

Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination under:

The Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended)

for:

**Proposed Material Alterations to the
Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027**

A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Determination is being made by Laois County Council regarding Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027.

Section 12 (7) (aa) of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), requires, inter alia, a determination to be made as to whether Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Plan warrant the undertaking of SEA.

Such a determination takes into account relevant criteria set out in Schedule 2A 'Criteria for determining whether a plan is likely to have significant effects on the environment' of the SEA Regulations, as amended. These criteria are considered in an SEA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations that has been prepared to inform this determination.

The SEA Screening Report concludes that most Proposed Material Alterations are determined not to result in likely significant effects. Taking into account the measures that have been already integrated into the Draft Plan that provide for and contribute towards environmental protection, environmental management and sustainable development, the SEA Screening Report identifies that all potential effects arising from most Proposed Alterations: either are present already (beneficial) and will be further contributed towards; or will be mitigated so as not to be significant (adverse). In addition, some alterations merely added clarifications or amended context setting text for Plan provisions and these will not result in significant environmental effects. Consequently, these Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA.

The Proposed Material Alterations identified below¹ are advised as requiring SEA and consideration in an SEA Environmental Report:

Alteration No.	Alteration No.
Volume 1 Amendments:	Volume 2 Zoning Amendments:
2.10	Zoning Amendment No. 85
3.8	Zoning Amendment No. 86
3.12	Zoning Amendment No. 87
3.20	Zoning Amendment No. 88
3.23	Zoning Amendment No. 89
3.35	Zoning Amendment No. 90
4.7	Zoning Amendment No. 91
5.21	Zoning Amendment No. 92
8.16	Zoning Amendment No. 93
9.4	Zoning Amendment No. 96
9.5	Other Volume 2 Amendments:
9.6	Stradbally – 1.1
11.6	Castletown – 1.1
11.16	Coolrain – 1.1
11.17	Amendments to Appendix 1 – RPS:
11.18	Appendix 1 - RPS 1.1
13.3	RPS – 1.2 to RPS 1.20

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusion presented above. The undersigned hereby determines pursuant to Section 12 (7) of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, that SEA is required for the Proposed Material Alterations listed above and that other Proposed Material Alterations do not require SEA. The SEA will be completed by September 23rd 2021.

This determination has been informed by:

- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027;
- Appropriate Assessment (AA) Natura Impact Report (including information on AA Screening) for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Laois CDP 2021-2027.
- SEA Environmental Report for the Draft Laois CDP 2021-2027;
- AA Natura Impact Report for the Draft Laois CDP 2021-2027; and
- AA Screening Report for Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Laois CDP 2021-2027.

The SEA Environmental Report prepared for the Draft Plan will be finalised in advance of adoption of the Plan. An SEA Statement will be prepared following adoption, which will detail how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations on the SEA and associated Plan-preparation process were taken into account. The Strategic Flood Risk Assessment and the Appropriate Assessment reports will be finalised in a similar manner at adoption, taking into account how environmental considerations were integrated into the Plan and how consultations were taken into account.

Signed: 

23rd September 2021

¹ For detail please refer to Proposed Material Alterations document.