



**Appropriate
Assessment
Conclusion Statement**

APPROPRIATE ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION STATEMENT

FOR THE DUNDRUM LOCAL AREA PLAN 2023

for: Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

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Section 1 Introduction and Background

1.1 Introduction

This is the Appropriate Assessment (AA) Conclusion Statement for the Dundrum Local Area Plan. The obligation to undertake AA derives from Article 6(3) and 6(4) of the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC as transposed into Irish legislation by, inter alia, the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended. AA is a focused and detailed impact assessment of the implications of a strategic action (such as a plan or programme) or project, alone and in combination with other strategic actions and projects, on the integrity of any European Site in view of its conservation objectives. This AA Conclusion Statement should be read in conjunction with the Plan and associated documents including the AA Natura Impact Report (NIR).

1.2 Legislative Requirements in relation to AA

In carrying out the AA for the Plan, Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, requires, inter alia, that the Council considers the matters arrayed in the first column on Table 1.1 below. The second column identifies how these issues have been addressed.

Table 1.1 Matters taken into account by the AA

Matter specified by the Regulations	How addressed by AA
(a) the Natura Impact Report	An AA NIR accompanies this AA Conclusion Statement and the Plan.
(b) any supplemental information furnished in relation to any such report	This AA Conclusion Statement accompanies the NIR that provides additional detail on European Sites.
(c) if appropriate, any additional information sought by the authority and furnished by the applicant in relation to a Natura Impact Report	
(d) any information or advice obtained by the public authority	Submissions made during the Plan preparation/AA process were taken into account.
(e) if appropriate, any written submissions or observations made to the public authority in relation to the application for consent for proposed plan or project	Changes to the original Draft Plan that was placed on public display were considered by the AA process.
(f) any other relevant information	

In addition to the above, the Regulations require that the Council makes available for inspection a determination regarding the outcome of the assessment with respect to whether or not the Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site (a copy of this determination is provided at Section 4).

1.3 AA Conclusion Statement

Non-Statutory AA guidance (Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government, 2009) states that (Section 4.14) it *"is recommended that planning authorities include a clear and discrete AA Conclusion Statement as a distinct section in the written statement of the plan separate to the SEA statement."* This guidance recommends that the following issues are addressed by the AA Conclusion Statement:

- Summary of how the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan (see Section 2);
- Reasons for choosing the Plan as adopted, in the light of other reasonable alternatives considered as part of the AA process (see Section 3);
- A declaration that the Plan as adopted will not have an adverse effect on the integrity of European Sites (provided at Section 4); and
- The NIR (the AA NIR is accompanied by this AA Conclusion Statement and has informed the AA Determination – see Section 4).

Furthermore, as stated in the Draft "Development Plans Guidelines for Planning Authorities" (Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage, 2021):

"...There is a similar requirement to publish a determination relating to the AA that may have been undertaken. Under Article 6.3 of the Habitats Directive the determination (often termed an 'AA Conclusion Statement') must state as to whether or not the Draft Plan would adversely affect the integrity of a European site. However as stated in Section 3.5, this determination must have been made prior to the adoption of the Draft Plan."

This AA Conclusion Statement addresses the above issues, including the signed AA Determination included at Section 4.

Section 2 How the findings of the AA were factored into the Plan

The SEA and AA team worked with the Plan-preparation team at the Council in order to integrate requirements for environmental protection and management into the Plan.

Various text-based provisions have been integrated into the text of the Local Area Plan relevant to the protection of European sites through the Plan-preparation and AA and Strategic Environmental Assessment processes.

In addition to the individual provisions integrated into the text of the Local Area Plan, individual provisions relating to the protection of European sites have been integrated into the existing Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028.

The most relevant text-based mitigation measures from both the Local Area Plan and the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 are identified in Table 2.1 below.

