



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

Draft

Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan

2025 – 2031

Appendix 4: Social Infrastructure Assessment

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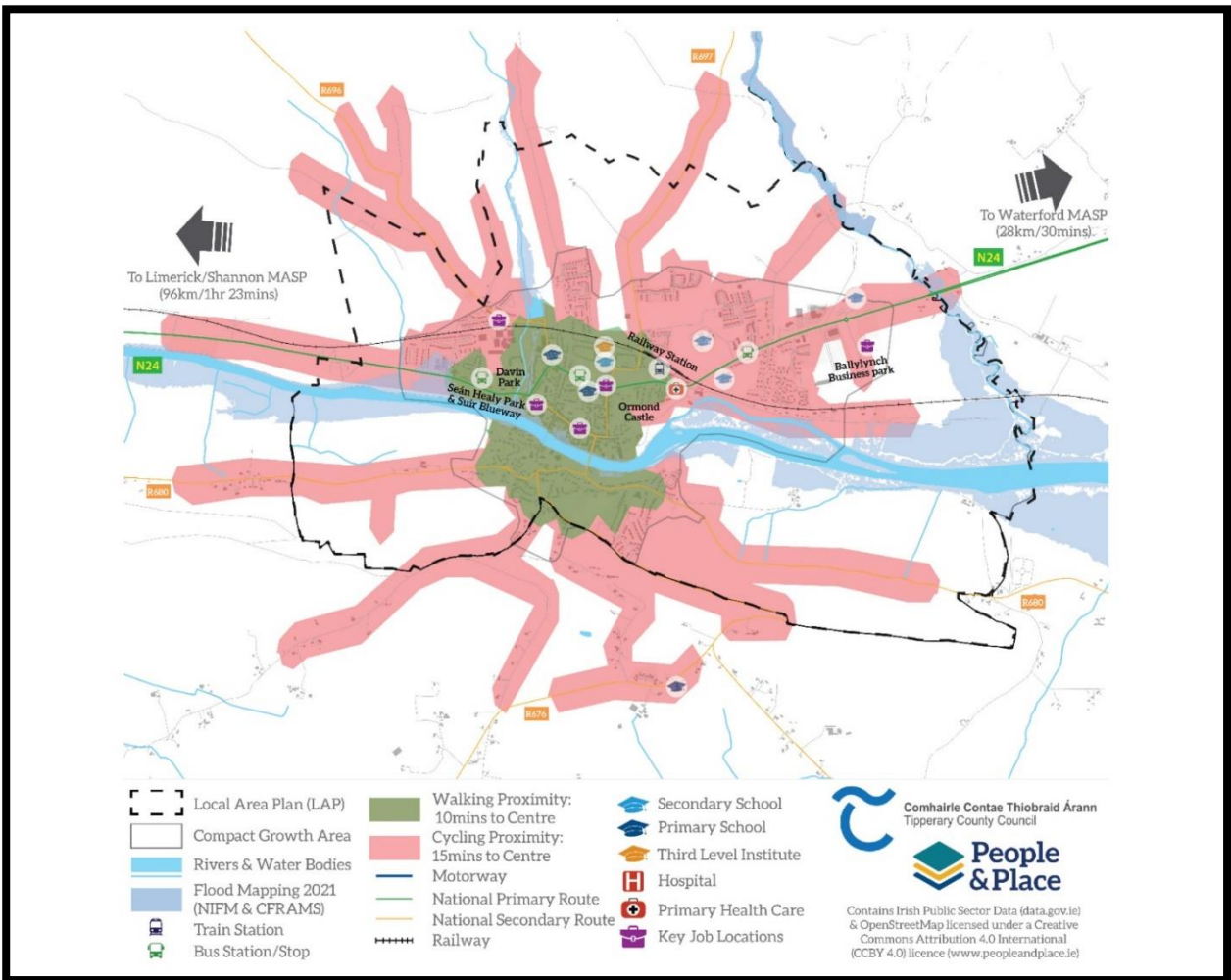
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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of this assessment is to provide an audit of the existing social and community facilities serving the town of Carrick-on-Suir, consider how the capacity of the assessed infrastructure will be affected by population increases, and how the Plan can address identified infrastructure deficits.

Social Infrastructure relates to the provision of services and facilities which are essential for the health, wellbeing and social development of a town. Social infrastructure supports a broad range of services including educational and health services such as schools, surgeries and community specific services, as well as facilities which can offer active sports and areas suitable for passive recreational activities.



Map 1 : Carrick-on-Suir Town Profile

The study area for Carrick-on-Suir comprises the Carrick-on-Suir Town Development Plan 2013 boundary and is illustrated in Map 1. Demographic profile data is derived from Census 2022, which uses the Built-Up Boundary (BUA) of Carrick-on-Suir as defined by the Central Statistics Office.

1.2 Policy Context

The National Planning Framework (NPF), the Government’s high-level strategic plan for shaping the future growth and development of our country, recognises the importance of quality of life and notes that how future development in Ireland is planned will continue to be a significant determinant of people’s quality of life. National Policy Objective 33 seeks to “*prioritise the provision of new homes at locations that can support sustainable development and at an appropriate scale of provision relative to location*”.

It is the vision of the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Southern Region to build a strong, resilient, sustainable region. Among steps to achieve this are strengthening and protecting our Region’s recreational assets and achieving improved education, health and public services and facilities for all citizens and communities.

Well-being and improving quality of life are core themes in the RSES and there are a number of regional policy objectives (RPO’s) within the RSES which support the provision of and access to social infrastructure. The RSES is committed to improving quality of life for all and places a high priority on tackling persistent social deprivation through policies aimed at the targeted investment in infrastructure and support for access to public services. Regional Planning Objective (PRO) 175 states it is an objective of the plan to support sustainable infrastructure-led planning for future population and jobs growth in the Southern Region, ensuring the development of social infrastructure in tandem with population and jobs growth.

The Tipperary County Development Plan 2022-2028 sets out 10 strategic objectives to support the future vision for County Tipperary including:

SO-3 Vibrant towns and villages. To support the implementation of the County Settlement Hierarchy, in regenerating our towns and villages, creating vibrant town centres, attracting new residents and delivering quality residential neighbourhoods.

SO-4 Active, connected and inclusive communities / housing. To facilitate the development of active, connected and socially inclusive communities, where affordable and quality housing is provided in line with the needs of the population, and integrated with the delivery of community and social infrastructure.

The settlement hierarchy of towns and villages is the foundation stone for sustainable future growth in Tipperary. The Core Strategy places the towns and villages of Tipperary in a framework to enable them to grow and prosper, supporting the delivery of vital services and physical and social infrastructure. Under the core strategy Settlement hierarchy, Carrick-on-Suir is designated as a District Town with an important role in supporting the hinterland and the Key Town of Clonmel, and in supporting local economic strengths, and in providing housing and services.

The planned growth for Carrick-on-Suir over the lifetime of the Plan to 2031 is equivalent to 1,154 additional persons.

1.3 Methodology

The Social Infrastructure Assessment (SIA) was conducted using desktop research and site visits as well as incorporating data previously collated by Tipperary County Council. The SIA assessment comprises 3 parts; An Assessment of the Existing Situation and Infrastructure Provision; A Future Demand Analysis; and Social Infrastructure Recommendations.

1. Existing Infrastructure Provision

The 'baseline' assessment was derived from desk-top examination of available information including the planning register and use of digital mapping techniques to identify existing community infrastructure in conjunction with site visits for verification purposes. This assessment comprised of the identification and cataloguing of existing community infrastructure features under a number of predefined themes such as: Education, Childcare, Health and Social Care, Open Space/Amenity and Sports, Social and Community Services, Arts and Culture and Faith. The location of facilities are considered in relation to population catchment areas and travel distance utilising the 10-minute town concept.

2. Future Demands Analysis

Consideration of existing infrastructure provision in the context of existing and planned population.

3. Recommendations

Recommendations for future social infrastructure provision which can be taken into consideration by the Planning Authority in the preparation of the Local Area Plan, and, in the assessment of other social and community programmes.

