

## Chapter 2 Development Context and Framing Documents

### 2.0 Introduction

Lismore, is an attractive heritage town, and is the largest town in west Waterford. It is identified as a District Service Centre in County Waterford and plays an important role not only in attracting tourists to the area, but also in providing services to West Waterford/East Cork.

### 2.1 Physical Context

Lismore is located in west Waterford, situated at a point of confluence of the Blackwater and the Owenashad (a rapid stream from the Knockmealdowns) Rivers, and is on the south bank of the Blackwater River. The Town is located approximately 5.5km west of Cappoquin, 6.5km north east of Tallow and 18km north west of Dungarvan. The Blackwater River dominates the valley. Lismore has very strong built heritage which defines its character and unique identity. Lismore Castle is an iconic landmark building on the northern approach to the Town. Lismore has an important role in not just attracting tourists to the area, but also in providing local services to the west of the County. Lismore is identified as a District Service Centre because it is an important resource for its hinterland, providing community and infrastructural facilities and services and the population base to maintain the Town.

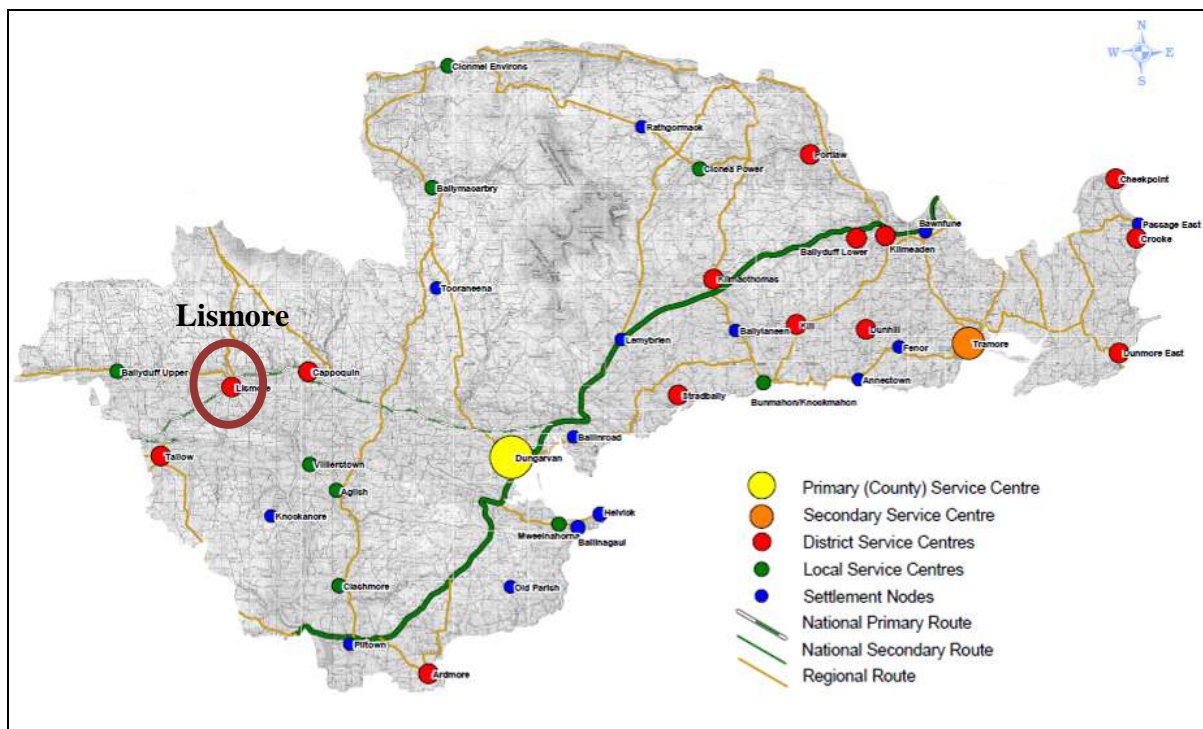


Figure 2.1 Waterford County Development Plan 2011-2017 – Settlement Hierarchy

## 2.2 Infrastructure

Lismore is well serviced by road networks with the National Secondary Road N72 (Waterford/Dungarvan / Fermoy) passing through the town, while the R688 Regional Road (Lismore/Clogheen) provides access to the north over the Knockmealdown Mountains. The R666 Regional Road (Lismore/Fermoy via Ballyduff) is a scenic route fringing the Blackwater on the northern flanks. There are other minor routes to the south, leading to Youghal and southwest via Tallow Bridge to Midleton and Cork.



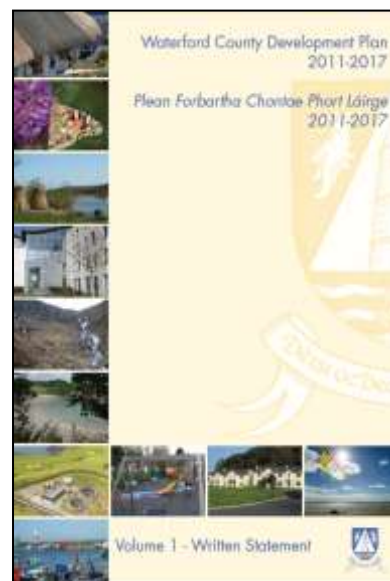
The Blackwater River

## 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 Lismore Local Area Plan 2014-2020. Section 1 of the Waterford County Development Plan provides for the preparation of the Lismore Local Area 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 Lismore 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 Lismore Local Area Plan 2014-2020 include the documents set out 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 guide and inform 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, supporting the vitality and viability of city and town centres and contributing to a high standard of urban design and encouraging 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 Joint Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region

The Joint Waste Management Plan for the Southern Region (comprising the south-east region, and the counties of 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 purpose of the Plan is:



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

### 2.3.5 Spatial Planning & National Roads Guidelines for Planning Authorities 2012

These guidelines were issued in January 2012. Planning Authorities and An Bord Pleanála are obliged to have regard to the guidelines in the carrying out of their functions under the Planning Acts. The guidelines set out the planning policy considerations for development affecting:

- National primary and secondary roads;
- Motorways and associated junctions; and
- Areas adjoining national roads outside the 50-60 kmph speed limit zone in cities, towns and villages.

### 2.3.6 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 to be published by mid-2014.