Table 2.1 Measures that will protect European sites and their sustaining resources¹

Component ²	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Alignment with Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028	As identified under Section 1.3 of the Local Area Plan: The County Development Plan sits higher in the planning hierarchy and as such, the policy objectives contained in the CDP pertain to the LAP lands. They are not generally duplicated in the DLAP. It is a provision of this Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed.
Natural Heritage and Biodiversity	<p>As identified under Section 5.4.1 of the Local Area Plan: Proposals for development, including those that interact with or cross the Slang River, such as blueways and greenways, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective CMH11: Any redevelopment of the site shall provide a landscape and biodiversity strategy which protects and enhance the ecology of the site and shall include for the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retention of the trees and treelines which contribution to heritage, landscape character, ecology and climate adaptation. • Suitable supplementary planting. • Retention of the existing drainage ditch on site which traverses the site towards the south western corner of the walled garden. • Provision of new habitats and nesting and roosting opportunities for birds and mammals. • Management of invasive species. <p>Policy DLAP31 – Protected areas and habitats and species: It is policy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conserve Protected Areas and other high-quality habitats and species thereby ensuring a rich and diverse environment within the Plan area. • Ensure biodiversity is factored into nature based solutions when developing proposals within the DLAP area. • Conserve and restore biodiversity in line with the key theme of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 – 2025. <p>Objective GI1 – Dodder/Slang corridor and linkages: It is an objective to enhance and develop biodiversity along the Dodder and Slang rivers and the Wyckham Stream.</p> <p>Objective GI2 – Wildlife Corridor: It is an objective to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow the relevant wildlife corridor – <i>Ticknock to the River Dodder Corridor</i> - as set out in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Biodiversity Action Plan 2021 - 2025 to inform decision making within the DLAP area. • Identify opportunities to enhance and restore the Ticknock to River Dodder Wildlife Corridor within the LAP lands. <p>Objective GI3 – Deculverting: It is an objective in accordance with the GI strategy of the County Development Plan 2022 - 2028 to seek opportunities where appropriate to open up the culverted elements of the River Slang and reconnect the riverine habitats. Any such proposals shall have regard to SFRA requirements and Appropriate Assessment requirements.</p> <p>Objective GI4 – Hedgerows: It is an objective to protect and maintain important hedgerows/tree lines where appropriate within the LAP lands (including all those identified in the 'DLR Biodiversity Action Plan, 2021-2025' and any hedgerows which form part of townland boundaries) and promote native hedgerow enhancement and planting.</p> <p>Objective GI5 – Extension and Enhancement of Woodlands: It is an objective to - where possible - enhance and extend suitable woodland areas and treelines within the LAP lands. Any woodlands or treelines within areas demarcated as wildlife corridors and/or hedgerows on the Wildlife Corridor Map contained in the 'DLR Biodiversity Action Plan, 2021-2025' are targeted for enhancement and extension under this objective.</p>

¹ Note that non-material changes to individual Plan provisions referenced in this report may be updated during the finalisation of the Plan, including numbering, formatting and graphic design.

² The measures generally benefit multiple environmental components i.e., a measure providing for the protection of water could beneficially impact upon the protection of biodiversity, flora and fauna, for example. All of the measures included in this table would benefit the protection of European sites.