2.0 Socio-Economic Profile

2.1 Demographic Drivers

Census 2016 identified that the Settlement Area of Carrick-on-Suir had a population of 5,771 while Census 2022 identified that the Built-up Area (BUA¹) of Carrick-on-Suir had a population of 5,752. Although this suggests that the town declined in population between 2016 and 2022, this is an anomaly resulting from the change in CSO settlement boundary. In terms of accurately measuring population growth, though a direct comparison with the settlement area in Census 2016 and the BUA area in Census 2022 cannot be drawn, the geographical areas of the Electoral Districts (EDs) of the town, Carrick-on-Suir Urban and Carrickbeg Urban have only marginally changed in the inter-census period. The combined population of these EDs has increased from 5,894 in 2016 to 6,003 in 2022, a 1.85% increase in population, which is well below the county population growth rate (5.2%) and the state population growth rate (8.1%) over the same period.

The average age of the state population was 37.4 years in 2016 and 38.8 years in 2022. In County Tipperary, the average age was 38.6 years in 2016 and 40.3 years in 2022. In 2022, the average age of Carrick-on-Suir is 41.5 years which is higher than the County and State average.

Age dependency is a ratio calculated by comparing the proportion of people both under 15 and over 64 years with the working age population, which is defined here as those between 15 and 64 years of age. Census 2022 reported an overall age dependency ratio of 59.1 for Carrick-on-Suir, which is above the State ratio (53.2) and generally in line with the County ratio (59.5).

Total Age Dependency Ratio	2016	2022
State	52.7	53.2
Tipperary	57.8	59.5
Carrick-on-Suir: 'Settlement' Boundary	54	
Carrick-on-Suir: 'Built Up Area' Boundary		59.1

Table 1: Age Dependency in Carrick-on-Suir

Carrick-on-Suir is a rapidly aging town with exceptionally high growth rate in the over 65 age cohort. This cohort increased by 31% from 2016 to 2022, well above the high level experienced

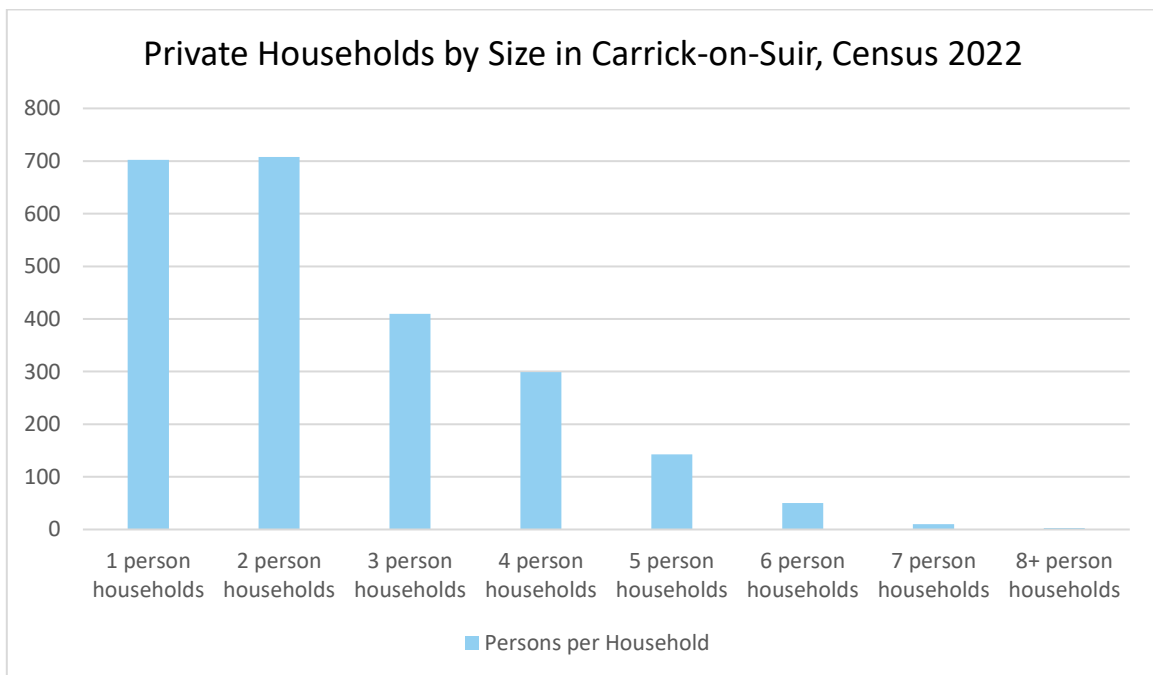
¹ In Census 2022, the CSO introduced a new geographic area to replace the 'Settlements' geographic area in previous Censuses. Detail on the methodology of the BUA can be seen on the CSO website at <https://www.cso.ie/en/census/census2022/census2022urbanboundariesandbuiltupareas/>

at the State and County level. There was a decrease in the population from 0-4 years of age, although the rate of decline was less than that experienced at County or State level.

2.2 Households

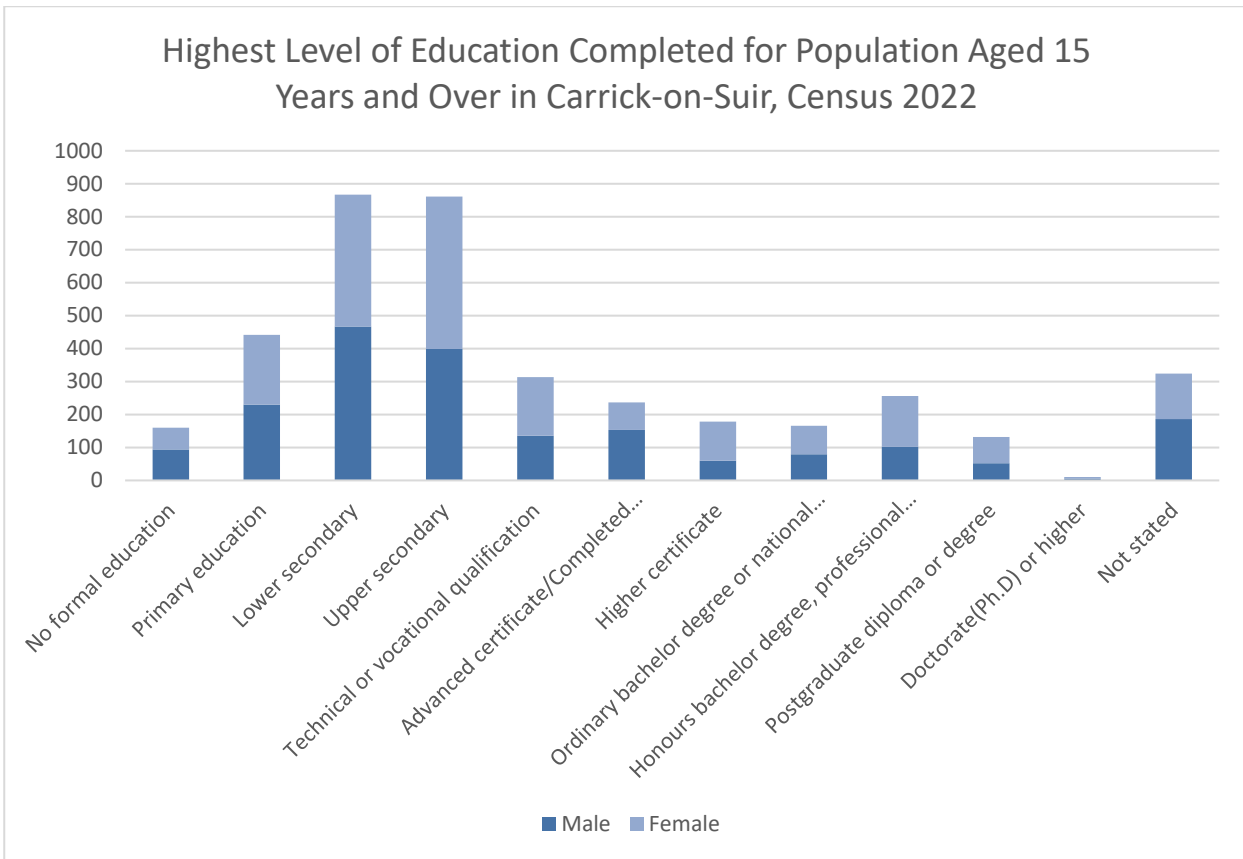
Census 2022 recorded 2,325 private households in Carrick-on-Suir. A high proportion, 30%, of households are single person households. Over 45% of households contain children.

The average household size is declining with an average household size of 2.67 persons for County Tipperary in 2022. 1-person and 2-person households are the largest household composition group, reflecting a need to provide for smaller housing units for this household type.



