

Local Agenda 21 Aspects

Rationale/Analysis developed largely by a combination of the Rural Development Review Group, the Cultural Working Group, the Social Inclusion Advisory Group and the Economic Working Group

Local Agenda 21

The 1992 UNCED Conference, also commonly known as the Rio conference or the Earth Summit) identifies four strategic principles for governance in the 21st Century, hence the term Agenda 21. Ireland has signed the charter committing itself to the following four principles:

- ❑ Integration of policy
- ❑ Citizen participation
- ❑ Institutional capacity building
- ❑ Global partnership.

Agenda 21 is concerned with commitments towards a more sustainable society in the long term. Arising from the Government's response (1995 – Local agenda 21 guidelines; 1997 - Sustainable Development: A Strategy for Ireland), one of the main recommendations applicable to the county level is the preparation of a Local Agenda 21 plan. Originally it was intended that Local authorities would complete Local Agenda 21 plans for their counties by the end 1996. However, new initiatives such as Better Local Government and the establishment of County Development Boards have created a new institutional framework for Local Agenda 21. This County Strategy, based on the processes followed, can be described as a Local Agenda 21 strategy for the county. The Government is expected to issue revised Local Agenda 21 guidelines which will guide the formal completion of a Local Agenda 21 plan in each county.

In the absence of formal guidelines, the Local Agenda 21 Innovation Programme has been included in the County Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development in South Tipperary. The integration of longer term policy aspects (sustainable development, services and facilities infrastructure and community development) form the basis of the Local Agenda 21 Innovation Programme. The main target set for the period up to 2006 is that when new guidelines are issued, a Local Agenda 21 Plan will be finalised (led by the designated lead authority) and implemented.

Sustainable Development

Sustainable development has been defined as development, which meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'. Major international conferences at Rio and Kyoto have identified policies and targets as to how sustainable development can be achieved and the environment protected.

The main issues that have arisen in the county review/consultation processes relating to the environment and sustainable development have included:

- [settlement planning](#)
- [balanced mix of public-private housing](#)
- [retention of the rural population](#)
- [agriculture](#)
- [rural transport](#)

- [waste management](#)
- [alternative energy](#)
- [water quality](#)
- [roads](#)
- [access to facilities](#)
- [injury prevention](#)

For further details on main issues go to Hyperlinks