Component ²	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>Objective GI6– Re-wilding and Habitat Restoration / Creation: It is an objective to support the development and implementation of re-wilding projects on appropriate sites within the LAP and to promote the use of these sites for the enhancement and preservation of Biodiversity on the Ticknock to River Dodder Wildlife Corridor.</p> <p>Objective GI8 – Dundrum Library/HSE site It is an objective to provide a local park incorporating SUDs, wetland and semi natural habitat elements on the site to the rear of the existing Carnegie library. Any proposals should explore wildlife corridor connectivity along the river and between the site and Finsbury Park and Sweetmount Park</p> <p>Objective PR2 – Dundrum Bypass: It is an objective to improve the animation of the Dundrum Bypass through increased planting including tree planting, additional crossing points and active frontages.</p> <p>Objective PR3 – Dundrum Main Street Tree Planting and Urban Greening: It is an objective to support and promote additional tree planting and urban greening at appropriate locations on public and privately-owned lands fronting Main Street connecting into the line of mature trees on Sandyford Road.</p> <p>Objective TC10:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduce new street trees at an appropriate scale and other urban greening measures. <p>Objective DM7: Planting on the site shall continue the mature tree line identified along Sandyford Road thus providing a green connection to the Main Street and associated public spaces..</p>
Surface water courses (*WFD)	<p>Policy DLAP40 – Water Framework Directive: It is policy to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and any relevant legislation. In this regard, the Council will facilitate compliance with the relevant objectives and measures set out in the forthcoming 'River Basin Management Plan' (2022- 2028) and associated Programme of Measures, where relevant. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments.</p>
Water services, groundwater and water quality	<p>Objective CMH13: Implement a surface water management strategy that provides a multi-level treatment train and which mimics natural processes to infiltrate and reuse surface water runoff, within the site curtilage, as much as possible.</p> <p>Policy DLAP32 – Sustainable Water Management: It is a policy to implement the main elements of the DLR GI strategy in relation to water management including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reducing the rate, volume, and improve the quality of surface water runoff. Managing runoff at -source through the use of infiltration systems. Promoting local sustainable urban drainage systems (SuDS), 'Green Streets' and green roofs. Enabling SuDS to be located in the public realm. Utilizing the river Slang where possible as a natural foundation for a GI corridors. <p>Policy DLAP33– SuDS: It is policy to ensure that Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) is applied to any development in the DLAP area and that site specific solutions to surface water drainage systems are developed which meet the requirements of the Water Framework Directive and associated River Basin Management Plan. SuDS measures may include green roofs, permeable paving, detention basins, infiltration systems etc.</p> <p>Policy DLAP34 – Surface Waters Regulations: It is a policy to ensure the implementation of the surface water legislation Environmental Objectives (Surface Waters) Regulations 2009 to ensure that development permitted would not have an unacceptable impact on water quality including surface waters, ground water, river corridors, estuarine waters, bathing waters, coastal and transitional waters. Development within the LAP area shall comply with the policies and objectives of the County Development Plan relating to protection of existing water and drainage infrastructure.</p> <p>Objective GI7 – Slang Parkland SuDS measures: It is an objective that any areas of potential future linear parkland located along the Slang should look to incorporate Nature Based Solutions which include for biodiversity and habitat restoration such as wetlands, linear swales, bio-retention areas, filter drains etc. as part of any potential future works.</p> <p>Objective GI8 Dundrum Library site & SuDS measures: It is an objective that any future works to the Dundrum Library site and existing brownfield site located to the rear shall look to incorporate as many SuDS elements as practical during the initial design stage.</p> <p>Objective TC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SuDS measures which shall integrate fully with the landscaping plan. <p>Objective DM8: Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems solutions shall be fully integrated into the landscape design of the proposed development.</p> <p>Objective CMH13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a surface water management strategy that provides a multi-level treatment train and which mimics natural processes to infiltrate and reuse surface water runoff, within the site curtilage, as much as possible. <p>Policy DLAP38 – Supporting Irish Water: It is policy to support Uisce Éireann in the provision of adequate water and waste water treatment infrastructure to serve the needs of the existing and future population of the Plan area and ensuring that such infrastructure is provided prior to, or in tandem with, new development.</p> <p>Policy DLAP39 – Wastewater Treatment: It is policy to facilitate Uisce Éireann in ensuring that all wastewater generated is collected, treated and discharged after treatment in a safe and sustainable manner, having regard to the standards and requirements set out in EU and national legislation and guidance.</p> <p>Policy DLAP40 – Water Framework Directive: It is policy to facilitate compliance with the requirements of the EU Water Framework Directive and any relevant legislation. In this regard, the Council will facilitate compliance with the relevant objectives and measures set out in the forthcoming 'River Basin Management Plan' (2022- 2028) and associated Programme of Measures, where relevant. Applications for development under the Plan must demonstrate that the proposal for development would not adversely affect a water body's ability to meet its objectives under the Water Framework Directive, individually as a result of the proposed development or cumulatively, in combination with other developments.</p> <p>Policy DLAP41 – Groundwater: It is policy to ensure the protection of groundwater resources within the DLAP area and associated habitats and species in accordance with the EU Groundwater Directive. All new planning applications within the DLAP boundary shall have regard to the likely impacts the proposed development may have on groundwater resources.</p>

