustainable development centres in the rural areas.
- CS 4: To deliver sustainable compact urban areas through a plan-led approach.

### **2.15.2 Economic Development**

It is the policy of the Council:

- CS 5: To support the development of the identified strategic growth centres of Maynooth, Leixlip and Naas as focal points for regional critical massing and employment growth.
- CS 6: To encourage and facilitate new employment opportunities within economic clusters and the hinterland towns.
- CS 7: To promote and attract economic activity at appropriate locations throughout the county.
- CS 8: To address commuting patterns by building up the local economy to a more sustainable level.

### **2.15.3 Sustainable and Integrated Communities**

It is the policy of the Council:

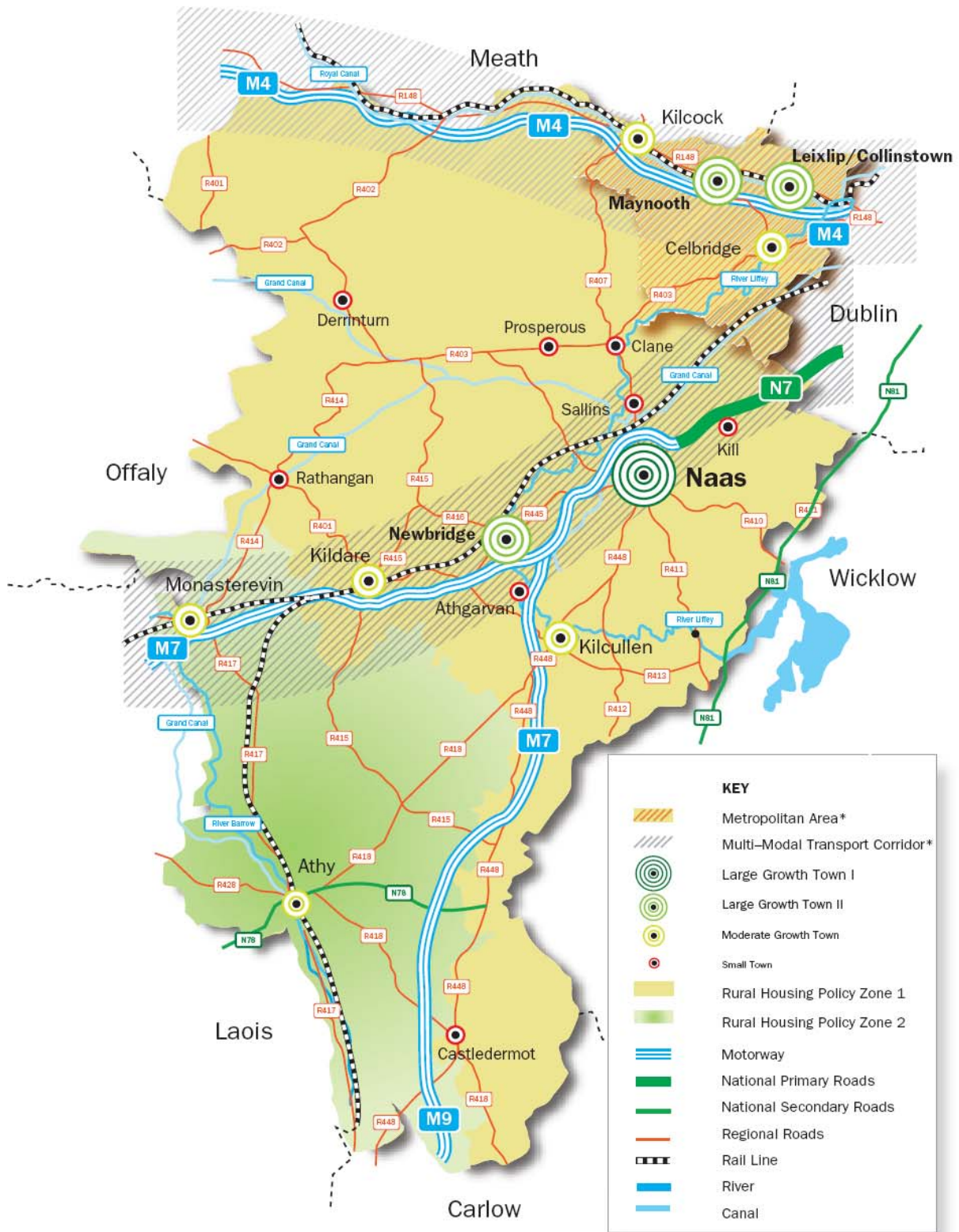
- CS 9: To promote and facilitate the development of sustainable communities through land use planning, by providing for land uses capable of accommodating employment, community, leisure, recreational and cultural facilities having regard to the quality of the environment, including the natural environment, landscape character and the archaeological and architectural heritage.
- CS 10: To ensure that developments are accessible to and meet the needs of all individuals and local community groups.
- CS 11: To seek the delivery of physical and community infrastructure in conjunction with high quality residential developments to create quality living environments.

### **2.15.4 Balancing the Environment with Sustainable and Appropriate Development**

It is the policy of the Council:

- CS 12: To protect and conserve the natural environment.
- CS 13: To protect and conserve nationally important and EU designated sites.
- CS 14: To promote and enhance biodiversity throughout the county.
- CS 15: To ensure that the built heritage is appropriately protected through the Record of Protected Structures with policies to support the sensitive reuse and integration of such structures into new development works.

Map 2.6: County Kildare Core Strategy Map



\*As defined by the RFG's 2010-2022