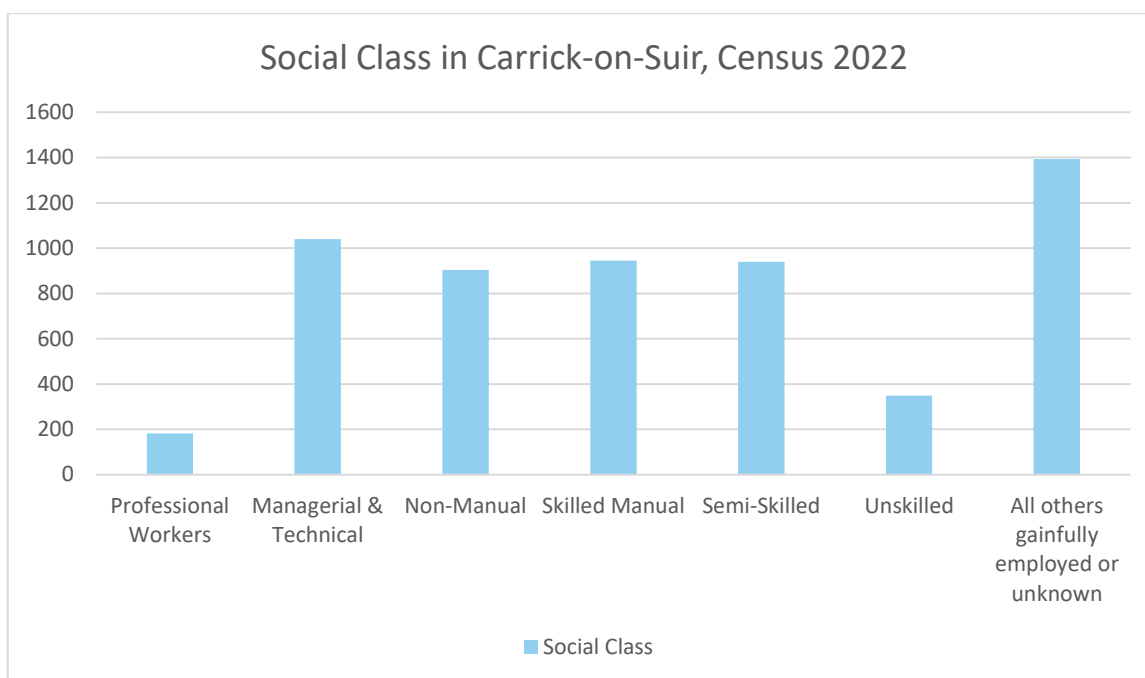
2.3 Education and Educational Attainment

Census 2022 data for Carrick-on-Suir identified 15.3% of people aged 15 and over had no formal education or completed their education at primary level. 43.8% completed their education at secondary level.



2.4 Social Class and Deprivation

Persons classified as 'Managerial and Technical' made up the biggest social class. However, the percentage of the most highly skilled worker grade were lower in Carrick-on-Suir (3.2 % - Professional Workers and 18% - Managerial and Technical workers respectively) than for the County (7.4% - Professional Workers and 29% - Managerial and Technical workers respectively).



According to the Pobal HP Deprivation Indices 2022, Carrick-on-Suir Urban ED is classified as ‘Disadvantaged’ while Carrickbeg Urban ED is classified as ‘Marginally Below Average’. The ED of Carrick-on-Suir Urban, with a population of 4,519 people, is the second most deprived ED in the county.

The smallest spatial area on which the CSO reports Census data is the ‘Small Area’. In Carrick-on-Suir, one small area was reported as ‘Extremely Disadvantaged’, the most severe level of deprivation, and seven small areas were reported as ‘Very Disadvantaged’.

	No. of Small Areas	
	2016	2022
Carrick-on-Suir		
Extremely Disadvantaged	0	1
Very Disadvantaged	5	7
Disadvantaged	11	8
Marginally Below Average	7	9
Marginally Above Average	0	0
Affluent	0	0
Very Affluent	0	0

Although the national trend was towards a decrease in deprivation reported across the State, Carrick-on-Suir has shown an increase in deprivation, while following the national trend reporting a wider spread in deprivation levels.

In 2022, over 18% of households in Carrick-on-Suir are recorded as a single-parent family (County figure 10.6%). 28% of population of Carrick-on-Suir reported a disability (County figure 23%). 581 households did not have a car, nearly 25% of all households.

2.5 Employment Profile

In 2022, some 45% of the over 15 population in Carrick-on-Suir were 'At Work' compared with 54% in the County. The rate of 'Long Term Unemployed' is 4.3% which is nearly twice the level in the County (2.4%).

The key employment sectors for Carrick-on-Suir are Commerce and Trade (22%), Professional Services (21%), Manufacturing Industries (20%) and 'Other' (17%), demonstrating a relatively well-balanced employment sector.

Further details on the employment profile are provided in Appendix 1 Serviced Land Assessment (Employment Profile) and in Chapter 1 of the Written Statement of the Carrick-on-Suir Local Area Plan.

2.6 Mobility and Transport

The Sustainable Transport Plan (Appendix 2) provides a detailed breakdown of the mobility and transport profile for Carrick-on-Suir.

3.0 Existing Social Infrastructure

The Social Infrastructure Assessment (SIA) assessed the existing social infrastructure and analysed the future demand for additional social infrastructure within the study area under the following headings:

- Education
- Childcare
- Health and Social Care
- Open Space, Amenity and Sport
- Social and Community
- Arts and Cultural Facilities
- Faith Facilities

3.1 Education

Facilities examined under this category include primary and secondary schools along with facilities accommodating post leaving certificate courses, evening classes and skills development programmes. (Education Locations indicated in Map 2).

Within the study area, Carrick-on-Suir is served by three mainstream primary schools and three secondary schools and the Further Education and Training Centre run by the Tipperary ETB.

There was a student cohort (primary and secondary students) in Carrick-on-Suir in 2022/2023 academic year of 1,764 students and preliminary figures for 2023/2024 indicate a total enrolment of 1,831 students.

Consultation took place with the forward planning section of the Department of Education in relation to the projected need for primary and post-primary school places in Carrick-on-Suir up to the end of the Plan period. The department noted the general demographic outlook, where a declining birth-rate is leading to a fall in primary school enrolment figures in towns outside of the metropolitan commuter zones. The department noted that unpredicted pressures could arise, noting for example, the Ukrainian temporary protection programme, which would lead to increased school place demand.

3.1.1 Primary Schools

All primary schools in Carrick-on-Suir are classified as DEIS schools (Delivering Equality of Opportunity In Schools) in recognition of socio-economic disadvantage in Carrick-on-Suir.

Map Ref (see Map 2)	Primary Schools	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
ED-01	St Marys CBS Primary School (Boys)	155	143	124	118	124
ED-02	Presentation Primary School (mixed junior school, girls only from 2 nd class)	304	293	298	308	293
ED-03	Gaelscoil Charriag na Siuire (mixed school)	116	117	112	107	111
	TOTAL PRIMARY COHORT:	575	553	534	533	528

Potential capacity at recommended class size for DEIS schools (19 pupils) and national class size (24 pupils).

St Marys CBS Primary School 6 room, capacity 114-144

Presentation Primary School 15 room, capacity 285-360

Gaelscoil Charriag na Siuire, with ASD unit, 5 room, capacity 95-120

New School Building:

The new building for Gaelscoil Charriag na Siuire is under construction on The Clonmel Road/ Townparks, which will be opened in 2025. The new school will comprise eight teaching classrooms, a library, general purpose hall, support teaching rooms, outdoor play and nature areas.

3.1.2 Post-Primary Schools

Two post-primary schools in Carrick-on-Suir are DEIS schools, Comeragh College and Scoil Mhuire, in recognition of socio-economic disadvantage in Carrick-on-Suir,

Comeragh College moved to a new building in 2013, set on a large campus at Tinvane.

Post-primary schools in Carrick-on-Suir cater for students from the wider hinterland around the town and across the county boundaries to County Waterford and County Kilkenny.