Component ²	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
Tourism	<p>As identified under Section 1.3 of the Local Area Plan: The County Development Plan sits higher in the planning hierarchy and as such, the policy objectives contained in the CDP pertain to the LAP lands. They are not generally duplicated in the DLAP. It is a provision of this Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed.</p> <p>As identified under Section 5.4.1 of the Local Area Plan: Proposals for development, including those that interact with or cross the Slang River, such as blueways and greenways, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Policy DLAP47 – Tourism: It is a policy to promote and secure sustainable tourism activity within Dundrum in conjunction with the appropriate agencies.</p>
Built environment	<p>Objective OSC2: Any redevelopment of the site shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that there is a network of legible connected routes through the site - both north south and east west - to adjoining streets and open spaces. • Improve the walking environment along Dundrum Bypass, introduce new street trees at an appropriate scale and provide at grade crossings. • Enhance the walking environment on Main Street further by providing generous footways, opportunities to sit, street trees and other urban greening. <p>Objective OSC7: Any redevelopment of the site shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the provision of a hierarchy of complementary public spaces that are well connected both visually and physically by way of urban greening. • Provide a new community focused local public park at grade on Main Street at the location shown on drawing 2.8 with a minimum size of 2000 sq metres. • Provide new urban greening in front of Glenville Terrace to enhance the setting of the Dundrum ACA. • Require a street planting strategy with suitable trees and planting along the bypass and also along Main Street where it should connect to an enhanced tree line on Sandyford Road. <p>Objective OSC16</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mature tree planting along the Bypass. • Provide a green corridor running east west across the site and the bypass connecting Main Street, the new local park and an upgraded and enhanced Sweetmount Park. <p>Objective TC11:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to reuse any demolition and excavated materials. <p>Objective DM9:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of district heating on this site along with suitable renewable energy technologies. <p>Objective DBP4 – Pedestrian and Cyclist Access: It is an objective to support and facilitate enhanced pedestrian and cyclist access to Dundrum Business Park, including through the provision of a new active travel link from Beechmount Drive.</p> <p>Objective DBP5 – Cycle Infrastructure: It is an objective to support the provision of additional cycle infrastructure as part of any upgrade or redevelopment works within Dundrum Business Park, including dedicated secure cycle parking, lockers and shower facilities.</p> <p>Objective T21 – Dodder to Dundrum Pedestrian and Cycle Route: It is an objective of the Local Area Plan, to create a new pedestrian and cycle route connecting the Dodder Greenway to Dundrum Major Town Centre via the site of the former Dundrum Central mental Hospital.</p>
Invasive species	<p>Objective CMH12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any redevelopment of the site shall provide a landscape and biodiversity strategy which protects and enhance the ecology of the site and shall include for the: • Management of invasive species.
Flood Risk Management	<p>Policy DLAP35 – Flood Risk Assessment: It is policy to manage flood risk in the DLAP area in accordance with the requirements of The Planning System and Flood Risk Management Guidelines for Planning Authorities, DECLG and OPW (2009) and Circular PL02/2014 (August 2014). and to require all proposed developments to carry out a Site-Specific Flood Risk Assessment that shall demonstrate compliance with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Planning System and Flood Risk Management, Guidelines for Planning Authorities (DEHLG/OPW, 2009), as may be revised and/or updated. • The prevailing Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan. • Any SSFRA shall not be required to carry out a Plan-Making Justification Test, given that this exercise was already carried out at County Development Plan-level. • The SSFRA shall pay particular emphasis to site specific mitigation measures and any necessary management measures, as per Appendix B4 of the above 2009 National Guidelines.
Light, air & noise pollution	<p>Policy DLAP27 – Improved Environment: It is policy to seek to improve the air quality and pedestrian environment along the streets through Dundrum village including, Main St, Sandyford Road, Kilmacud Rd Upper and Ballinteer Road as well as at school zones and along the main pedestrian access routes immediately adjacent to the school.</p>
Climate / Renewable Energy/ Sustainable Transport	<p>Objectives OSC17 and CMH14: Any redevelopment of the site shall</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage the use of district heating on this site along with suitable renewable energy technologies. <p>Objective TC3: Any development shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the walking environment for this busy location to provide for various movement patterns to the luas, bus stops, old shopping centre and through to Taney Cross. • Integrate the design with the planned segregated cycle routes along Taney Road and Dundrum Bypass. • Provide for access for pedestrian and cyclists across the civic space area. • Provide for a mobility hub (cycle parking and e-mobility). • Co-ordinate cycle parking with the provision of cycle and scooter parking (including emobility) for the Luas and bus interchange." <p>Objective TC4: Any development shall provide clear wayfinding around the public transport interchange area (LUAS stop and bus interchange) and consider the integration of the proposed development with the old shopping centre land parcel to create a cohesive arrival space into Dundrum from the LUAS and buses.</p>

