

Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment

Determination

under the
European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations
2004 (as amended)
for the

Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy¹

In order to comply with the requirements of Regulation 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (Statutory Instrument Number (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended, this determination has been made by Fingal County Council relating to whether the Draft Sustainable Swords Strategy would be likely to have significant effects on the environment.

This determination takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 'Criteria for determining whether a plan or programme (or modification thereto) is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the aforementioned Regulations. These criteria are considered in an SEA Screening Report for the Sustainable Swords Strategy that has been prepared to inform this determination.

The SEA Screening Report concludes that:

"Screening is the process for deciding whether a particular plan, programme or strategy, other than those for which SEA is mandatory, would be likely to have significant environmental effects, and would thus warrant SEA. The purpose of the report is to provide the findings of the evaluation of the requirement for SEA to be undertaken on the Strategy for adoption².

This SEA Screening Report has examined the Strategy, including against relevant criteria set out in Schedule 1 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004 (SI No. 435 of 2004), as amended.

The Strategy provides further detail and guidance regarding sustainable development, including public realm and sustainable mobility developments and activities, that are already provided for, in general terms, by the existing land use planning and transport framework, that has already been subject to appropriate levels of appropriate environmental assessment. By further contributing towards the existing planning framework for the development of such a robust, well-serviced and well-connected area of Fingal and by making Swords a more desirable place to live, the Strategy would: contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including sustainable mobility and climate mitigation; and reduce the likelihood of incompatible development in more sensitive, less well-serviced and less well-connected areas.

Any land use development or activity progressed under the Strategy shall be required to comply with provisions of the current and future Fingal County Development Plan and Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

In order to be consented, any proposals for land use development or activity will need to receive confirmation that they can be progressed in full compliance with the current and future Fingal County Development Plan and Transport Strategy for the Greater Dublin Area.

Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the existing planning framework that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, it is determined that all potential effects arising from the Strategy: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; and/or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). Consequently, it is advised that the Strategy for adoption³ does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA."

Furthermore, Screening for Appropriate Assessment (AA) has also been undertaken on the Draft Strategy. That process has concluded that the Strategy is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects on any designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects, therefore Stage 2 AA is unnecessary. An AA Screening Report that accompanies the Strategy contains the findings of this assessment and has informed this SEA Screening Report.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Strategic Environmental

¹ Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive's Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.

² Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive's Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.

³ Incorporating: the Draft Strategy that was placed on display; all and any changes to the Draft Strategy in response to Chief Executive's Recommendations following public display; and any additional changes in advance of finalisation/adoption that are considered by the Screening for AA process.

Assessment Screening Report". The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Regulation 9 of the European Communities (Environmental Assessment of Certain Plans and Programmes) Regulations 2004, as amended, that SEA is not required for the Draft Policy Statement.

Signatory:

Handwritten signature of R. Burke in black ink.

Date:

13th March 2023