Map Ref	Secondary Schools	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23	23/24
ED-04	Edmund Rice Secondary School Boys only	294	274	288	281	311
ED-05	Scoil Mhuire Girls only	434	415	412	445	461
ED-06	Comeragh College Mixed	443	459	500	505	531
	TOTAL SECONDARY COHORT	1,171	1,148	1,200	1,231	1,303

3.1.3 Further Education and Training

Map Ref	Further Education	Type of Service	Address
ED-07	Carrick-on-Suir Further Education and Training Centre	Full time and part time training and evening courses. Adult learning. Vocational Training. Back to education training.	Greenside, E32 AN26
ED-08	Carrick-on-Suir Community Resource Centre	Short courses for jobseekers and students. Study space	Greenside South

The Tipperary Education and Training Board run training centre provides courses up to FETAC level 6. The centre is offering 30 courses in the current year (23/24) and will offer apprenticeship training commencing in Autumn 2024.

The Teagasc Kildalton Agricultural College is located at Pilltown, Co Kilkenny, a distance of 6km from Carrick-on-Suir. The college provides training in agriculture, horticulture and equine studies and has links to SETU Waterford to provide education up to level 8 on the National Framework of Qualifications.

Third level educational opportunities are available in nearby settlements, Clonmel and Waterford. Carrick-on-Suir benefits from good public transport services to those locations including the bus route no. 354 with a stop at SETU, Waterford with a journey time of 50 minutes.

Demand Analysis

According to the Department of Education school place requirements are calculated as follows: Primary level equates to 10.25% of population and 23 students per classroom, and Post-primary are assessed at 7.5% of population numbers (2022/2024). These figures are subject to regular reviews. This generates a current requirement for school places at primary level of 592 and secondary level of 432 places. Considering current enrolment figures, it is a likely that some of the primary cohort is catered for by primary schools outside the study area which include Crehana National School, Pilltown National School and Ballyneale National School. Conversely there is a greater demand for secondary places as Carrick-on-Suir serves a wide hinterland far beyond the study area and crossing into County Waterford and Kilkenny.

Overall population demographics indicate a decline in the cohort size for primary school. As the current 12-17 year age group pass through the secondary school system, census figures indicate a rapid decline in secondary school place demand.

Taking these factors into account, the future growth projected by the Local Area Plan should be accommodated within the existing educational facilities over the lifetime of the plan.

3.2 Childcare

The Pobal Childcare database indicates 8 childcare registered providers in Carrick-on-Suir, 6 of which are in the ECCE scheme, of which 3 are community run services. However, recent closures have reduced this number. (Childcare Locations indicated in Map 2).

Tipperary Childcare Committee have been consulted in preparation of this audit. They indicate that with the closure of the Little Orchard Playschool, there are now not enough childcare places for the ECCE scheme available in Carrick-on-Suir to meet current demand. The two full-day services in Carrick-on-Suir are running at capacity with waiting lists in place.

ECCE providers:

Map Ref	Creche Name	Address	Service
CH-01	Treasure Island Childcare	16 Kickham Street	Full Day
CH-02	Sugradh Creche	Greenhills	Full Day

NA	Little Orchard Playschool*	Kilonerry Court	Sessional
CH-03	Little Rascals Playgroup	Carrickbeg	Sessional
CH-04	Little Scholars Playschool	New Street	Sessional
CH-05	Marthas Montessori	Castle Heights, Carrickbeg	Sessional

Other Early Years Services

Map Ref	Early Years	Address	Service
NA	Under The Tree Afterschool*	Comeragh View, Ballylynch	Afterschool
CH-06	Carrick Breakfast Club and Afterschool Service	45 New Street	Before school and afterschool child care service. Seasonal camps.

*The Little Orchard Community Pre-School and Under The Tree Afterschool, operated by South Tipperary Development Company, were closed on 28th June 2024.

Demand Analysis

Census 2022 reported a decline in the 0-4 year age group, although the rate of decline was less than that experienced at County or State level. The population increase proposed in the Local Area plan would increase the cohort needing childcare provision in Carrick-on-Suir and provision and demand should be monitored as housing is provided.

Appendix 2 of the Childcare Facilities, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (June 2001) establishes an indicative standard of one childcare facility (minimum of 20 childcare places) per 75 dwellings in a new housing area. The guidance acknowledges that other case specific assumptions may lead to an increase or decrease in this requirement.

The ESRI report 'Childcare in Ireland: Usage, Affordability and Incentives to Work' (2023), reports that it is difficult to disentangle the relationship between working status and childcare use, with the survey reporting that 90% of one-earner households not using childcare, and low-income households less likely to use childcare. This unpredictable relationship between household income and childcare use, makes future demand difficult to forecast in Carrick-on-Suir, a town with a notable high deprivation level.

Of consideration and concern is the reported ongoing economic viability crisis within the private childcare sector. This creates a dynamic and changing environment and hence childcare provision will need regular review and monitoring during the lifetime of the plan.

3.3 Health and Social Care

Primary Care services are broadly defined as the health or social care services that a person can use and find in a community, outside of a hospital setting. Primary Care includes GPs, Public Health Nurses and a range of other local services provided by the HSE (Health Service Executive). (Health and Social Care Locations indicated in Map 3).

Carrick-on-Suir has local service provision for disability and elder care as follows:

Map Ref	Registered Disability Service	Address	Service
HS-01	Camphill Community	Castle Street and Ballynagrana Farm	Long term residential care for adults with intellectual disabilities with a farm centre.

Map Ref	Registered Services for the Elderly	Address	Service
HS-02	Sonas Nursing Home	Carrickbeg	Modern, 55 bed facility, 49 single and three twin bedrooms, all with en-suite facilities
HS-03	Greenhill Nursing Home	Green Hill	Purpose-built centre has capacity to accommodate 55 residents in fifty-three single rooms and one twin room.
HS-04	Carrick-on-Suir Day Care Centre for the Elderly	Pill Road	Day centre for the elderly.

Carrick-on-Suir has specialist housing for the elderly at Ash Park Village, Pill Road and at the Friary Gardens in Carrickbeg.

Medical Care

Primary health, GPs and pharmacies are clustered in the urban core of the town and on the St. Brigid's hospital campus.

Carrick-on-Suir Primary Care Centre. Opened in 2018, on the grounds of St Brigid’s Hospital and providing community services such as physiotherapy, public health nurse, addiction counselling, speech therapy and vaccinations.

General Practice

Roche-Nagle Medical Practice, Primary Care Centre, Pill Road.

Dr. Tim O'Donovan, Kickham Street.

Andrew and John Downey, Pearse Square.

Out of hours service is provided by CareDoc SouthEast, based in Clonmel.

Pharmacies

Carrick-on-Suir has four pharmacies who are open during regular trading hours Monday to Saturday. A limited service is arranged between pharmacies to cover a short opening period on Sundays and bank holidays.

St. Brigid’s Hospital provided respite and convalescent care for Carrick-on-Suir and the hinterland. In early 2020, the hospital closed the 16-bed step down unit and three palliative care suites. Limited administrative services remain on site.

Mental Health Services

Private and agency run counselling services are available in Carrick-on-Suir. The Community Resource Centre is a base for providing a range of group and individual mental health supports.

Map Ref	Health Service	Address	Service
HS-05	Primary Care Centre	Pill Road	Community health services
HS-06	Roche-Nagle Medical Practice	Pill Road	GP
HS-07	Dr. Tim O’Donovan	Kickham St	GP
HS-08	The Health Clinic	Pearse Sq	GP
HS09-12	Pharmacies	Various	Pharmacies
HS-13	St. Brigid’s Hospital	Pill Road	Administrative services

Demand Analysis

In Census 2022, 78.5% of people in Carrick-on-Suir reported their health as 'good' or 'very good' which is lower than the national average. Of the population, 3.7% (213 people), reported their health as 'bad' or 'very bad'.

1,634 people in Carrick-on-Suir reported experiencing at least one long lasting condition of difficulty to any extent. At 28.4% of the town population, this is above the national average (22%) and the County Tipperary average of 23%.

Considering the Census 2022 results showing poor health, high levels of disability combined with a rapidly ageing population and high levels of deprivation, access to local adequate healthcare is a service priority.

The town is currently well served by the Primary Care Centre and general practitioners and pharmacy access, noting that a population increase will increase demand on these services. As the demographic profile of the town changes, it will be critical to ensure that the provision of health services and facilities takes into consideration not only the needs of the existing population but future demand for such services and facilities. With the exceptional increase in elderly population, the facilities of St Brigid's Hospital respite and palliative care facility could provide services to meet a growing demand both locally and across the wider hinterland.

