



Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination

for the

Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2030

This determination relates to whether the Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2030 to be adopted, would or would not, be likely to have significant environmental effects, taking into account relevant criteria set out under the SEA Directive (Directive 2001/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of Ministers, of 27th June 2001, on the Assessment of the Effects of Certain Plans and Programmes on the Environment); and therefore would, or would not, necessitate the undertaking of Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).

The criteria set out under Annex II of the SEA Directive '*Criteria for determining the likely significance of effects referred to in Article 3(5)*' are considered in an accompanying Screening for SEA Report that has been prepared to inform this determination.

As identified in the SEA Screening Report:

- Implementing the Sligo 2030 Plan will involve Sligo County Council helping to facilitate, promote, support and coordinate stakeholders in their activities in a way that is consistent with existing and emerging plans setting out public policy for sustainable development, including that relating to the economy, communities, infrastructure, land use tourism and environmental protection and environmental management.
- The Plan is situated alongside this hierarchy of statutory documents that has been subject to environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment, as appropriate, and forms the decision-making and consent-granting framework. The Plan does not provide consent, establish a framework for granting consent or contribute towards a framework for granting consent; the Plan is not binding on Sligo County Council when undertaking its functions with respect to whether or not to grant development consent for a project.
- The Plan fully aligns with the provisions of the existing National Planning Framework, Ireland 2040, National Climate Action Plan 2023, Housing For All 2021, the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy 2020-2032 and the current County Development Plan, all of which have been subject to legislative requirements relating to public consultation and environmental assessment/screening for environmental assessment. As such, the Plan is wholly subject to the requirements of the provisions set out in these documents (and any subsequent revisions to these documents), including provisions relating to sustainable development, environmental protection and environmental management that have been integrated into these documents, including through SEA and AA processes, and

does not introduce any alterations or additions to those provisions. Furthermore, Sligo County Council has confirmed that the provisions of the Plan have already been provided for under existing plans/strategies/etc. that have already been subject to SEA/AA and/or Screening for SEA/AA.

- In order to be realised, projects included in the Plan (in a similar way to other projects from any other sectors) will have to comply, as relevant, with various legislation, policies, plans and programmes (including requirements for lower-tier Appropriate Assessment, Environmental Impact Assessment and other licensing requirements as appropriate) that form the statutory decision-making and consent-granting framework, of which the Plan is not part and does not contribute towards.
- Taking into account all of the above it is determined that: significant beneficial environmental effects are present already under the existing planning framework and would not result from the Plan; and potentially significant adverse effects, if unmitigated, are present already under the existing planning framework, have already been envisaged and mitigated by the relevant assessments and would not result from the Plan. Consequently, it is advised that the Plan would not result in likely significant environmental effects and does not necessitate the undertaking of SEA.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above and in the "Screening for Strategic Environmental Assessment Report". The undersigned hereby determines that SEA is not required for the Sligo Local Economic and Community Plan 2023-2030 to be adopted.

Signatory: 
Dorothy Clarke

Date: 24/03/2023