Component ²	Development Objectives / Mitigation Measure(s)
	<p>Objective DM7: Planting on the site shall continue the mature tree line identified along Sandyford Road thus providing a green connection to the Main Street and associated public spaces.</p> <p>Objective CMH3: Any redevelopment shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a continuous pedestrian and cycle link of 5 metres in width from Mulvey Park to Larchfield Road through the site and on from the southern boundary through Rosemont Green. Emergency access for vehicles (emergency or other) shall be facilitated on this link. • Provide additional pedestrian and cycle access points at Annville Park and at location(s) to the east (where an opportunity arises). <p>Policy DLAP36 – Sustainable Energy Use: It is a policy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the initiatives where relevant of any Sustainable Energy Communities within Dundrum. • Support initiatives where relevant which improve sustainable energy use within the Plan lands. <p>Policy DLAP37 – Renewable Energy Use: It is a policy to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage and support the development of solar energy infrastructure, including photo voltaic (PV) in appropriate locations. • Support the development of district heat networks and the utilisation of waste heat recovery.
Green/Blue Infrastructure	<p>As identified under Section 1.3 of the Local Area Plan: The County Development Plan sits higher in the planning hierarchy and as such, the policy objectives contained in the CDP pertain to the LAP lands. They are not generally duplicated in the DLAP. It is a provision of this Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed.</p> <p>As identified under Section 5.4.1 of the Local Area Plan: Proposals for development, including those that interact with or cross the Slang River, such as blueways and greenways, shall be subject to Appropriate Assessment under the Habitats Directive.</p> <p>Objective T21 – Dodder to Dundrum Pedestrian and Cycle Route: It is an objective of the Local Area Plan, to create a new pedestrian and cycle route connecting the Dodder Greenway to Dundrum Major Town Centre via the site of the former Dundrum Central Mental Hospital.</p>
Waste Management	<p>As identified under Section 1.3 of the Local Area Plan: The County Development Plan sits higher in the planning hierarchy and as such, the policy objectives contained in the CDP pertain to the LAP lands. They are not generally duplicated in the DLAP. It is a provision of this Plan to ensure that all of the provisions from the County Development Plan identified as mitigation in the SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Report shall apply regardless of whether the County Development Plan expires and/or is reviewed.</p>

Section 3 Consideration of Alternatives

This section summarises the alternatives considered for the Plan during the preparation process. These alternatives have been incorporated into the Plan having regard to both:

1. The environmental effects (including those related to ecology and European sites) which are identified by the SEA (informed by the AA) and are summarised below; and
2. Planning - including social and economic - effects that also were considered by the Council.

3.1 Limitations in Available Alternatives

The Plan is required to be prepared by the existing, already in force, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 and the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), which specifies various types of objectives that must be provided for by the Plan.

The alternatives available for the Plan are significantly limited by the provisions of higher-level planning objectives, including those of the National Planning Framework (NPF), the Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy (RSES) for the Eastern and Midlands Region and the County Plan. These documents set out various requirements for the content of the Plan including on topics such as land use zoning.

3.2 Plan Boundary/Area Alternatives

Under **Plan Boundary/Area Alternative 1** (covering the area set out in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan) less elements integral to achieving the sustainable '10-minute neighbourhood' concept would be available for consideration by the Local Area Plan. The '10-minute neighbourhood' concept is set out under policy objective PHP4 in the County Development Plan 2022-2028, whereby people can access their day-to-day requirements such as shops, employment, open space and schools within a ten-minute journey from their home by bike, foot or public transport.