3.4 Open Space, Amenities & Sport

Sports and recreation infrastructure include parks and playgrounds, dedicated public open space and amenity areas, sports centres, and formal club facilities. Overall, there are over 25 hectares of land within the study area which provides for sports and recreational related activities. (Open Space, Amenity and Sport Locations indicated in Map 4).

Over 7 hectares is available as good quality open park areas with free access to the public. Added to this is the Suir Blueway Tipperary which is an outstanding recreational asset for walking, running and cycling and the River Suir which also provides recreational value.

Carrick-on-Suir has a long-standing and rich sporting heritage which is reflected by the excellent provision of recreational pitches available for sports and activities within the town.

3.4.1 Open Space, Parks and Gardens

Map Ref	Open Space	Size	Description
OS-01	Fair Green	1.7ha	Central location and historic Fair Green. Grass pitch used by club and schools. Open for recreation use. Trees on the northern perimeter.
OS-02	The Park	1.8ha	To the east of the Fair Green on Pill Road. Pathways and seating in a park featuring a collection of mature trees and flower beds.
OS-03	Sean Healy Park	2ha	Riverside Park on the northern bank of the Suir River, to the west of Carrick-on-Suir town. Undergoing works as part of the Regeneration Plan.
OS-04	Castle Park	1.7ha	Parkland with collection of mature trees, historic setting of Ormond Castle.
OS-05	Bog Field	0.34ha	On the south bank of the River Suir, amenity area with swales and stormwater basin serving as sustainable urban drainage
OS-06	Duck Pond	N/A	A pond on the Glen River to northwest of town.
OS-07	Suir Blueway Tipperary	N/A	Linear corridor, stretching 21km to Clonmel with access points to the River Suir
OS-08	Carrick-on-Suir community sensory garden	N/A	In the grounds of the heritage centre / former Church of Ireland Church.

Other sites which add to the biodiversity of the area which do not have public access are Sally Yard and the Islands in the Suir River.

3.4.2 Playgrounds

Map Ref	Equipped/ Designated Play Areas:	Address	Description
OS-09	Carrick-on-Suir Playground (0.08 hectare)	Fairgreen	Medium sized fenced playground with play equipment. Section for younger and older

			children up to age 12. Seating and bins provided.
OS-10	Local Playground & MUGA (0.06 hectare)	Ballylynch	Local playground and multi sports games area (MUGA) adjacent to grass green with goal posts
OS-11	Neighbourhood Play Area (0.01 hectare)	Carrickbeg	Small fenced play area in the Seskin Court Estate, suitable for very young children.

The distribution of designated/equipped play areas shows a lack of facilities in certain neighbourhoods in Carrick-on-Suir; Greenhill Village, Clairin and Carrickbeg.

3.4.3 Sports Grounds and Facilities

There are 8 membership/ fee paying outdoor sports facilities in the study area.

Map Ref	Name	Description of facilities	Address	Area
SG-01	Carrick Davins Hurling and Football Club	Full size grass GAA pitch, small astro pitch, hurling wall and club house.	Clonmel Road	3.55 Hectare
SG-02	Carrick-on-Suir GAA Handball Club	1 indoor handball court.	Clonmel Road	N/A
SG-03	Carrick Swan Hurling, Football & Camogie Club	Full size GAA pitch, training pitch, astro with hurling wall and clubhouse.	Ballyrichard Road	2.9 Hectare
SG-04	Carrick Swan Hurling, Football & Camogie Club Juvenile Club	Grass pitch on the Fair Green, floodlighting	Greenside	1.3 Hectare
SG-05	St Mollerans GAA Club	Adult/juvenile Football, hurling camogie. GAA grass pitch, floodlighting	Coolnamuck Road, Carrickbeg	2.1 Hectare
SG-06	Carrick United AFC	3 full size grass pitches, two small astro pitches, spectator stand and Clubhouse, floodlighting	Coolnamuck Road, Carrickbeg	3.6 Hectare

SG-07	Castleview Lawn Tennis Club	4 all-weather courts, midi court and practice wall, clubhouse, floodlighting	Castle Park	0.3 Hectare
SG_08	Sean Kelly Sports Centre / Carrick-on-Suir Athletics Club	20m Pool / Gym / Running track (100m surfaced with floodlighting)	Tinvane	3.9 Hectare

In addition, other clubs and groups use smaller facilities, including St Nicholas Boxing Club, based in the Parish Hall, Greenside South. Private facilities providing gym and personal fitness training are present in Carrick-on-Suir.

Carrick-on-Suir Paddlers Club - Facilitate adult training and kayaking and canoeing on the River Suir.

Facilities outside of the Study Area

Carrick-on-Suir Rugby club which serves the town is based outside the study area with extensive grounds of 2.2 hectares off the N24 at Tybroughney, in County Kilkenny, approximately 3km from the town centre.

Carrick-on-Suir Golf Club is based 1.5km south of the town at Crehana South, County Waterford.

Tinhalla Driving Range is based on the Tipperary-Waterford border at Tinhalla.

Schools sports and outdoor recreational facilities

Both town centre based primary schools, St Marys and the Presentation, have limited on-site grounds for recreation/sport. They have access to sports and community facilities within walking distance.

All three secondary schools have good sporting facilities on site:

CBS/Edmund Rice Secondary School – Basketball Court, small astro pitch and grass pitch.

Scoil Mhuire – Astro pitch, grass pitch.

Comeragh College – Full size GAA pitch, 5 basketball/multi courts, walking track with outdoor gym equipment.

Demand Analysis

Consideration has been given to the 2015 'FIT' (Fields in Trust) recommended benchmark guidelines for 'outdoor space'. These guidelines recommend 0.8 ha of parks and gardens be

provided per 1,000 persons. This sets a benchmark for Carrick-on-Suir with current population of 4.6 hectare, which it far exceeds.

Carrick-on-Suir has excellent provision of open space and recreational facilities to cater for current and future population. Recently upgraded sports grounds and planned extensions and renovations to some facilities further enhance this provision. The redevelopment of Castle Park and the Bog Field will increase the attractiveness and recreational value of these parks.

In terms of school provision, primary school access to sporting facilities needs to be considered in the case of an increasing school cohort and any redevelopment proposals for the schools.

In terms of the provision of playgrounds within the study area, the existing three playgrounds in Carrick-on-Suir totalling 0.15 ha in area falls well short of the benchmark FIT guidance in terms of quantity to serve the existing population. FIT guidance advises that 0.25 ha of playing space be provided per 1,000 population.

The baseline assessment shows that the quality and distribution of playgrounds within the study area does not meet the high standards of other aspects of recreational provision. Comments were received during the pre-draft consultation noting the limited play equipment provision at Fairgreen Playground and issues with the upkeep. A new playground in Pilltown was noted as an attraction for children.

Future residential development proposals should prioritise the provision of additional playground and a multi-use games area which caters to a wide range of age groups and sporting interests and should be provided as part of future residential development.

3.5 Social and Community

Social and community facilities play a vital role in facilitating engagement and social interaction and serving the wide needs of a community. (Social and Community Locations indicated in Map 5).

Map Ref	Social and Community facilities	Address	Description
SC-01	Carrick-on-Suir Library	Fairgreen	Library
SC-02	Carrick-on-Suir Garda Station	Fairgreen	Garda Station
SC-03	Carrick-on-Suir Courthouse	Fairgreen	District Court

SC-04	Carrick-on-Suir Fire Station	Clonmel Road	Fire Station
SC-05	Carrick-on-Suir Community Resource Centre	Greenside South	Facilitates a wide variety of social and community groups and services.
SC-06	Carrick-on-Suir Men's Shed	Greenside North	Based in the grounds of the Old Comeragh College.
SC-07	Foroige	Kickham Street	Neighbourhood Youth and Family Project running a variety of weekly clubs, homework clubs and summer camps for youth.
SC-08	Parish Hall	Fairgreen	Facilities used by St Nicholas Boxing club and other groups.
SC-09	Swan Juvenile Club Hall	Fairgreen	GAA club hall.
SC-10	Municipal District Office	New Street	Local authority offices and services.
SC-11	Carrickbeg Community Centre	Carrickbeg	Scouts hall, Including the Carrick Meals Assistance Kitchen.
SC-12	Carrick-on-Suir River Rescue	North Quay	Volunteer based service with storage unit at North Quay
SC-13	Post Office	TownsPark (Supervalu)	Full service post office.

Demand Analysis

Carrick-on-Suir supports a wide range of community facilities providing a variety of community services. The future demand will depend on the demographic changes experienced in the town.

3.6 Arts and Cultural Facilities

Carrick-on-Suir boasts a rich performing arts and music scene supported by the availability of theatres, performance spaces, music schools and academies. (Arts and Cultural Locations indicated in Map 6).

The Sean Healy Memorial Library at Fairgreen provides an important community and cultural asset for Carrick-on-Suir. The library offers a broad programme of events, including history talks and art exhibitions. The library is a central location for events such as Culture Night and local festivals. The community room is used by groups including children's activities, book clubs, crafts groups, workshops and practice space for the performing arts.

Map Ref	Performance Space	Address	Comment
AC-01	The Strand Theatre	Main Street / Dillon Bridge.	Performance and rehearsal space, bar. Operated by the Carrick-on-Suir Musical Society. Provides summer camps and classes.
AC-02	Brewery Lane Theatre	Castle Street /Brewery Lane	Seated auditorium supporting a wide programme of events, including theatre and music performance, readings, film club, workshops and talks.
AC-03	Nano Nagle Chapel	Greenside South	Located in the Carrick-on-Suir Community Resource Centre, facilities a wide variety of events, performances and gatherings.
AC-04	Carrick-on-Suir Library	Fairgreen	Facilities a wide variety of events, performances and talks.
	Heritage Centre/ Museums		
AC-05	Ormonde Castle	Castle Park	OPW operated heritage property with exhibition, audio visual interpretation and guided tours.
AC-06	Carrick-on-Suir Heritage Centre		Promoting the history and cultural heritage of Carrick-on-Suir and Tourist Office.

Carrick-on-Suir supports a range of cultural events with annual festivals including The Clancy Brothers Music and Arts Festival.

Statues, sculpture and public art.

Carrickbeg, statue of Michael O’Hickey in granite. Cliodhna Cussen, 1988.

Maurice Davin sculpture, at Davin Grounds, Clonmel Road. Barry Wrafter, 2013.

Carrickbeg, Religious Grotto.

Ash Park, Religious Grotto

Demand Analysis

The arts and cultural sector currently has good provision in Carrick-on-Suir, relying mostly on the voluntary sector and social enterprise. For Carrick-on-Suir to position itself as a leading heritage tourism town, there is huge value in supporting cultural and arts activities and events in the town.

3.7 Faith Facilities

Four faith facilities were identified in Carrick-on-Suir. (Faith Locations indicated in Map 6).

Map Ref	Place of Worship	Address	Comment
FF-01	St Nicholas Catholic Church	William St.	Roman Catholic – Parish Carrick-on-Suir and Faugheen
FF-02	St Molleran’s Church	Carrickbeg	Roman Catholic – Parish Carrickbeg & Windgap
FF-04	St. Kuriakose Indian Orthodox Church	Former Friary Carrickbeg	The Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Church
	Cemeteries		
FF-03	St Mary’s Cemetery	Carrickbeg	Tipperary County Council

In 2024, the Carrick-on-Suir Development Association sold the former Franciscan church building located in Carrickbeg to the Malankara (Indian) Orthodox Church. The new church will serve as a place of worship and cultural and community hub for the Indian Orthodox community in south Tipperary and neighbouring regions.

Demand Analysis

Census 2022 indicates that over 81% of the population of Carrick-on-Suir are of Catholic religion. An additional 7% (401 people) were of 'other religion' and 7% indicated that they have no religious affiliation.

Land adjacent to St Mary's Cemetery in Carrickbeg is in the process of being acquired to facilitate an extension of approximately 0.24ha. This will triple the unused space available at the cemetery. Beyond the lifetime of this plan, a new cemetery location will be required. Trends which may impact future demand include the increase in cremation and the small but increasing preference for natural burial ('eco-burial').

Requirements during the lifetime of this plan: Consider the development of a columbarium at St. Mary's Cemetery.

4.0 Recommendations

Zoning Framework Considerations: Allow for social infrastructure in most locations (open for consideration in most land use zoning types) except where such development might compromise other strategic elements of the plan e.g. in strategic employment locations where such uses may conflict with existing / future lands uses or in flood risk areas.

4.1 Education

Zoning adequate provision of land that can facilitate the expansion and extension of existing educational services should additional demand arise over the lifetime of the plan.

4.2 Childcare

Childcare requirements should be assessed when large residential developments are proposed to ensure sufficient provision for new childcare places and existing unmet demand within the town.

4.3 Health and Social Care

Considering the high level of deprivation and rapid aging in Carrick-on-Suir, an increase in provision of health and social care services may be required over the lifetime of this plan.

It is recommended that the Zoning Framework provides adequate space for this use.

4.4 Open Space, Amenities & Sport

A deficiency of play spaces has been identified in Carrickbeg and in the Green Hill Village area. Provision of designated formal play spaces should be encouraged in future residential development.

The audit notes that the provision of playgrounds in the LAP area falls below the FIT benchmark. Consideration should be given to developing a new playground. A creatively designed destination playground, that reflects local heritage, could also function to enhance the tourism offering. A good example is the Mallow Castle playground development and Castle garden restoration.

4.5 Social and Community

Protect the use of current social and community facilities. Allow for adequate space for this use in the zoning framework

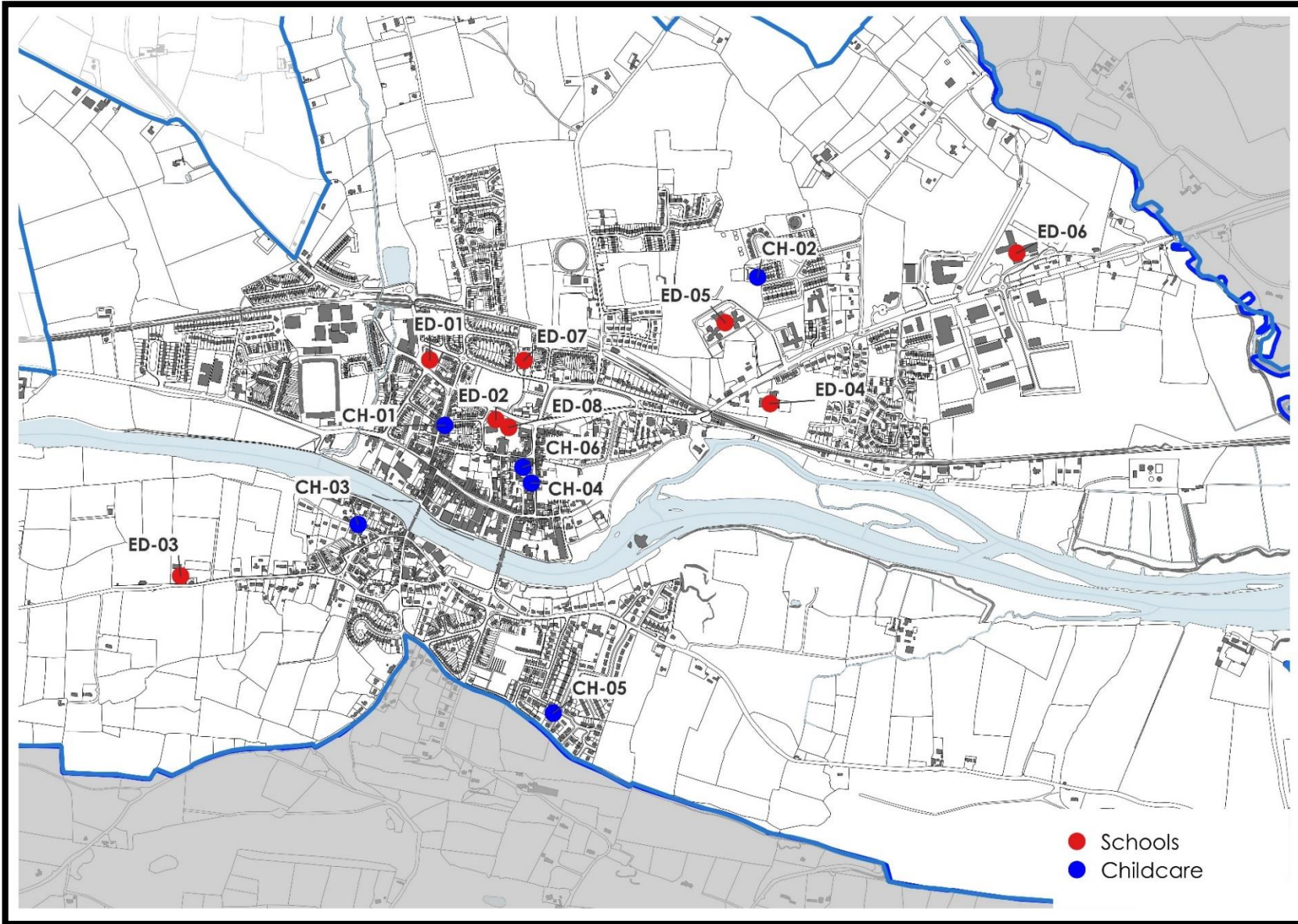
4.6 Arts and Cultural Facilities

Protect the uses of existing facilities. Zoning adequate space for this use and allowing for flexible zoning.