Plan Boundary/Area Alternative 1 would not, in addition to the area set out in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan, include the Dundrum Business Park, lands at Fernbank, the former Notre Dame School site and adjoining open space zoned land to the south. This would make the articulation of the sustainable '10-minute neighbourhood' concept, and associated benefits with respect to sustainable mobility, compact development, emissions and energy use, more difficult.

Under **Plan Boundary/Area Alternative 2** more elements integral to achieving the sustainable '10-minute neighbourhood' concept would be available for consideration by the Local Area Plan.

Plan Boundary/Area Alternative 1 would, in addition to the area set out in the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan, include the Dundrum Business Park, lands at Fernbank, the former Notre Dame School site and adjoining open space zoned land to the south. This would make the articulation of the sustainable '10-minute neighbourhood' concept, and associated benefits with respect to sustainable mobility, compact development, emissions and energy use, easier. The extension of the Plan boundary allows for a clearer articulation of the ten-minute neighbourhood concept as it increases the range of everyday needs that are available within the Plan lands.

Selected Plan Boundary/Area Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 2

3.3 Area Based Transport Assessment Alternatives

Informing the Plan with an Area Based Transport Assessment, which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to more sustainable modes, (**Area Based Transport Assessment Alternative 1**) would provide a more coordinated and more orderly provision of transport infrastructure and services, with delivery of projects, and associated benefit with respect

to sustainable mobility and compact development, more likely. This approach would be more likely to improve the potential for meeting important objectives relating to emissions and energy use. Potentially adverse impacts on environmental components including ecology and water would need to be adequately mitigated at project level.

Not informing the Plan with an Area Based Transport Assessment, which focuses on delivering travel solutions that support moving people from the private car to more sustainable modes, (**Area Based Transport Assessment Alternative 2**) would provide a less coordinated and less orderly provision of transport infrastructure and services, with delivery of projects, and associated benefit with respect to sustainable mobility and compact development, less likely. This approach would be less likely to improve the potential for meeting important objectives relating to emissions and energy use. Potentially adverse impacts arising from more coherently planned transport developments on environmental components, including ecology and water, could be mitigated at both LAP and project level.

Selected Area Based Transport Assessment Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 1

3.4 Ecosystem Services Approach Alternatives

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative 1 would integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way. Principles that would be integrated throughout the Plan, in a coordinated and comprehensive manner, would include:

- Consideration of natural systems - by using knowledge of interactions in nature and how ecosystems function
- Taking into account of the services that ecosystems provide - including those that underpin social and economic well-being, such as flood and climate regulation or recreation, culture and quality of life
- Involving people - those who benefit from the ecosystem services and those managing them need to be involved in decisions that affect them.

This would mean that there would be:

- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital and ecosystem service issues, such as the management of air quality, noise pollution, light pollution, pollination, flood risk, water bodies and river basins and natural resources supporting energy production and recreation; and
- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative 2 would not integrate a strategy throughout the Plan for the integrated management of land, water and living resources that promotes conservation and sustainable use in an equitable way.

As has been the case over previous plan periods, many natural capital and ecosystem service issues would be integrated into individual Plan Policy Objectives and into decision making at lower tiers of plan preparation and development management. However, this approach would be less coordinated and comprehensive than would be the case under an Ecosystems Services Approach.

This would mean that there would be:

- A decreased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of positive effects occurring with regard to natural capital and ecosystem service issues; and
- An increased likelihood in the extent, magnitude and frequency of adverse effects on natural capital and ecosystem services.

Selected Ecosystem Services Approach Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 1

3.5 Built Heritage Alternatives

A Plan that adds detailed, local-level provisions to the existing planning framework relating to the conservation of built heritage (**Built Heritage Alternative 1**) would further contribute the protection of existing heritage that is already contributed towards by the existing planning framework. By integrating heritage considerations into the Plan, Alternative 1 would be most likely to ensure that new development respects the historic grain of the built environment and archaeology that currently exists.

A Plan that does not add detailed, local-level provisions to the existing planning framework relating to the conservation of built heritage, relying solely on existing provisions, including those included as part of the County Development Plan (**Built Heritage Alternative 2**) would not further contribute the protection of existing heritage that is already contributed towards by the existing planning framework. By not integrating heritage considerations into the Plan, Alternative 2 would be least likely to ensure that new development respects the historic grain of the built environment and archaeology that currently exists.