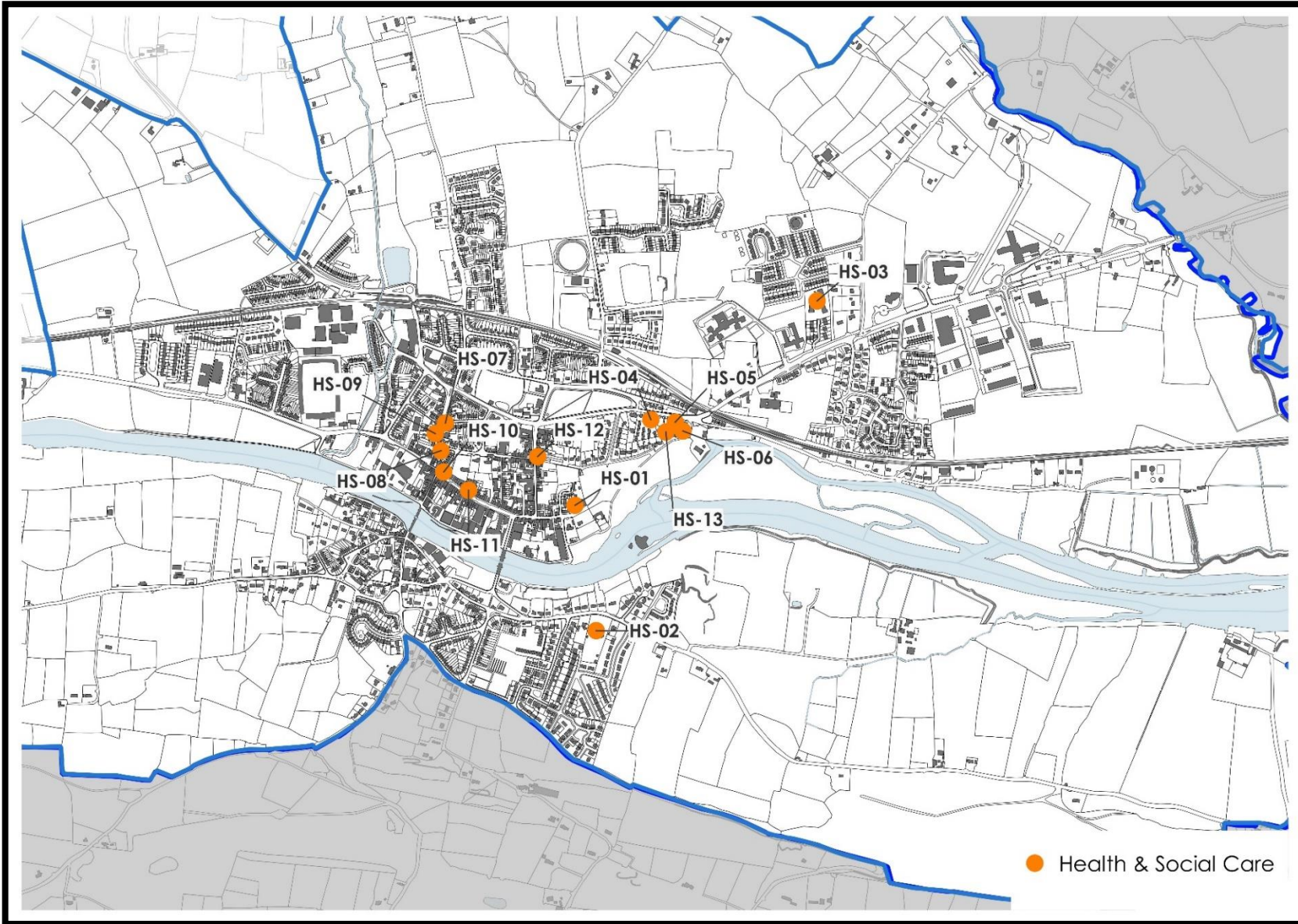
4.7 Faith Facilities

Allow for flexible zoning for this use in the zoning framework.