Selected Built Heritage Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 1

3.6 Approach to Site Development Frameworks Alternatives

A Local Area Plan for Dundrum, including Key Development Sites, would help to direct incompatible development away from the most sensitive areas in the County and beyond and to focus on directing compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of Dundrum. Development of areas within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint of Dundrum, which is generally more robust, better serviced and better connected than other lands elsewhere in the County and beyond, would contribute towards environmental protection and sustainable development, including climate mitigation and adaptation. Compact development would be accompanied by placemaking initiatives to enable Dundrum to become a more desirable place to live – so it can sustainably accommodate new residents and maintain and improve services to existing and future communities.

Not including Site Development Frameworks that would provide location specific guidance for future planning applications at Key Development Sites (**Approach to Site Development Frameworks Alternative 1**) would reduce the likelihood of sustainable development. Development would be market-led and would seek to comply with relevant planning provisions in the absence of additional guidance. The sustainable development of the Plan area would be less likely than under Alternative 2.

By including Site Development Frameworks that would provide location specific guidance while, at the same time, allowing for flexibility in final design, layout and uses, for future planning applications at Key Development Sites, **Alternative 2** would increase the likelihood of sustainable development.

Including Site Development Frameworks that would outline criteria (which would not allow for flexibility in final design, layout and uses) for future planning applications at Key Development Sites (**Approach to Site Development Frameworks Alternative 3**) would increase the potential to hinder compliance with rigid criteria in the longer term, in a context of evolving market needs and planning requirements.

Selected Approach to Site Development Frameworks Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 2

3.7 Densities Alternatives

The Application of a single standard density across the whole Plan area in order to calculate the potential residential yield relating to land zoned for residential purposes for the Core Strategy (**Density Alternative 1**) could lead to the potential over or undersupply of land for primarily residential

purposes. The application of a singular low net residential density could fundamentally undermine the efficient use of land, compact growth and the transition towards a low carbon and more climate resilient society. This would have the potential to push new development towards more environmentally sensitive lands outside of the Plan area that are less well-serviced and less well-connected, resulting in unnecessary potentially significant adverse effects on all environmental components. The application of a singular high net residential density could result in a potential mis-alignment between the supply of zoned land to meet the projected demand for new housing. This could result in a misalignment between new development and essential services provision with associated potential for adverse effects on environmental components.

The Application of different densities at different locations, as appropriate, (**Density Alternative 2**) would provide for the most sustainable Core Strategy, which would contribute towards environmental protection and management the most. Higher densities would be provided where sustainable transport mode opportunities are available and lower densities would be provided where constraints are presented by, for example, cultural heritage designations or the local road network. This approach would contribute towards the efficient use of land, compact growth and the transition towards a low carbon and more climate resilient society. Alternative 2 would help to ensure compact, sustainable development within and adjacent to the existing built-up footprint and would conflict with the protection and management of environmental components the least. Alignment between new development and essential services provision would be most likely under Alternative 2.

Selected Density Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 2

3.8 Transport Infrastructure Alternatives

Under **Transport Infrastructure Alternative 1**, new transport infrastructure would be considered subject to environmental constraints, including those related to habitats and potential impacts (e.g. disturbance from lighting). This would include minimising river crossings, avoiding sensitive habitats, not increasing barriers to flood waters and sustainable design and construction techniques. By focusing on mitigation at both plan and project levels, Alternative 1 would offer the most certainty for environmental protection and management and would be more likely to result in important individual projects (relating to sustainable mobility and emissions/energy objectives) receiving permission.

Under **Transport Infrastructure Alternative 2**, all additional environmental mitigation would be left to be defined in the future, at project level. This would offer the least certainty for environmental protection and management and would be more likely to result in important individual projects (relating to sustainable mobility and emissions objectives) not been given permission.

Selected Transport Infrastructure Alternative for the Plan: Alternative 1

Section 4 AA Determination

No.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS 1925 - 2014

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS

Appropriate Assessment Determination

under
Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended,
for the

Dundrum Local Area Plan 2023-2029

In order to comply with the requirements of Section 177V of the Planning and Development Act 2000, as amended, and pursuant to Article 6(3) of the Habitats Directive as to whether or not a plan or project would affect the integrity of any European site(s), this Appropriate Assessment determination is being made by *Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council* relating to the potential for the Dundrum Local Area Plan 2023-2029 that is being adopted¹ to have effects on the integrity of European sites.

In carrying out this Appropriate Assessment (AA), the Council is taking into account the matters specified under Part XAB of the Planning and Development Act 2000 (as amended), including the following²:

- The Natura Impact Report prepared for the Draft Plan;
- The Consolidated Natura Impact Report prepared for the Plan to be adopted;
- Written submissions made during the Plan preparation process; and
- Ongoing advice on AA from the Council's agents, including on non-material alterations.

In making the determination that Appropriate Assessment (AA) is required, information on the potential for effects on the integrity of European Sites to arise from the Plan has been taken into account.

As part of the AA, it was identified that the Plan may, if unmitigated, have significant effects on 6 (no.) European sites. Factors that could potentially affect the integrity of European Sites include:

- Provisions for issues, including those relating to urban framework and site development frameworks, people and homes, transport and movement, climate action - adaptation and mitigation, Dundrum multifunctional town and neighborhood centres, employment and heritage and conservation, that introduce sources for effects through construction phase hydrological interactions; and
- Loading pressures from the operational phase of developments – these sources could result in disturbance effects and interactions with water quality.

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented and recommends that:

- Implementation of the Plan would have had the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European sites, if unmitigated.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures into the Plan that will, in addition to the measures already in force through the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028, prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.

¹ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; and all and any non-material alterations considered by the AA process.

² A consolidated Natura Impact Report has also been made available, integrating relevant elements of these matters into one document.

No.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTS 1925 - 2014

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE BUSINESS CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S ORDERS

- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no significant effects as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Considering measures already in force through the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 and having incorporated mitigation measures into the Local Area Plan, it is concluded that the Dundrum Local Area Plan 2023-2029 to be adopted³ is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects to designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁴. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Signed:

Louise McGauran

Louise McGauran, Senior Planner

Date

10/10/2023

The undersigned, having carefully considered the information referred to above agrees with and adopts the reasoning and conclusions presented and determines that:

- Implementation of the Plan would have had the potential to result in effects to the integrity of European sites, if unmitigated.
- The risks to the safeguarding and integrity of the Qualifying Interests, Special Conservation Interests and Conservation Objectives of the European sites have been addressed by the inclusion of mitigation measures into the Plan that will, in addition to the measures already in force through the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028, prioritise the avoidance of effects in the first place and mitigate effects where these cannot be avoided. In addition, all lower-level plans and projects arising through the implementation of the Plan will themselves be subject to AA/screening for AA when further details of design and location are known.
- In-combination effects from interactions with other plans and projects was considered in the assessment and the mitigation measures incorporated into the Plan are seen to be robust to ensure there will be no significant effects as a result of the implementation of the Plan either alone or in-combination with other plans/projects.
- Considering measures already in force through the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Development Plan 2022-2028 and having incorporated mitigation measures into the Local Area Plan, it is concluded that the Dundrum Local Area Plan 2023-2029 to be adopted⁵ is not foreseen to give rise to any significant adverse effects to designated European sites, alone or in combination with other plans or projects⁶. This evaluation is made in view of the conservation objectives of the habitats and/or species, for which these sites have been designated.

Dated day of 10/10/ 2023


Approved Officer.

Thereunto empowered by order of Príomhfheidhmeannach, Comhairle Contae Dhún Laoghaire-Ráth An Dúin, Order No. 2515, dated 28/09/23, delegating to me all his powers, functions and duties in relation to the County Council of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown in respect of this matter.

³ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; and all and any non-material alterations considered by the AA process..

⁴ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.

⁵ Incorporating: the Draft Plan; and all and any non-material alterations considered by the AA process..

⁶ Except as provided for in Article 6(4) of the Habitats Directive, viz. There must be: a) no alternative solution available, b) imperative reasons of overriding public interest for the plan to proceed; and c) Adequate compensatory measures in place.