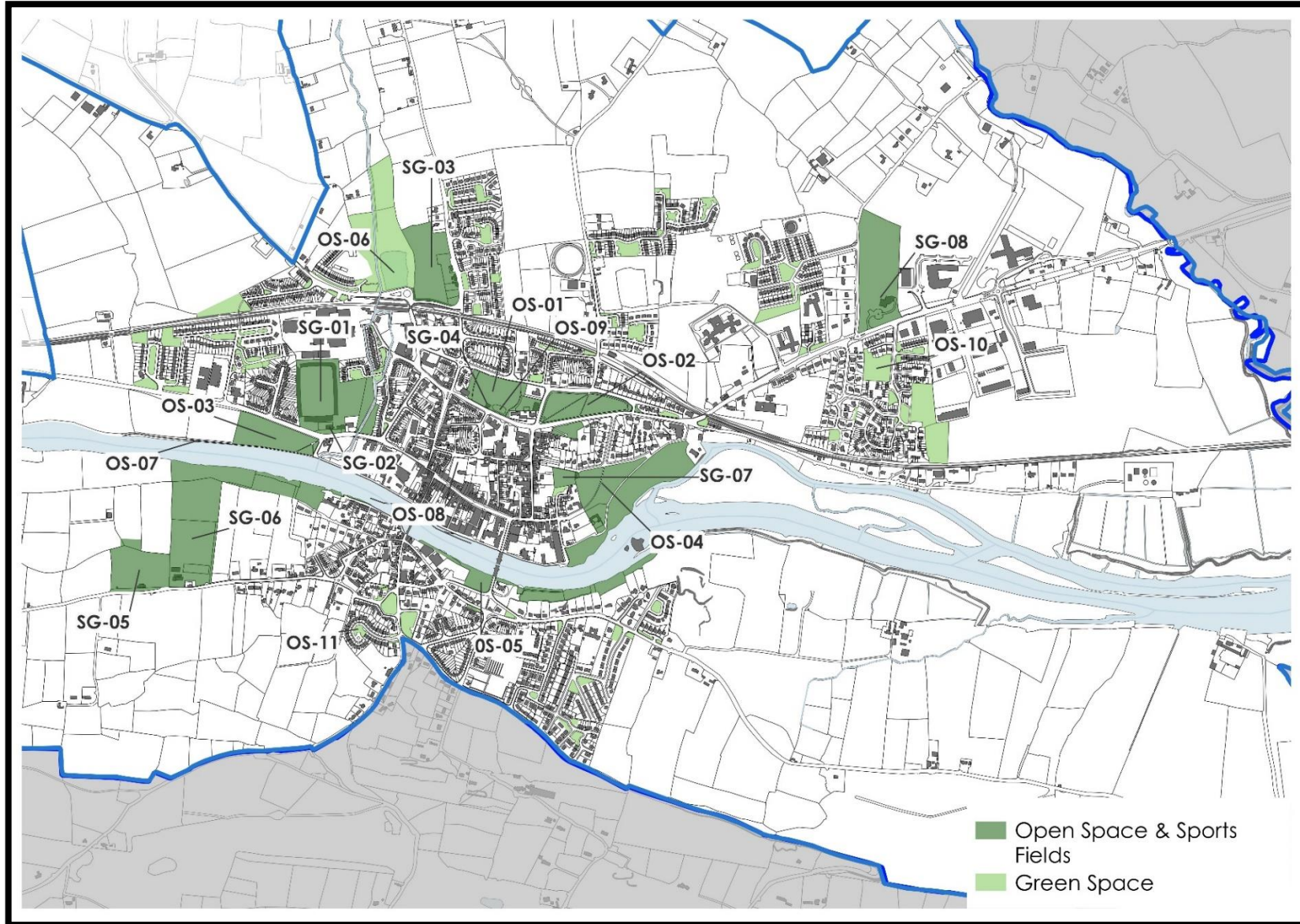
5.0 Social Infrastructure Maps



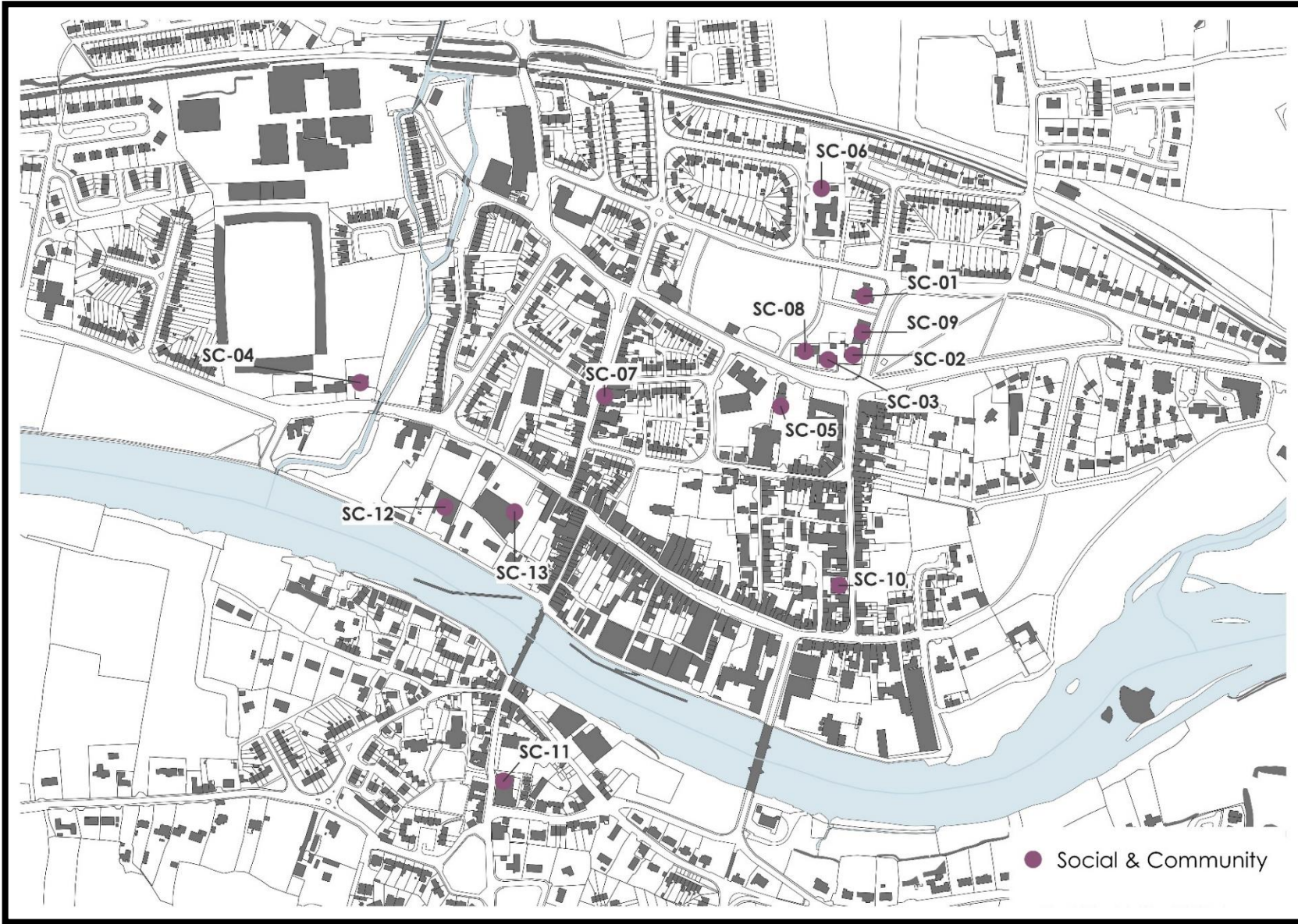
Map 2: Location of Schools, Further Education and Childcare Services



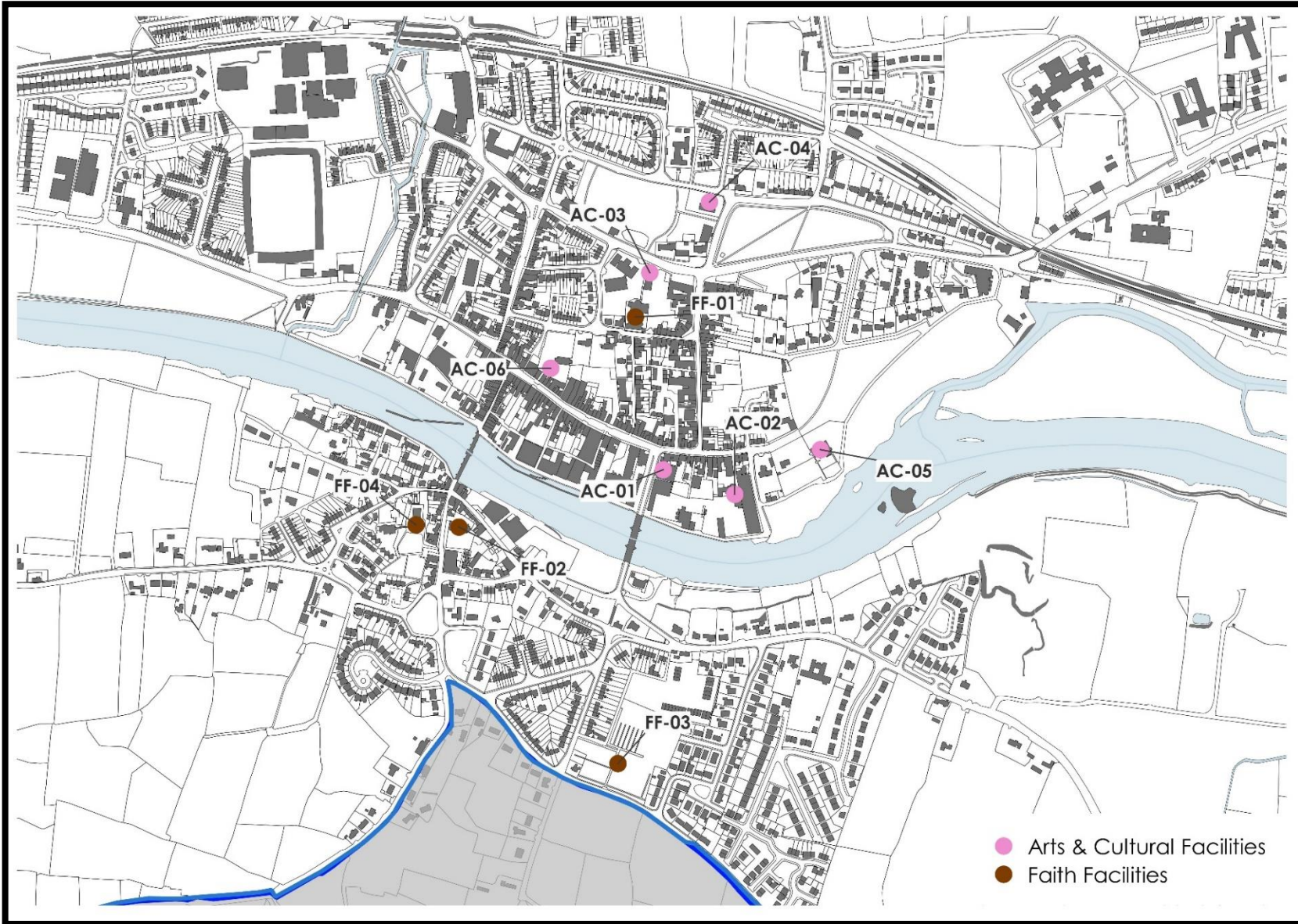
Map 3: Location of Health and Social Care Services



Map 4: Location of Open Space, Amenity Space and Sports Grounds.



Map 5: Location of Social and Community Facilities



Map 6: Location of Arts, Cultural and Faith Facilities